

Settlement



Shibetsu City was where the final and northernmost regiment of *tondenhei* settlers were deployed in 1899. This regiment was the 5th Company, 3rd Battalion of Tonden Infantry, commonly referred to as the *Shibetsu Tonden*. Headquarters for the 3rd Battalion were placed in the neighboring town of Kenbuchi and 5th Company, its fifth regiment, were deployed to Shibetsu to begin the area's settlement.

The *tondenhei* settlers of Shibetsu were stationed around what is present-day Shibetsu City's Odori 1-chome and set up official residences and housing known as *tondenhei-oku*. They cultivated the land and conducted military exercises in swordsmanship and shooting in preparation for emergencies.



In addition to the *tondenhei* settlers, Shibetsu was also settled by other groups of migrants from the main island of Honshu. These included the Yoshino Group from Nara Prefecture that settled in Kamishibetsu, a group from Yamagata Prefecture that settled in Tayoro, and a group from Tottori Prefecture that settled in Onnebetsu, as well as other unaffiliated individual migration that led to the further development of the town.