

## Mongolia through the eyes of Japanese (1945 - 1947)

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The Mongolian People's Republic and The Union of Socialist Soviet Republics signed "Mutual assistance agreement" on March 12, 1936. In accordance with this agreement, MPR and USSR joined the Second World War's Pacific scene on August 9, 1945. During the war, the USSR army captured 640,105 Japanese prisoners of war. Of those prisoners of war, 12,318 were sent to Mongolia. There were 15 senior officers, 678 middle officers, 2178 minor officers, 8079 soldiers, and 1368 workers. From November 20, 1945 to October 26, 1947, these prisoners of war were treated as labourers in Mongolia.

Several Mongolian scholars such as C.Dashdavaa and B.Erdenbileg studied and wrote about the Japanese prisoners of war in Mongolia. These studies were mostly concerned with how the events were organized and what kind of labours they did. Unfortunately, there are no studies about health conditions, viewpoints, and experiences of these Japanese soldiers in Mongolia. However, there are materials and records on this matter in Mongolia's archives. We have letters sent by the Japanese soldiers in captivity in archives of Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mongolian Intelligence services. Using these letters, we are able to reveal a lot about the experiences, health conditions and primary concerns of these captive soldiers. There are 14 letters sent to organizations such as the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Japanese Red Cross Society. Also there is a request by a Japanese soldier to remain in Mongolia. Letters sent to the Mongolian government by captive workers have 301 signatures. Notes and documents made by Japanese doctors about the soldiers have valuable information. I will use these sources to reveal what was the experience of captive Japanese soldiers.