

Unit 731: Sadism in the Name of 'Science'

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INTRODUCTION

- Unit 731 short for Manshu Detachment 731.
- Set up in 1938 in Japanese-occupied China with the aim of developing biological weapons.
- In 1945 before Japan's surrender, all remaining prisoners were killed, most evidence was destroyed, and the site of the experiments was demolished[3].
- It was not until 1984 that Japan even acknowledged the horrific activities of Unit 731[3].

THE PEOPLE

- Prisoners were referred to as wooden logs or monkeys not people or patients[1].
- As many as 400,000 people were killed from biological warfare, over 3,000 were killed by inside experiments, and at least 10,000 were killed by guards[3].
- No prisoners were left alive.
- Few of those involved with Unit 731 have ever admitted their guilt or faced any repercussions[1].

The atrocities of WWII did no start and end with Germany; there is more to history than the story told by those who won. No one is innocent in war.



Unit 731 Victim/Wikimedia Commons



Researching germ warfare, enemy soldiers and civilians were used as guinea pigs. They were deliberately infected with plague, anthrax, cholera and other pathogens. Some of the more horrific experiments included vivisection without anesthesia, pressure chambers to see how much a human could take before his eyes popped out, trials to determine the effect of frostbite on the human body, and research on the pregnancies of women with syphilis. [2]

THE DATA

- The legacy of Unit 731 is almost nonexistent.
- Those captured by the United States were given immunity in exchange for the data gathered during their human experiments[3].
- This research has informed the basis for much of what the US knows about biological warfare today.
- Instead of punishment, many of these criminals were rewarded notable careers after the war[3].
- There is no value in these experiments they only made warfare more lethal in a more efficient way.
- The research was unnecessary and atrocious.
- The information gained is something that should never be known or used.

References

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2. Hammond, S. (2018, June 13). *The experiments of unit 731: Torture in the name of Warfare*. Pacific Atrocities Education. Retrieved February 19, 2022, from <https://www.pacificatrocities.org/blog/the-experiments-of-unit-731-torture-in-the-name-of-warfare>
3. *UNIT 731 - Japan's Biological Warfare Project*. Unit 731. (2022). Retrieved February 19, 2022, from <https://unit731.org/>

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