



■Painting of "Kunimi"

In 1885, Iwamura Michitoshi, who would later become the Governor of Hokkaido, and General Takeshiro Nagayama of the Tondenhei Army decided to move the army corps from their base in Chikabumi to the Kamikawa highlands and make Asahikawa the largest city. This picture depicting Iwamura, Nagayama and others against the backdrop of the Asahikawa dawn is particularly significant.

■Passing On Our History

Since the National Safety Forces relocated to the base of what was formerly known as the 7th Division of the Japanese Imperial Army in 1952, the Asahikawa Base has seen a rich history, including the formation of the Japan Self-Defense Force and the base's designation as the Second Division in a reorganization of the JSDF.

This division remembers the hardships that our forefathers endured and uses the results of our ongoing training, along with our pride in ourselves as guardians of Northern Japan, to contribute to the peace and development of our global society.

The entire staff of Hokuchin Museum would also like to express their heartfelt wish for the museum to serve as a place to pass on our history to as many people as possible. We look forward to seeing you.



English

北鎮 記念館

Hokuchin Museum
ASAHIKAWA



Getting There

Around 20 minutes by bus (Asahikawa Denkikido Bus or Dohoku Bus) from Asahikawa Station.

Around 15 minutes from Asahikawa-Takasu Interchange



北鎮記念館

Next to the Asahikawa base of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force,
Shunko-cho, Asahikawa City, Hokkaido 070-8630
Tel./Fax : 0166-51-6111 (Hokuchin Museum)

[Opening Hours] Summer (April-October) : 9:00am-5:00pm
Winter (November-March) : 9:30am-4:00pm

[Closed] Mondays (Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday)

[Admission] Free

[Parking] 25 spaces for standard vehicles, 3 spaces for large buses,
2 spaces for persons with disabilities.

[Facilities for persons with disabilities] Disabled toilets, elevators, visitors' route,
2 wheelchairs available for use.

[Website] <http://www.mod.go.jp/gsd/nae/2d/hokutin2/top.html>

※Guided tours of the facility are available on request.



Take a journey through
the history of Asahikawa and
Hokkaido...

See how it all started.

From the history of the Tondenhei Army and 7th Division of the Japanese Imperial Army who defended and reclaimed Hokkaido, to the 2nd Division of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force who walked side by side with the people of Hokkaido through the various eras of the National Police Reserve and National Safety Forces, we have around 2,500 precious artefacts that tell the story of Hokkaido's reclamation and defense through the years.



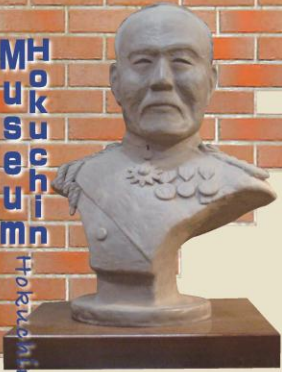
■Development of Asahikawa

Asahikawa Village was established in 1890. The Tonden Army and developers settled here, turning Asahikawa into a base for the development and defense of Hokkaido and laying the foundations for the city Asahikawa is today.

Asahikawa's development was accelerated by the relocation of the 7th Division of the Japanese Imperial Army.

Around 120 years later, Asahikawa is now the second-largest city in Hokkaido, with agriculture, furniture and pulp as its core industries and strong urban functions such as education, culture and medicine.





■ Takeshiro Nagayama, the Founding Father of the Tonden Army
Nagayama Takeshiro was the second Governor of Hokkaido and the first general of the 7th Division of the Japanese Imperial Army. He was also the "father" of the Tondenhei Army and devoted his life to developing the Tondenhei Army system. This great man's name has gone down in history as the name of the town of Nagayama.

■ Multi-Purpose Room

This room is used for introductions of the Self-Defense Forces and Hokuchin Museum, viewing video footage, or special exhibitions.



■ Panel: A Comprehensive History of the 7th Division

This panel is a table of contents for the exhibitions in the museum, showing the history of the 7th Division, the places they fought, and much more. Many of the exhibits in the museum follow this timeline.



■ A History of the 7th Division

This is a book compiled of secret army documents. At the end of World War 2, Yukio Kurokawa, who worked at headquarters, took this precious resource home and took very special care of it. The book contains detailed information on important affairs of the 7th Division from 1869 to June 1945, and was designated as a Cultural Property of Asahikawa City in 2006.



■ Foundation of the 7th Division

The 7th Division of the Japanese Imperial Army was established in 1896 in Sapporo to protect Hokkaido, and was moved to Asahikawa in 1901. The biggest facility in the entire army was built, with the Division's entire force concentrated in one place, and from that point onwards Asahikawa became a Military City.

■ Asahikawa Stone Monument Panel

There are many stone monuments around Asahikawa, but this area is devoted solely to monuments relating to the Tondenhei Army or the Japanese Imperial Army. You can learn the origin and location of each monument, and the time it was erected.



■ Reading Area: Literature Relating to the 7th Division

Feel free to read our many donated books and resources about the 7th Division, or accounts by scholars who were involved with the 7th Division.



■ Self-Defense Forces (2nd Division) Area
Find out about the history of the 2nd Division of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, from the former Imperial Army to the National Police Reserve, as well as learning about training conditions, global contributions, interaction with civilians and more.



■ The Tondenhei Army and the Reclamation of Hokkaido

As well as protecting and reclaiming Hokkaido, the Tondenhei Army began colonizing the area to aid the many people with samurai ancestry who had lost their means of income after the Meiji restoration. Around 40,000 soldiers and their families migrated in the 25 years that followed. We must never forget the unimaginable hardship that once existed in an area that is so prosperous today.

2F



■ The 7th Division and the Russo-Japanese War

When war was declared between Russia and Japan on February 10 1904, Japan initially sent all reserve forces and numerous second reserve forces, but due to concerns about Sakhalin and Primorsky Krai and uncertainty about the movements of the Baltic fleet, the 7th Division was called to battle on August 4. Under the command of the Third Army, the 7th Division joined the war from the third full-scale attack on November 27.



■ The Birthplace of Skiing in Hokkaido

In February 1912, Lieutenant Colonel Larch from the Austrian self-defense forces was assigned to the artillery regiment, and on February 20 Hokkaido's first skiing lesson took place, attended by soldiers from the force, postal workers, reporters and more. And so Asahikawa became the birthplace of skiing in Hokkaido.

■ The 7th Division in the Showa and Taisho Eras

Find out about the history of the 7th Division from the Taisho Era to the Showa Era, including their dispatch to Siberia, aid work for the people of Primorsky Krai and the Manchuria, Shina and Nomohan incidents, as well as the troops' dispatch after natural disasters such as the Great Kanto Earthquake and the eruption of Mount Tokachi, the Hokkaido Drill Center and more.



■ Local Hero: Major General Hayabusa Kato

The Fourth Squadron of the Imperial Japanese Army Air Service, which was mainly active in Southeast Asia, was led by a man from Asahikawa Village, Lieutenant Colonel Tateo Kato, known as Hayabusa Kato, was the most honored member of the UAAS, receiving seven commendations from the Emperor for his outstanding military aviation skills, but was killed during battle with an enemy aircraft. He was promoted two ranks posthumously, the first officer in the UAAS to receive such an honor.



■ Daily Life Through the Years

This area is filled with old artefacts that we no longer see nowadays. See how items from our daily lives have changed over the years.



■ The 7th Division and the Greater East Asia War

Find out about the battles on Guadalcanal Island in the south and Aburatsubo in the north, as well as Hokkaido's defensive position toward the end of the Greater East Asia War and their battle with the invading Soviet Army around August 15, 1945.