

Sources on the Imjin War (1592-98)

Ming Shi-lu 明實錄 (also known as the Veritable Records of the Ming Dynasty) is a collective name for the successive reign annals of the emperors of Ming China (1368-1644). Each of the shi-lu comprises an account of one emperor's reign, and was compiled after that emperor's death on the basis of a number of sources created during the reign. These collected texts, which run to close to 40,000 pages of unpunctuated, manuscript Classical Chinese constitute one of the most important primary texts of the Ming dynasty, and contain a wealth of materials unrecorded in other sources.¹

Wan-li: Year 21, Month 1, Day 6 (6 Feb 1593)

The Censor-in-Chief Xiao Yan, supreme commander of Guang-dong/Guang-xi, memorialized: "Siam is situated far to the West and it is over 10,000 li from there to Japan. Recently, their [Siam's] tribute envoy submitted a request to the Ministry of War, noting that they wished to demonstrate their loyalty to the Emperor by assisting the state. The Ministry of War re-submitted the request, noting that they should be ordered to despatch troops to directly attack Japan. However, considering the length of the sea journey and the unpredictable nature of the yi, the request should be denied." The Ministry of War deliberated and noted: "The kanpaku (關白) has usurped power with his bandit followers, acted in debauched, tyrannical and brutal ways and brow-beaten the various states. He has now also occupied Korea and is secretly planning to attack China's inner territory. This has brought troubles to the Imperial army. The anger of the tribute envoy from Siam at these evil actions manifested both the loyalty of those who wish to assist the state, and the righteousness of those who demonstrate sympathy for neighbours. We especially requested that they be required to send troops, firstly in order to encourage the distant states and, secondly, in order to bring the Japanese forces under control. The writers on military strategy have noted many aspects in which mistakes can be made, but they have never noted one of these as being a situation where great and dignified China relies on the strength of the yi from the islands. Imperial orders should be sent praising their loyalty and righteousness and advising respect for their motives. We should wait until the supreme commander has deliberated, obtain his reply and then promulgate the orders. A thorough understanding and far-sightedness is where majesty lies. Now, the supreme commander is guarding the distant Southern border, and he is cognizant of the appropriate actions in respect of the maritime countries. He should be ordered to handle matters as proposed in the memorial. The recruitment officials (號召官員) which this ministry has already despatched should heed his deliberations in respect of whether to proceed or halt. If they have already reached that country, we should send a loyal and courageous interpreter to transmit orders instructing the king of the country of Siam to respectfully observe the Imperial orders, ready his naval forces, and return a memorial of advice. He should wait until Imperial orders arrive, and then respectfully implement them." This was approved.

Shen-zong: juan 256.1b-2a Zhong-yang Yan-jiu yuan Ming Shi-lu, volume 107, page 4752/53

¹ Geoff Wade, translator, Southeast Asia in the Ming Shi-lu: an open access resource, Singapore: Asia Research Institute and the Singapore E-Press, National University of Singapore, <http://epress.nus.edu.sg/msl/entry/2803>, accessed April 09, 2014.

**Chinese using Wako
as examples when so
much has happened
since the 1540s-1560s.
WRONG
COMPARISON**

Wan-li: Year 21, Month 7, Day 23 (19 Aug 1593)

Chen Zi-zhen, the regional inspector of Fu-jian, memorialized: "In the province of Fu-jian, land is scarce, people are many and the five grains do not grow abundantly. Thus, the coastal people use boats as houses, treat the sea as their fields, and trade with the fan for their livelihood. In years past, there was no contact with the fan, but there were many disturbances in the area. In recent times, there has been contact with the fan and things have been at peace internally and externally. The lesson is clear. Whenever there is prohibitions, the source of [these people's] wealth is obstructed, their livelihood is bleak, and they are in difficulty and distress. It is thus inevitable that they gather together as bandits. If those who winter abroad (壓冬者) are unable to return home, they will be increasingly anxious about their hometowns. If workers and merchants are not permitted to go abroad, they will go to sea as pirate gang members. If perchance they avail themselves of such a situation to engage in revolt and sail abroad, there will be no way to pursue and capture them. Then, together with their confederates, they will come and engage in piracy. Confucius noted: 'In planning the use of arms, the troubles lay with Zhuan Yu'. We have now received investigation reports from the provincial administration commission and the provincial surveillance commission as well as from the Provincial Administration Commissioner of the Left Guan Da-xun and the Regional Commander Zhu Xian, noting that it would be appropriate to allow trade with the Eastern and Western Oceans, but that trade with Japan should continued to be prohibited. The trade should be strictly regulated by warrants and all goods should be examined. **If anyone smuggles saltpetre or other such goods, they must be publicly executed.** The merchants have parents, wives, children and family graves to consider, and will be content with trading. How could they dare to supply or collude with bandits, and make themselves subject to punishment with no pardon! Also, the ocean-going ships which come and go report on situations [abroad] and they can help us with our reconnaissance. The ship crews are also familiar with the winds and seas and they can provide service when we engage in deployment of forces. The [traders] provide fixed revenue of 20,000 [liang of silver?] and over the year there is a surplus. They also fund the needs of our armed forces. In these ways, they are beneficial, not only to the people but also to the government." The memorial was passed to relevant offices for their discussion.

Shen-zong: juan 262.9b-10a Zhong-yang Yan-jiu yuan Ming Shi-lu, volume 107, page 4864/65

Wan-li: Year 25, Month 11, Day 23 (31 Dec 1597)

Zhang-zhou and Quan-zhou in Fu-jian are situated along the coast and the people make their living from maritime trading (販洋). Previously, the Grand Coordinator Tu Ze-min proposed opening up maritime trade with the fan, and that he be permitted to issue warrants allowing ships to trade with the Eastern and Western fan, but not permitting them to privately trade with Japan. Under the trading regulations, the examination and reporting of cargoes and the arranging of guarantors was all done in the localities. The issuing of warrants and stamped documents was handled by the circuits and prefectures. The supervision of the private trade was made the responsibility of the coastal defenders, while the calculation and levying of proportional taxes and the examinations were made the responsibility of commission

officials (Alt: county officials). At this time, the law had become increasingly subject to abuse. Thus, the grand coordinator and the Regional Inspector Jin Xue-zeng made proposals: "1. On setting down ship categories. 2. On prohibiting private transgressions. 3. On the sending of officials. Each year a prefectural assistant (Alt: battalion assistant) should be sent and stationed at Hai-cheng to manage the levying of cargo taxes. In this way, the maritime defence deputy will not have to be concurrently concerned with administering taxation. 4. On the number of warrants. At present, there are 117 warrants issued for trading with the Eastern and Western Oceans and for trading with Ji-long, Dan-shui, Zhan-po, Gao-zhi Subprefecture (高址州) and other places. It is requested that a further 20 warrants be issued and that they be provided to this circuit to keep in store. On the warrant, the trader should be required to fill in the name of the country and whether he will travel by the Eastern or Western route. No collusion with sly functionaries can be allowed. 5. On prohibiting extortion." The ministry re-submitted the memorial and its implementation was approved.

Shen-zong: juan 316.4a

Zhong-yang Yan-jiu yuan Ming Shi-lu, volume 110, page 5899

Nanjung Ilgi (War Diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin) is the journal of Yi Sun-sin (1545–1598), one of the most revered heroes of the Korean people, written during the Japanese invasions of 1592–1598. The diary consists of seven volumes of notes written almost daily from January 1592 through November 1598, until days before Yi was killed, on the cusp of a decisive victory, in the last sea battle of the war.²

The seven-year war, also known as the Hideyoshi invasions, was triggered by Japanese ambitions to challenge Ming Dynasty China, and advance into the Asian continent. Mass produced armaments were introduced by Japan and China and Korea built the world's first armor-plated warships. There is evidence that Southeast Asian and European mercenaries participated in the war.

The war diary is without equal in world history as a commander's battlefield accounts. Written as a personal journal, it describes in detail the daily combat situations, the admiral's personal views and feelings, observations on the weather, topographical features of battlefields, and the lives of common people. The style is simple and elegant. The diary contains a number of poems, recited by Koreans to this day, heightening its literary value.

Memorials to Court: 1. Emergency Measures Against Japanese Invasion

Yi, Your Majesty's humble subject, Commander of Cholla Left Naval Station, addresses the throne about some emergency measures against the enemy attack. Today, on the 15th of fourth moon at 8:00 p.m., I received from Won Kyun, Commander of Kyongsang Right

² Yi, Sun-sin. *Nanjung Ilgi: War Diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin*. Trans. Tae-hung Ha. Ed. Pow-key Sohn. Seoul: Yonsei UP, 1977.

Naval Station, an official dispatch with the information that urgent reports from Commandant Chon Ung-nin of Kadok Fort and Captain Hwang Chong-nok of Ch'onsongp'o had reached him on the 14th at 10 a.m., relaying the alarms given by Yi On, the lighthouse keeper at Ungbong [in Ch'onka-myon, Ch'angwon-gun] and So Kon, the beacon watch in Naesan-myon, Kimhae-gun, that on the 13th at 4 p.m., about ninety Japanese vessels, having passed by Ch'ugido [Sodo Islet, Saha-myon, Tongnae-gun], sailed toward Pusanp'o in a long line of battle and that the said commandant ordered his right-wring captain at Tadaep'o, Pusan to lead his warships out to sea to watch the movements of the Japanese vessels.

In the above dispatch Won Kyun saw these vessels as the Japanese trading boats coming to our land annually, but the continuous arrival of such a larger merchant fleet of ninety vessels is an uncommon event. In order to cope with the worst possible condition that might befall us, I sent official dispatches of warning to all ports under my command to watch carefully in full war-alert day and night, and I also stand on the watchtower at the entrance of the sea with my battleships in martial array.

I report as above for today. I must add that in another official dispatch on the same day Won Kyun stated that he had received a special dispatch at 4 p.m., from Pak Hong, Commander of Kyongsang Left Naval Station, based on an urgent report from Commandant of Kadok Fort - "One hundred and fifty Japanese vessels are entering the harbors of Haeundae and Pusan." Won Kyun expressed his grave concern, saying that these are not the Japanese trading boats on their annual visit to Korea. It will take a long time to analyze the individual items of the messages, so here I transmit their main points only and will report on the coming developments of the situation. I will maintain battle-ships at the entrance of the sea to meet any emergency that might arise. At the same time, I sent round circular letters to the Provincial Governor, the Army Commander, and the Commander of Cholla Right Naval Station in addition to the keepers of coastal towns and ports, calling upon them to be on the alert.

Yi, Commander

8:00 p.m., 15th of Fourth Moon, 20th Year of Wan-li [Imjin1592]

Memorials to Court: 9. Defeating the Japanese at Kyonnaeryang [the Hansando Battle]

I memorialize the throne about the capture and slaughter of the enemy. Before the arrival of the royal orders, the Japanese robbers, roving on the sea of Kyongsang Province, gradually encroached upon the coastal areas under the jurisdiction of the Kyongsang Right Naval Station, burning and plundering everywhere until the invaded Sach'on, Kongyang, and Namhae. Therefore, I sent official dispatches to both Cholla Right Naval Station Commander Yi Ok-ki and Kyongsang Right Naval Station Commander Won Kyun to take united action with me. As a result, we captured the enemy vessels and cut off the heads of his officers and men and destroyed them altogether before we returned to our respective headquarters on the 10th of sixth moon as I have already reported.

When I received from the Joint Border-Defense Council an official letter transmitting Your Majesty's written orders I pledged anew with the two Commanders and sent official dispatches to annihilate the individual raiders who frequent our shores and islands, as I assembled my warships in battle formation.

As a result of reconnaissance of the enemy movements in Kyongsang Province, it has come to my knowledge that the Japanese vessels in groups of ten to thirty frequent the islands of Kadok and Koje, and I have also heard that the Japanese ground troops invaded Kumsan in Colla Province. In this way, the enemy is extending his attacks on land and sea, but no one rises to resist. Should things go on this way, the enemy will march farther and deeper north through the heartland of our country. Therefore, in the evening of the 4th of seventh moon I led my fleet to the appointed rendezvous agreed upon with Yi Ok-ki, Commander of Cholla Right Naval Station. On the fifth we renewed our pledge to fight, and on the sixth I led our united fleet to Noryang on the boundary of Konyang and Namhae, and saw Won Kyun, Commander of Kyongsang Right Naval Station, who had been staying there with seven damaged warships barely repaired. We met at sea for a strategic conference, and sailed to Ch'angsin-do [an island in Chinju county], where we passed the night. On the seventh a strong easterly wind arose and navigation was difficult. On reaching Tangp'o [an island in Kosong county] at nightfall our men gathered wood and drew water, when Kim Ch'on-son, a cowherd on that island came running toward our warships and reported, "Over seventy enemy vessels large, medium, and small, sailed from the sea off Yongdungp'o today at 2:00 p.m., and entered Kyonnaeryang (Tokho-ri, Sadungmyon, Koje-gun), where they are now riding at anchor." I ordered my ships' captains to be on the alert, and early on the morning of the eighth we set out to sea. As we looked toward the enemy anchorage, two enemy vanguard vessels, large and medium, came out, spied our ships and returned to their positions. We immediately chased them and found eighty-two enemy vessels (36 large, 34 medium, 12 small) lined up in a long row, but the channel of Kyonnaeryang was narrow and strewn with sunken rocks so it was not only difficult to fight in the bay for fear our border-roofed ships might collide with one another but also the enemy might escape to land by jumping ashore when driven into a corner. For these reasons, I adopted the tactic of luring the enemy out to the sea in front of Hansando [Island] where we could capture his vessels and slaughter his men in strike, because Hansando lies between Koje and Kosong, separated all round from land to swim to, and even those who landed would die of starvation.

First, I ordered out five or six board-roofed vanguard ships to make chase, feigning a surprise attack. When the enemy vessels under full sail pursued our ships, they fled from the bay as if returning to base. The enemy vessels kept pursuing ours until they came out to open sea. Immediately I commanded my ships' captain to line up in the "crane-wing" formation so as to surround the enemy vessels in a semi-circle. Then I roared "Charge!" Our ships dashed forward with the roar of cannons "Earth," "Black," and "Victory," breaking two or three of the enemy vessels into pieces. The other enemy vessels, stricken with terror, scattered and fled in all directions in great confusion. Our officers and men and local officials on board shouted "Victory!" and darted at flying speed, vying with one another, as they hailed down arrows and bullets like a thunder storm, burning the enemy vessels and slaughtering his warriors completely...

...In addition, the remaining enemy vessels (20 large, 17 medium, and 5 small) were broken and burnt by the united attacks of scores of our warrior from the Right and Left Naval Stations. Countless numbers of Japanese were hit by arrows and fell dead into the water.

However, about four hundred exhausted Japanese, finding no way to escape, deserted their boats and fled ashore, while the remaining Japanese boats (one large, seven medium, and six small) which had fallen behind during the battle, seeing from afar the horrible sight of burning vessels and falling heads, rowed their boats very fast and fled in all directions.

Both officers and men on our ships were exhausted by the fierce day-long battle, and the gathering dusk made it impossible for us to pursue the escaping Japanese to the end, so we returned to our position in the inner sea of Kyonnaeryang to rest for the night...

...I fear that the enemy might return in a second invasion with reinforcements and attack us from both flanks. Therefore, before breaking up our combined fleet, I agreed with Yi Ok-ki, Commander of Cholla Right Naval Station, to keep our sailors on the alert, with bows and spears beside them, waking for sleeping, to be ready when an emergency rises once again.

I also gave instructions to the local officials to give relief to the persons who have been recaptured and to send them home when peace is restored.

The recent victories were won thanks to the united strength of commanders, sailors and local officials. At the present time, the Royal Headquarters is far away, and traffic is blocked. If the war exploits of our valiant officers and men are graded and announced after the arrival of the government orders, the delay would not be good for morale. Therefore, in consideration of what they achieved in battle I have marked the order of their individual merit by three classes – A, B, & C... on the list of their names in the appendix. The officers and men are placed on the record with marks they deserve in line with my promise, even though they did not cut off many enemy heads.

Yi, Commander

15th of Seventh Moon in the 20th Year of Wan-li, [Imjin, 1592]

Memorials to Court: 20. Request for Order to Settle War Refugees on Tolsando Farms

I memorialize the throne on the following matter for reference.

There are about two hundred families of wandering war refugees who fled from Kyongsang Province and live in the districts under the jurisdiction of my Navy Headquarters. These refugees were given accommodations in temporary quarters to pass the winter, but there is no way to get supplies for their relief, and even though they can return to their native homes when peace is restored no one can bear to see them die of starvation in the meantime. Following my letter addressed to Chief State Councilor Yu Song-nyong, an official dispatch arrived from the Border Defense Command, "If there are arable lands on the islands suitable for agriculture, send the refugees to those islands to cultivate crops and

make a living thereon. Take proper measures for the establishment of farm villages as you deem fit.” After careful survey I have found that no other islands are preferable to Tolsando (Tolsan-myon, Yoch’on-gun), because this island lies between my naval station (in Yosu) and Pangtap, which is protected by high mountains all around its vast fertile plains, and inaccessible to thieves or sea-rovers. I have instructed the refugees to enter the island and to commence the spring plowing, which they did with gladness.

When former Royal Supreme Commissioner Hong Chong-nok, Governor Yun Tu-su, Naval Commanders Pak Son, Yi Ch’on, and Yi Yong memorialized the throne about farm cultivation by border guards at my Navy Headquarters, the Ministry of War objected to the plan for the reason that agriculture would interfere with horse-breeding on that island. Now that the country is at war and many people have lost their livelihood, and in any case, the tilling of soil by wandering refugees will not do any harm to horse-breeding, it is earnestly hoped that a royal decree be issued to facilitate both horse-breeding and refugee relief.

Yi, Commander

26th of First Moon in the 21st Year of Wan-li [Kyesa, 1593]

War Dairy: September 3, 1594

Mu-in Drizzled. At dawn I received a confidential letter from the King’s court. It says “The generals on land and the admirals at sea have folded their arms as they look at each other’s faces without making any single plan to proceed or to attack the enemy.” I should like to reply, “No such thing in my sea-life during the past three years. Though I swore with other captains of war to avenge our slaughtered countrymen upon the enemy by risking our own lives, and we pass many days on land and at sea in this resolution, the enemy has taken his positions in deep trenches and high fortresses on steep hills inaccessible to us. It is not wise to proceed frivolously. A wise captain of war should keep to the rule “Knowing yourself and knowing the enemy is the surest way to secure success in a hundred battles.” A strong wind blew all day. From early in the evening I sat in candle light all alone. As I think of the state affairs in utter confusion and disturbance, **there seems nobody in the central government who could save the nation from danger.** What should be done? Seeing that I sat up alone until ten o’clock, Hungyang came in and talked with me deep into midnight before he retired from my presence.

War Diary: July 1, 1595

Im-sin Showers. Being a national memorial service day (for King In-jong) I did not attend office; sitting alone in my pavilion, I thought of the nation power as if as ephemeral as the morning dew; there does not seem to be any eminent minister who can make positive decisions within, nor is there a general who can save the nation without. I cannot even guess what will become of the nation. My thoughts are perplexed; I tossed and rolled in deep thought.

War Diary: September 15, 1597 [A day before the Battle of Myongnyang]

Kye-sa Clear. With the tide flowing, I entered the sea of Usuyong, leading our ships after me, and there I passed the night. I saw many queer portents in my dream at night.

I.v.? Clear. By riding the rising tide I led the Captains of all ships to move to the sea off Usuyong [Munnae-myon, Haenam-gun], because it was not right for a small fleet to take a fighting position with its back against Myongnyang (Ultolmok, the Roaring Channel), whose swift current falls like a cataract behind Pyokp'ajong (the Sea-Viewing Pavilion). Calling my Staff Officers and all ships' Captains, I gave the following instruction: "According to the principles of strategy, 'He who seeks his death shall live, he who seeks his life shall die.' Again, the strategy says 'If one defender stands on watch at a strong gateway he may drive terror deep into the heart of the enemy coming by the ten thousand.' These are golden sayings for us. You Captains are expected to strictly obey my orders. If you do not, even the least error shall not be pardoned, but shall be severely punished by Martial Law." In this way I showed them my firm attitude. In my dream this night a spirit appeared before me and declared, "If you do in this way, you shall win a great victory; if you do in that way you shall suffer a tragic defeat."

War Diary: September 16, 1597 [The day of the Battle of Myongnyang]

Kab-o Clear. Early in the morning our watchmen reported "About two hundred odd enemy vessels, having passed the Channel of Mongnyang [Ultolmok, in Munnae-myon, Haenam-gun], are sailing up straight to our position, Called all Captains of warships to swear to fight. We weighed anchor and put out to sea. 133 enemy crafts enveloped us. The Flagship dashed alone into the midst of the fleet of the advancing enemy and poured gun-fire and arrows on him like a hail-storm, but the other ships only looked at this fray and did not move forward, even though their Admiral on the Flagship was in danger. As our timid sailors on board were terror-stricken and stood motionless, I spoke to them in a soft voice "Though the enemy may boast of his thousand warships, he does not dare to come near us. Have no fear! Shoot the enemy with all your might!" Then I looked around for our ships, but they had already fallen astern about half a li and the ship on which Kim Ok-ch'u (Commander of the Cholla Right Naval Station) rode had dropped far behind, hovering on the horizon, I felt like turning the bow of the Flagship to sail straight to the ship of Kim Ung-ham, Captain of the middle wing, to whip off his head, and hang it up high, but I thought that if I should turn the bow of the Flagship, all the other ships would drop farther and farther, behind the fleet formation and the enemy vessels would come forward nearer and nearer, making it more disadvantageous to our side. Keeping this idea on mind, I raised my military command flag and hoisted a call signal toward the direction of Kim's ship. It then came nearer to me, and the ship of An Wi, the Magistrate of Koje, also drew near. Standing on the bridge of my Flagship, I called An Wi and roared "Do you wish to be hanged under the court martial? Do you wish to die at a military command? Do you think you can live by falling astern?" As An Wi dashed in great haste against the enemy line, the enemy's flagship and two other enemy boats surrounded him. Seven or eight sailors plunged into the water and swam round in the waves, but they were beyond the hands of salvation. I had my ship swung round to approach

An Wi's to rescue him. The sailors on An Wi's ship shot desperately at the enemy and the officers on my ship hailed cannon balls and arrows on him until we destroyed two of his vessels with the help of heaven. Our ships rammed into thirty odd enemy vessels, which surrounded us, and broke them into pieces. At this tragic sight, all other enemy vessels, being disheartened, gave up the fight and fled far away and did not return to attack any more. We wished to stay overnight on the scene of the battle, but the swift current of the ebbing tide made it difficult for our ships to ride at anchor. Therefore, in the moonlight we moved our sea-camp to -p'o [some letters dropped before 'p'o' in the original diary] on the opposite side, then to Tangsado (Amt'ae-do in Muan) to put up for the night.

I.v. Clear. Early in the morning, a special scouting unit reported "The enemy vessels in countless numbers, having passed the Channel of Myongnyang, enter the area where we have our positions." At once I ordered all ships in my fleet, including my Flagship, to weigh anchor and I led them out to sea. Soon after, one hundred and thirty odd enemy vessels enveloped us. Our ships' Captains lost their fighting morale at the sight of the enemy's overwhelming strength of numbers, and used various devices to fall out from the line of battle. In particular, the ship of Kim Ok-ch'u, Commander of the Cholla Right Naval Station, had already fallen away to a distance of over one mile. I had our oarsmen row the Flagship swiftly and dash forward like an arrow while our gunners at my signal poured down fire on the enemy vessels from our "Earth" and "Black" type Cannons. The cannon balls burst on the enemy vessels like a hailstorm, and the fire arrows flying from the bows of men standing on the Flagship fell like rain. Before this attack the enemy only milled around and did not dash against us. Being surrounded two and three deep by the enemy vessels, however, the officers and men on our ship looked at each other with fear. **At this time I reassured them once again in a quiet voice "The enemy vessels are many, but they cannot come to attack us. Have no fear, but shoot at them with all your might."** Then I looked around for our ships, which had fallen far astern. I thought of turning the bow of my Flagship to issue my commands, but if I did, the enemy vessels will come nearer and I would find myself between the devil and the deep sea – impossible to advance or turn back. Just then a fresh idea flashed in my mind. I blew a horn and ordered my Staff Officers to raise a military command flag together with a call signal, accompanied by shell trumpets, then the ship of Kim Ung-ham, Commandant of Mijohang and the leader of the central squadron drew nearer to my Flagship, preceded by the ship of An Wi, the Magistrate of Koje. Standing on the bridge of my Flagship, I roared, "An Wi! Do you wish to die at my order? An Wi, do you wish to die under court martial? If you escape, where can you find a place to live?" Then An Wi, inspired, plunged into the line of battle. Next, I called Kim Ung-ham, and roared "As leader of the central squadron, you fell far astern and would not come to the rescue of you Commanding Admiral. How can you escape from your guilt?" I wanted to execute him right away, but since the attacking enemy was so near and so dangerous, I gave him an opportunity to redeem himself with a fine military feat. As the two ships were darting toward the enemy position, the enemy's flagship ordered two boats under its command to attack, then the enemy hordes like black ants climbed up An Wi's ship. Seeing this, An Wi's sailors fought them off desperately with sharp-edged clubs, long spears, or sea-washed stones until all the fighters were exhausted. I ordered my men to turn the bow of my Flagship and to dash forward under cover of gunfire and fire-arrows. In a moment three enemy vessels were

burnt and turned over. Then the ships of Nokto (Song Yo-jong, captain) and P'yongsanp'o Acting Captain Cong Ung-tu, came to reinforce our ships and killed off the enemy warriors remaining on board. On my Flagship there was a surrendered Japanese named Toshisuna, who came from the enemy's camp in Angol. When he looked down at the enemy soldiers and sailors swimming in blood on the surface of the sea, he caught sight of a man wearing a red brocade uniform embroidered with flower crests, and cried "It is, it is Matashi (Kurushima Toso?), the Japanese general in Angol!" I ordered Kim Tolson, a water carrier on my ship, to hook up the floating body onto the hatchway. Then Toshisuna leaped with joy and shouted "I am positive, it is he – Matashi!" I commanded my men to cut the body into pieces and, from that time the morale of the enemy was greatly affected. Knowing that the enemy could come to fight us no more, our ships, beating drums and shouting battle cries, darted forward, and attacked the enemy vessels, shooting of cannons marked "Earth" and "Black," whose bursting detonations shook the seas and the mountains. Together with the rain of arrows, they destroyed thirty-one enemy vessels in this single battle. The enemy scattered and fled to return no more. We wished to pass the night on the field of battle, but the waves were extremely rough and an adverse wind was blowing hard, making the area dangerous. Therefore we moved out formation to Tansado [Amt'aemyon, Muan-gun] to stop overnight. The victory was really made with heavenly aid.