

Source: Eiichi Hirai (ed.), History of the Sado Mines (Vol. II), original text

平井栄一編

佐渡鉱山史 其二

佐渡鑛山史目次

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昭和十九年度産額表に八九〇萬八七六一・八圓、産額一六八一九疋)に達したが終戦と共に其産額は急転下落した

(内)朝鮮労働者事情

日支事変の拡大と共に働員の応召漸く増加し増産計畫遂行上困難を来

し内地求人絶対不可能の状態にありたれば昭和十五年二月朝鮮労働者九八名を募集し五月二四八名、十二月三〇〇名、昭和十六年二八〇名、十七年七九名、十九年二六三名、二十年二五一名計一五一九名を移入したが終戦と同時に残留人員一〇九六名を送還した、在山中の待遇賃金制度、稼働奨励方法等概ね内地労働者と同一で主として坑内夫として就労し請負単価により稼働高に依り賃金を支給し、一ヶ月の稼働成績に依り精勤賞与を与へ扶養家族の多寡及稼働日数に応じて米価補給を行ひ毎年二回の勤労賞与を交附し一般に家族持労働者には社宅の無料貸与、共同浴場施設、米、味噌、醤油其他生活必需品は購買会にて廉価配給及家族傷病の場合の診療等を実施し单身者は寄宿舎(三個可)に収容し会費を徴せず食事は内地人同様の調理にして一日五十銭(実費の差額は会社負担)寝具使用料一ヶ月一組五十銭にて貸与し光燃費浴場費は会社負担其他作業用品衣服履物等日用品の購入払下は購買会を通じて廉価に行ひ蔬菜類不足の折柄御山直営の農園から補給した尙又全従業員を以て組織せる協和会(当時産業報国会)に入会せしめ従業員の親和、修養、給済、境遇改善、能率並に福祉増進を図る、協和会に於ては随時映畫会、講演会、遠足会、運動会其他祭典催物を開催し尙各寄宿舎には娯楽室を設け雑誌、朝鮮将棋、蓄音機、ラジオ等を設け慰安娯楽と趣味の向上に努むる等遺憾なきを期した、其他勤

続三ヶ月以上に及びたる時は団体生命保険に加入せしめ各人在籍中の保険料は一切会社負担し万一不幸ありたる場合保険金三百円を贈呈し災害に対する扶助、退職の場合の給与関係等につき内鮮区別なく移入當時は一人一日一升程度を普通とし漸次減食せし特に配給米実施後は盛切り飯とし配給米の特に不足を来せる場合は甘藷、大根、乾麵等の混食にて間に合はせた、昭和十八年五月に於ける職種別人員及び内地労働者との比率は左の如くである

	鑿岩	支柱	運搬	内運搬	外運搬	工作	整地	製糖	雑夫	其他	計
朝鮮人	一二三	五六	二九四	八	四九	三	三一	一九	一一	二七	五八四
内地人	二七	三九	八〇	一九	一七	二三	四六	八五	五三	三二	二〇九
内地人一人に對する比	四・五一	一・四三	三・六〇	四・二	二・八〇	一・三〇	〇・四六	〇・三〇	〇・三二	〇・三二	二・〇二

昭和十九年、二十年度に於ては朝鮮人労働者増加数五一四人に上り歴史的労働者であつた概して訓練又は指導よろしきを得たる如く終戦に際しても他地方に見る如き暴状等もなく帰還せしむるを得た

(外)敗戦後の操業状態

日支事変勃発以來九ヶ年、太平洋戦争進行三ヶ年未滿原子爆彈の威力克く日本国土を支離裂開させるに十分であり疲弊せる國民の戦國意識

Commentary on *History of the Sado Mines (Vol. II)*

We at the Historical Awareness Research Committee have obtained and published *A History of the Sado Mines in Two Volumes*, a primary source document edited by Hirai Eiichi, which shows that the Sado Island gold and silver mines were not the site of Korean forced labor.

Compiled in 1950, this document is a hitherto unpublished manuscript in which Hirai Eiichi, a former mining section chief at the Sado Mines who managed its mining plants, summarized the history of the Sado Mines across two volumes spanning from the Edo to the Showa period at the request of the president of Mitsubishi Metals.

Although both a manuscript and a facsimile for this historical document exist, it is only now that the work is finally being released to the public. On January 26, 2022, the Historical Awareness Research Committee obtained the table of contents and a photograph of “Article 9: The Circumstances of Korean Laborers” on pages 844-846 of the manuscript and published them on the Committee homepage.

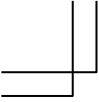
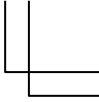
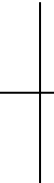
However, the Foundation for Victims of Forced Mobilization by Imperial Japan, a South Korean government agency that is conducting field surveys and research in a bid to prevent the registration of the Sado Mines as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, received this document from “an anonymous Japanese researcher” earlier this year on January 14.

This researcher reportedly obtained it in August 2015 from the World Heritage Registration Promotion Office in the Cultural Affairs Department of the Education Bureau of Niigata Prefecture. (This is according to the paper “New Material: Hirai Eiichi’s *A History of the Sado Mines*” by Jeong Hye-Gyeong (ARGO Institute for Research in Humanities), recorded in the reference material of the aforementioned foundation’s January 27 webinar titled “How Japan’s World Heritage Registration Distorts the History of Forced Labor at the Sado Mines”).

Written utilizing internal documents from the Sado mining plants, *A History of the Sado Mines* discloses previously unknown data on the total number of Koreans mobilized every year as well as the number that remained at the end of the war as follows.

“We recruited a total of 1,519 workers from Korea to come and work at the mines: 98 in February 1940, 248 in May, 300 in December, 280 in 1941, 79 in 1942, 263 in 1944, and 251 in 1945. Of these 1,519 workers, 1,096 were immediately repatriated following the end of the war. ”

In addition, as briefly summarized below, not only was the treatment of these Korean laborers the same as that of domestic Japanese workers, but management took great care in treating the laborers well, such as by providing them with lodgings and meals.

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- Wages were equal to those of domestic Japanese laborers.
 - Payment was calculated based on output.
 - Twice-yearly bonuses for diligence, as well as bonuses for attendance, were provided based on performance.
 - Free company housing was provided for those with family, as well as low prices for daily necessities such as rice, miso, and soy sauce.
 - For those who were single, the dormitory, utilities, and bathhouses were provided free of charge, meals were provided for ¥0.5 JPY per day (with the company paying the difference between actual cost for meals and price charged to laborers), and vegetables were supplied from a farm directly managed by the company.
 - Each laborer was enrolled in a life insurance plan with premiums paid in full by the company.
 - Movie screenings, lectures, excursions, and sporting events were organized.
 - Magazines, Korean shogi boards, gramophones, and radios were placed in the dormitories.
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