The Army Cemeteries in Osaka Prefecture at Takatsuki and Shinodayama

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As of August 15, 1945 there existed three army cemeteries in Osaka Prefecture. With the abolishment of the army, however, the histories of these cemeteries have gradually become unclear.

The largest of the three cemeteries, the Sanadayama Army Cemetery is discussed in detail in another paper. This paper deals with the histories and outlines of the transformations undergone after the war on the army cemeteries at Takatsuki and Shinodayama. The two cemeteries provide a sharp contrast with each other in terms of the time of their establishment and the circumstances of the regions where they serviced after the war.

The Takatsuki Army Cemetery was established in 1912, at the latest. The graves of fourteen members of the Fourth Engineers Regiment who were died in service during peaceful times before 1934 can still be found in this cemetery. Subsequently the cemetery expanded and the number of people buried also increased but the cemetery was reorganized later and now it no longer remains. Many of the ashes of the war dead after the Chinese-Japanese War were laid to rest in the adjoining Reishoji temple, which took part in the services for the army cemetery. It is thought that there existed a plan to build a communal grave in the army cemetery after the war but this was not realized and the religious services are still covered by Reishoji. After the war, the cemetery was placed under the authority of the Ministry of Finance and then sold in 1951 to Takatsuki City, which reorganized the cemetery and reduced its size to one quarter, using the rest for municipal facilities and donating a portion to Reishoji. After the war, the Osaka Foundation for the Preservation of Yasukuni Shrine was founded to take charge of the religious services of army cemeteries and a Takatsuki chapter of the foundation was also established. The Takatsuki chapter was dissolved in 1991 when Reishoji underwent reconstruction and facilities to provide memorial services for the war dead were built inside the main building of the temple.

The Shinodayama Chureito, or the Shinodayama Memorial to the War Dead (the Shinodayama Army Cemetery), was established with the support of the 27th Chubu corps and the local people and was completed in April 1942. The repository contains in a communal grave
the ashes of over 1,564 bodies. Most of these are the ashes of soldiers who died fighting in the Chinese-Japanese War and the Asia-Pacific War, but the ashes of war dead from the Meiji and Taisho Periods and local people who fought in other units or in the navy can also be found. After the war, the memorial monument (chureito) was placed under the authority of the Ministry of Finance. And in 1952, when Japan became independent, it was loaned without charge to Izumi City. The religious services were originally under the charge of the Shinodayama chapter of the Osaka Foundation for the Preservation of Yasukuni Shrine but are now carried out by the society for the bereaved families in Izumi City.