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A PHOTOGRAPHICAL EVIDENCE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY **UNIT** **731 OF** **— THE —** **JAPANESE** **KWANTUNG ARMY**

Compiled by the Museum of War Crime Evidence of the
Japanese Army Unit 731
&
International Center for Unit 731 Research, Harbin Municipal
Academy of Social Sciences



China Intercontinental Press

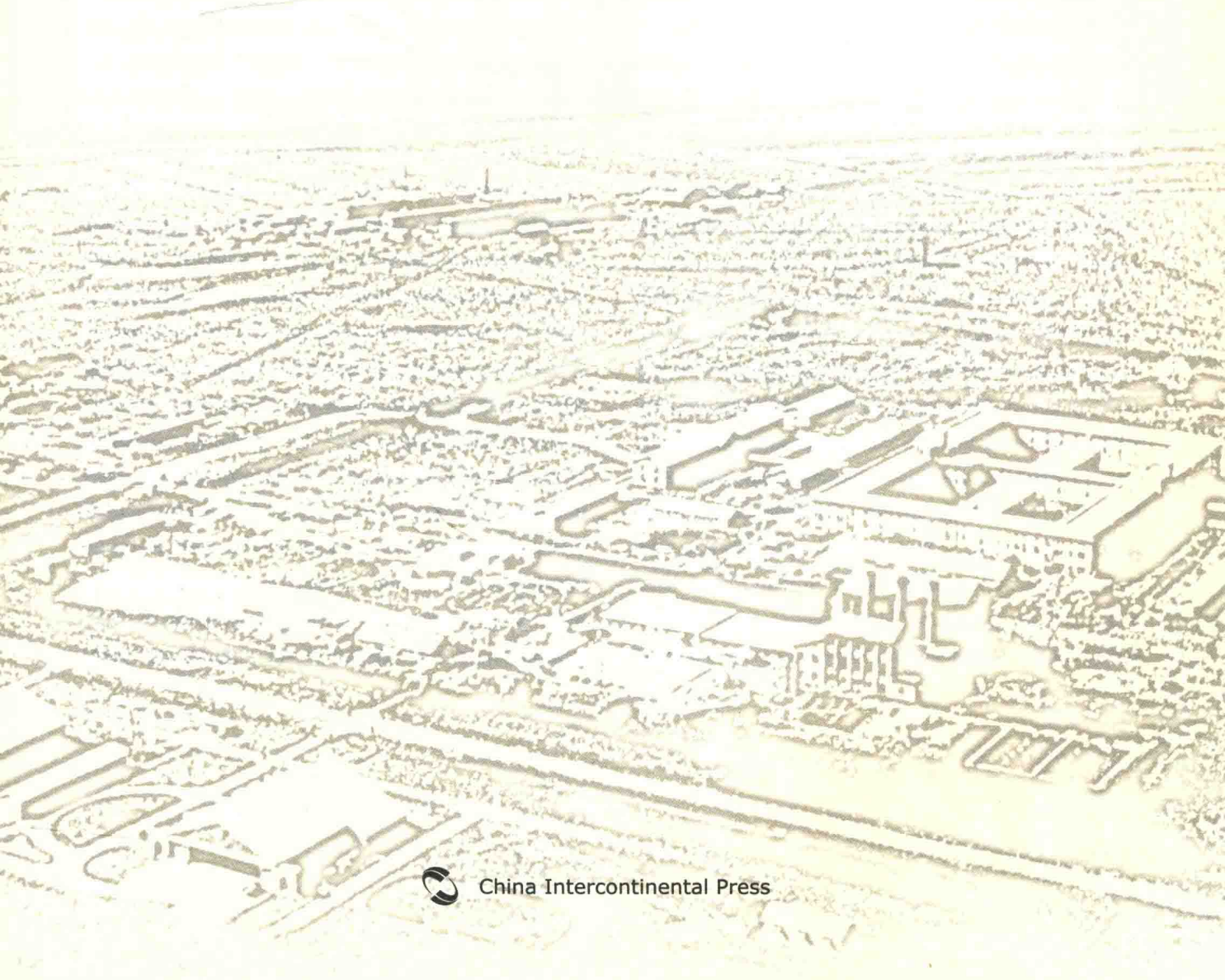


Never Forget History

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary
of Victory in the World Anti-Fascist War

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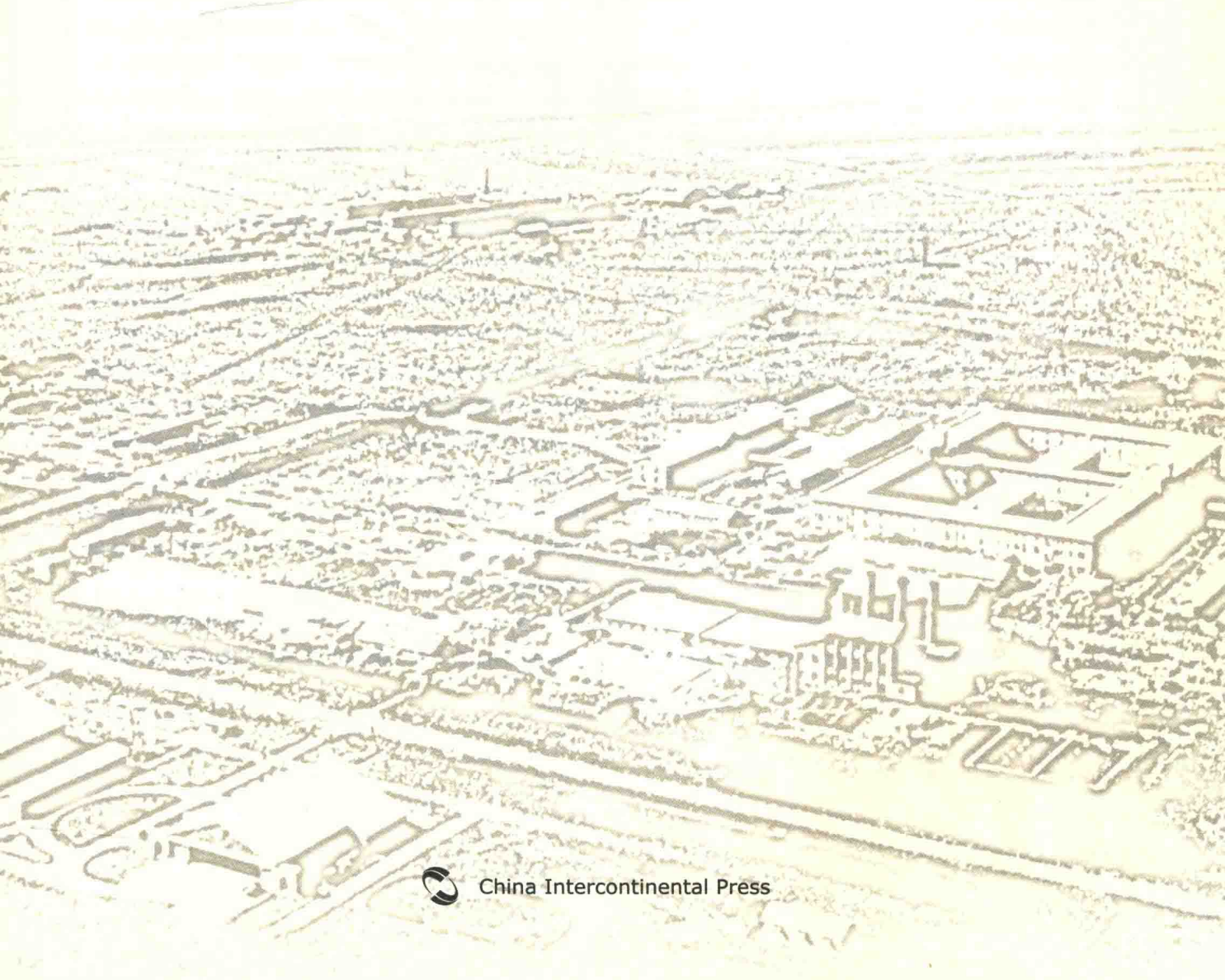


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PREFACE

On June 17, 1925, the Geneva Protocol was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, to prohibit germ warfare and ban the use of germ weapons. The Japanese Government, however, carried out large-scale human experiments and waged germ warfare during World War II in blatant violation of the International Humanitarian Law. It set up the Kwantung Army Unit 731 to conduct secret research, experimentation and making of germ weapons. It also set up a few other organizations to cooperate with Unit 731 in carrying out germ warfare operations.

The Japanese germ warfare, with Unit 731 as the chief culprit, posed huge threats to human existence and development. Unit 731 produced enough bacteriological solution to contaminate and kill the entire human race. Japanese troops launched germ warfare operations in China's Heilongjiang, Jilin, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Jiangxi, Zhejiang and Hunan leading to massive outbreaks of plague, cholera and typhoid. The germ warfare inflicted heavy casualties and spiritual agony on Chinese people and caused serious economic losses, creating unimaginable human

disasters. The bacteriological weapons also severely damaged the natural ecology and the local environment, leaving heavy burdens to China's governmental and civil organizations for epidemic prevention.

To facilitate their human, animal and plant experiments and gas tests, Unit 731 collaborated with the Kwantung Army's gendarmerie, police, security service and secret agents to force, by means of "special transfer", large numbers of Chinese, Russians and Koreans to be subjects in experiments of bacterial contamination, frostbite and vivisection. The Japanese troop conducted at least 50 kinds of bacteriological experiments on plague, cholera, anthrax and glanders. Many of the troop's members who performed the human experiments were doctoral-degree experts in bacteriology, serology and epidemiology. As elite intellectuals, these medical experts should be role models in social morals and should have followed international laws and medical ethics and honoured their professional duties. However, they involved themselves in criminal human experiments and germ

warfare in the name of patriotism. Their acts violated humanitarianism and betrayed medical ethics while plunging themselves into the depth of anti-ethic, anti-civilization and anti-human vices.

After Japan announced surrender on August 15, 1945, Unit 731 destroyed its main buildings and fled. The United States dominated the post-war Tokyo Trial of Japanese war criminals but granted Unit 731 members immunity from war crimes in exchange for their surrendering the data they had collected in human experiments and germ warfare actions. These war criminals who should have come to trial at the Far East International Military Tribunal shook off their devil's uniform and metamorphosed into decently-looking public servants in government organizations, military departments, medical institutions and universities. The former Unit 731 members maintained close association among themselves by setting up comrades-in-arms clubs under various names such as Roommates, Kamo, Suzuran and Umihayashi. They often organized activities with nostalgia for their old days in Unit 731. They have

become part of the force in Japan's society that tries to revive militarism.

Unit 731 was the cradle of the germ warfare Japan launched at the cost of harming human society and natural environment. Its ruins have been listed as a key cultural relics site under State protection. It is a special form of memory of that cruel war. It is our society's responsibility to protect the site so that it serves as a witness to that agonizing part of history and a reminder of the importance of peace. And it is out of this sense of responsibility that we – the compilers of this book – publish these photos and graphics to expose the crimes committed by Unit 731 and the crimes' post-war consequences. We hope that this book can prompt people to think and draw lessons from history, to respect human rights and freedom and to pursue peace and civilization.



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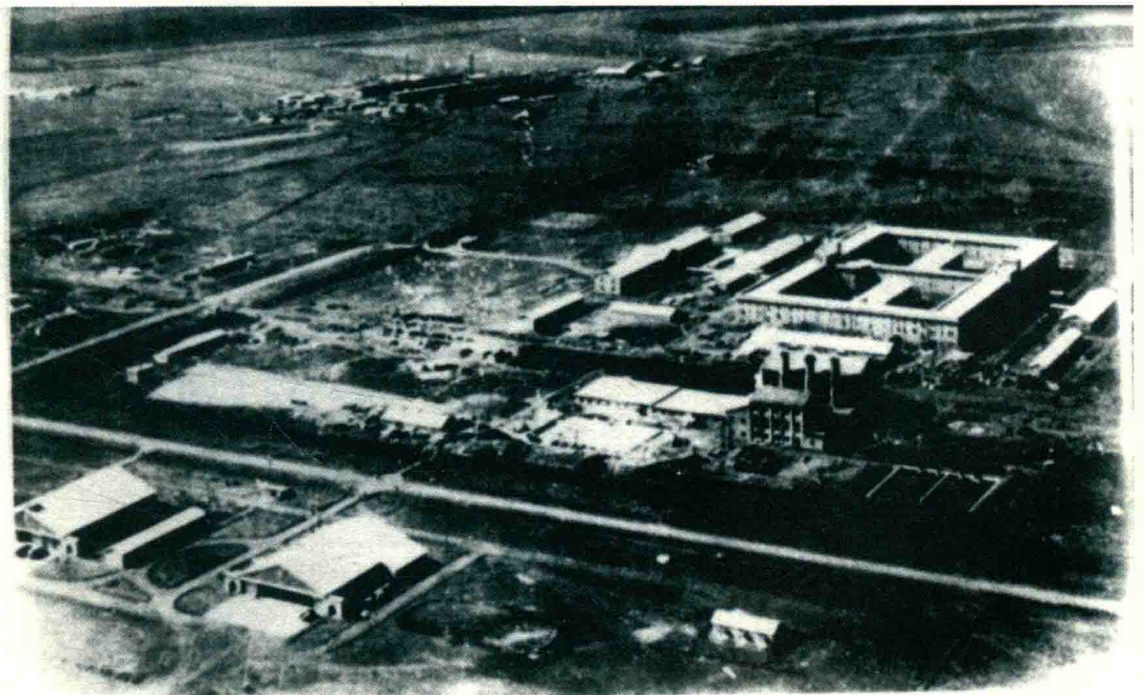
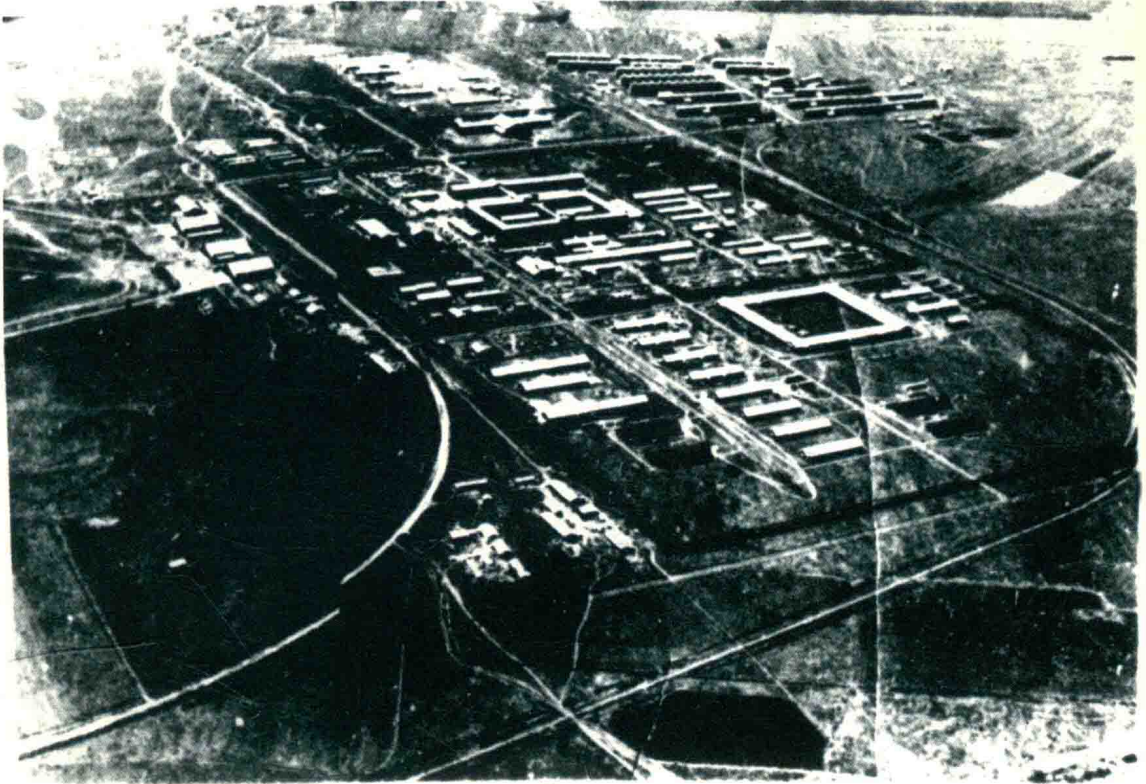


In July 1932, the Ministry of War of Japan approved the Army Medical College's plan to set up a bacteriological research office, which was expanded in December to be the Epidemic Prevention Department. In August 1933, the unit was secretly moved to Harbin, where it set up a bacteriological experimentation camp at Beiyinghe, a town in Wuchang County. The camp was officially called Ishii Unit under the Kwantung Army and later renamed Kwantung Army Unit 731.

On June 25, 1936, Japanese Emperor Hirohito authorized the establishment of the Epidemic Prevention Department of the Kwantung Army, marking the official creation of Unit 731. On June 30, 1938, the Kwantung Army Command issued Order No. 1539 to set up a 120 square-km special military zone near Pingfang as the camp for Unit 731. The construction of the camp was completed in 1939, including bacteriological test facilities and a special prison as well as offices and transport and living facilities. The core functional installation covered an area of 6.1 square kilometers.

On August 1, 1940, Unit 731 officially changed its name to "Epidemic Prevention and Water Purification Department of the Kwantung Army." The immensely staffed organization consisted of eight departments – bacteriological research, bacteriological experimentation, bacterial producing, epidemic prevention and water purification, logistics, training and education, equipment supply, and clinic. The organization also had branches in Hailar, Mudanjiang, Linkou, Sunwu and Dalian, as well as field experiment sites at Anda, Chengzigou and Taolaizhao.

To cover its germ warfare and live human experiments, Unit 731 used a number of code-names: Ishii Unit, Kamo Unit, Togo Unit, Nara Unit, Kwantung Army Department of Epidemic Prevention, Unit 731 of Manchuria, Kwantung Army Unit 731, Epidemic Prevention and Water Purification Department of the Kwantung Army and Atsu Unit 25202. In 1940, the troop's headquarters and all branches adopted the unified name of "Unit 659 of Manchuria."



An aerial view of the headquarters of Unit 731, photo shot by the unit's Aviation Squad and Photography Squad in August, 1940. (Seichi Morimura: *Devils' Gluttony*, part 2, Kakukawa Library, 2008)

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The approval issued by the Ministry of Army on July 5, 1932 for the establishment of a bacteriological research office in the Army Medical College. (Kept in the Japanese National Archives of Official Documents)

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On December 8, 1932, the Ministry of Army allocated 208,989 yen for expansion of the Army Medical College's Epidemic Prevention Research Office. (Kept in the Japanese National Archives of Official Documents)

