

會見指定時日

日本人の戦時中の経緯談に関する會見に
來られる時には此のパスを左記の場所に
て指定時限に差出して下さい。

場所 片倉ビル三階
時日 昭和二十年十一月十九日 午前一時

SL 2
RN 30

FACTUAL DATA

INTERVIEWER Y. BEPP INT. NO. 5 DATE Nov. 20, 1945
PLACE FUKUOKA, JAPAN LIST NO. 2 R. NO. 7

SEX Male 9-1
Female 9-2

YEAR OF BIRTH MEIJI 35 DEC. 5 1905 10-

Is R an ELDEST SON? Yes 11-1
No 11-2

MARITAL STATUS Single 12-1
Married 12-2
Other 12-3

CHILDREN living 7 December 1941 or born since then
Yes 13-1
No 13-2

EDUCATION: Total number of years of schooling completed 8 14-

RELIGION Buddhist 15-
Sect.....
Sect Shinto 16-
Sect.....
NONE Other 16-

MILITARY SERVICE Yes 17-1
No 17-2

MAJOR OCCUPATION DURING WAR
RADIO SALES & REPAIR 18-
OWNER

TYPE OF INDUSTRY DURING WAR
RADIO 19-

OCCUPATION ON 7 DECEMBER 1941
RADIO SALES & SERVICE 20-
OWNER

HOUSEHOLD
Number of persons, 17 to 71 (other than R), in household in which R now lives 3 21-

Is R now head of household? Yes 22-1
No 22-2

If not, R's relationship to head? 23-

Do R and parent(s) now live in same household? Yes 24-1
No 24-2

Is any land owned by R or by other member of R's present household? Yes 25-1
No 25-2

Is home in which R usually lived during war owned by R or other member of household? Yes 26-1
No 26-2

DAMAGE TO HOME BY BOMBING

- Undamaged 27-1
- Damaged, but able to stay 27-2
- Damaged, forced to move temporarily 27-3
- Damaged, forced to move permanently 27-4
- Damaged, lived on same site in improvised shelter 27-5

PROPERTY DAMAGE BY BOMBING
Severity of loss:

- None 28-1
- EVACUATED GOODS** Some 28-2
- Severe 28-3

CASUALTIES FROM BOMBING

- Was R injured by or as a result of bombing?
- Yes 29-1
 - No 29-2

CASUALTIES AMONG RELATIVES OR HOUSEHOLD

	Injured	Killed	
Spouse	0	0	30-
Children, 17 or over	0	0	31-
Children under 17	0	0	32-
Father	0	0	33-
Mother	0	0	34-
Brothers & Sisters	0	0	35-
Other household members	0	0	36-

EVACUATED

- Yes
- No 37-1

PLACE FROM	PLACE TO	DATE	
1st.....	37-2
2nd.....	37-3
3rd.....	37-4

HOW MANY TIMES DID BOMBS FALL IN NEIGHBORHOODS IN WHICH R LIVED?

..... 1 38-

HOW MANY TIMES DID R PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE BOMBING?

	Day	Night	
High Explosives	0	0	39-40-
Incendiary	0	1	41-42-

HOW MANY TIMES DID R PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE AIR RAIDS?

..... 1 43-

PLACES WHERE BOMBING EXPERIENCED

1. FUKUOKA, JAPAN..... 44-
2. 45-
3.
4.

RECORDED

- Yes 46-1
- No 46-2

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1. Fortunately my home was not burned but I lost ^{by raid} most of my household belongings which had been evacuated to Kobe about 10 miles from here. (no fire insurance money received as fire occurred at place other than for which covered.)
Regarding food, perhaps I should not admit it, but I cannot buy anything at the fixed ceiling prices. There is no time to shop for best prices. We pay black market prices whether we like it or not. We not only pay cash but must have something to barter to get what we want. So far we have not gone hungry yet. We are still able to buy sweet potatoes. We grow vegetables around the house which helps. I also bought a boat for the purpose of catching fish for food. I let the workers in my radio sales & service shop use it too. I have 7 helpers in my shop, 3 stay with me and the other 4 live at their homes.
2. Better. I feel sort of relieved. The reason is that during war we were under terrific pressure from above and we had to follow orders whether or not we liked them in the name of the Emperor. We could not utter a single word against the conduct of the gov't & higher ups ^{for fear that} the police & m.p. would bring ^{us} ~~you~~ in on the most trivial charge. We just held our tongues in silence. Also, I believe economic controls are not as strict now, but actually I do not know.

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3. A source of worry was my business as I was determined to carry on and did not want to sacrifice what I had built up since I was 23 yrs of age. I thought of sending my family to a safe haven in the country but there wasn't enough money and living conditions were bad enough as they were.

On May 10, 1945 I received my first draft notice, I am 41 yrs of age. I was inducted & sent to Kagoshima Military Hospital for a period of 10 days as second-class private, medical (EISEI = health or ambulance) corps. During those 10 days, the treatment against soldiers was so bad I wondered what we were fighting for. The men inducted for medical corps were mostly uneducated, hardly could write their own names. They received only 75 days training, wondered what these men were fitted for. One time, 40 of us in a room had to pay a penalty for not coming to attention when a higher ranking man entered the room. We were compelled to fall flat on the floor face down and balance our bodies only with our hands & feet. Those whose bodies touched the floor were struck soundly with a "SHINAI" (kendo stick). At times we would be sent out at quick pace ^{on long runs}, my knees wobbled, eyes blurred & one time I fell off an embankment ^{almost} unconscious. I was

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slapped for "being still alive". All this was beyond reason. ~~Then~~ We were told that after 3 weeks we would be sent to the front and die. Fortunately I was transferred in 10 days to an air force unit near Fukuoka. I had dysentery & was given the wrong injection & I suffered greatly. I was attached to the air force unit for 10 days & then sent home as my services were more valuable making radio transmitters for the communications bureau. My active military service was about 20 days but I was under military orders for 3 months, total. During this time, I received a summons to appear in court regarding an investigation of a purchase of parts I had made before military induction, but since I was then in the army, the investigation was transferred to military court. In spite of the fact that parts used for military purposes were not subject to ceiling prices, I was given a miserable time, which was a matter of great worry to me as I had invested about ¥ 80,000. I asked the court to please investigate my suppliers but they would not. As a matter of fact I had bought them very reasonably. They were trying to find out if I had traded black market.

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4. I had ~~had~~ a radio repair & sales shop since I was 23. In 1945 I was away from my business only 20 days when I saw active service. I had been accumulating a lot of parts for some time so that I would not have to depend entirely on my suppliers who were becoming more & more abusive. I built about 60 to 70 radio transmitters for the communications bureau from Nov. 1944 to the end of war.
5. The working capacity of my shop dropped sharply as the air raids on Kyushu increased. For one thing, my helpers were absent ^{from work} a great deal of time. Some days no one would come to work. My helpers were of the lowest type. The large firms had an oversupply of men who were drafted for ~~work~~ work. Oversupply of men necessary to offset absenteeism. I could not get men, the men I did get were those who escaped labor draft. I did not think we could win a war under those conditions.
- ~~5. SEE 5.~~ My own personal working capacity did not drop. My wife & I had to work twice as hard until late at night. My wife worried because I worked so hard, also my health was not too strong.
6. SEE 5.

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7. I had no rest. Others wanted days off. I wanted to fix certain days off for the help, but it was no use because they would be absent from work so many days of the month anyway. Some days no one showed up. No use having days off. It made me so mad.
8. SEE 7.
9. Just working hard without complaining. But now, I do not feel that was necessarily a strength.
10. One great weakness was the attitude of the manufacturers. All they thought of was ^{own} profits. As I see it, the Americans set the prices of goods after the goods are produced. Japanese manufacturers, on the other hand, set the price first, & then produce the goods so as to make handsome profits & at the same time meet the competition. The result is that the quality of merchandise is very poor. The papers said that we can defeat materialism with Japanese spirit. Later the papers began to say that we must fight materialism with materialism but already it was too late. I feel that the war was not in accord with the Emperor's views. The people were determined & resigned to whatever fate

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but ~~there~~ as to the conduct of the war ~~there~~ we were not reconciled.

11. It was a habit of the leaders to pass off ~~any~~ "inconvenient" matters or events by simply calling them "wild rumors". People said Tojo was living in extravagance. Whether true or not, such talk was squelched as wild rumor. People did not speak in open but at such places as tonarigumi meetings. Once a load of rice was seen ^{on a truck} by a policeman. When the load was delivered to his superior's home, he was embarrassed & tried to squelch the incident by calling it DEMA (wild rumor).
12. It was not good. Regarding economic controls, those officials of public offices took advantage of the power attached to their positions to do as they please.
13. I thought things were going adversely for us. At some time, the change of cabinet during wartime was one way of getting more cooperation from the people. But it was just the same.
14. Yes. People became unkind and discourteous toward each other, & became more hot-tempered. For instance, whereas, before the war, business men were very courteous

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to customers, they became more & more discourteous to the point of impudence. As goods became scarcer, prices rose & more profits. Also the attitude of salaried workers cooled.

15. I just worked hard at my business. A few rich people may have lived in luxury but most of people, I believe, suffered alike.
16. I always did have a feeling of doubt and wondered whether we could win. Even from the time Atter fell, I doubted whether we had a chance to win. The official announcement of the fall of Atter was that it was good strategy, but I could hardly believe that. So far as I was concerned it was very poor strategy..
17. During the keite campaign, I thought there was still a chance but after the Philippines fell, I held no hope of victory. Japan depended so much on materials & supplies from the southern regions that if such supplies were cut off, we would have no chance. American strategy seemed to materialize according to plans.
18. I did not think about quitting at any time during war. I was determined to carry on my work at all costs, but wanted to save my family. I knew we were facing

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defeat but we were resolved to fight to the end for the sake of the Emperor.

19. I felt thankful to the Emperor. I was afraid that the Japanese people faced extermination. But the Emperor interceded with the military to end the war to prevent further sacrifice of the people.
20. It is beyond my expectations. I hear from Japanese officers that we are being treated with kindness. As to the news we get thru the papers, I do not know to what extent MacArthur's headquarters have control over the news, but it seems to me that the criticisms directed toward the Jap. military is very extreme. It makes me wonder whether or not they are all true. Before we were defeated, we had been told that we were fighting a righteous war, now we hear nothing but criticisms and ^{about} acts of atrocities & brutalities committed by the military. It goes from one extreme to the other. There will be no military in Japan hereafter, but the returning soldiers are all Japanese the same as we are. I have met a few returned soldiers but among them I have not seen any who would be capable of committing such atrocities as we have been hearing about lately. This is why it makes me wonder.

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21. We face a dark future especially as to food. I do not want to be selfish & self-centered and say to myself "I'm just going to look out for myself." We can't help but depend on the black market for source of supplementary food. So far ^{now} as business is concerned, I think there is reasonable possibility of getting supplies.
22. I must confess Japan was overconfident. I think peoples all over the world should work together. Japanese should discard their strong feeling of race and think in terms of human beings. ~~to show~~ By becoming a peaceful nation, I feel that we can really return to the true form of Japan. Land is scarce, population great, resources limited. Unless foreign trade is permitted to develop, I am afraid that Japan will degenerate. I hope there is some way out.
- 23a. The Emperor is one who thinks of the welfare and happiness of the people. In the final analysis, I feel that we can only have a righteous government under his rule. He is the people's guardian symbol.
23. I was prepared to face death in defeat. I felt I could not escape this fate.

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24. On Aug 13, just before surrender news, a neighbor brought me a leaflet. Up to that time, I felt that such "propaganda" was not lies because the American strategy materialized according to schedule. America attacked frontally and was winning. The leaflet said the Emperor would announce surrender shortly. Before too many hours had elapsed, the surrender news was announced.
25. Yes. I heard a broadcast from Hawaii that the Jap. fleet had been annihilated. Altho I wondered if true, it made me shudder to think it could quite possibly be true.
26. I thought sooner or later Fukuoka would be bombed. Not at the very beginning but after Saipan fell and the raids came to Kyushu. Even before the Greater East Asia War, planes had come over Kyushu ^{once or twice from China} and I knew the possibility of being bombed.
27. I expected Japan to be bombed sooner or later when Japan struck at Pearl Harbor.
28. Responsibility for starting the war was on Japan's side. It is not a matter of which side was responsible ^{for bombing}. It was to be expected.

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29. I knew a Rev. Spencer, a ^{methodist} missionary, born in Japan but educated in America. He returned to America in 1940. His father was also a missionary to Korea where my own father lived as an evangelist. Hence, we had much in common to talk about, also he was ^{my} customer. I attended Methodist church from age of 6 to 11 and again for a while after I was 20. After I started business I was ^{too} busy to go to church & since then I am not a member of any religion. Before & during the war as I do now I have felt no animosity toward Americans. I always thought we should take the good points of Americans, especially in social living.

30. Figures of damages sustained were always minimized in reports. People who knew were told not to reveal the facts under pressure. There were posters in public places not to talk about war news for "security" reasons.

31. Not by radio. I read of such announcements in the papers. I felt we had no countermeasures, we were defenseless. I expected defeat to be speeded up.

32. After the ~~Dumb~~ ^{Tokyo} raid of Apr. 18, 1942, I read in the papers that children were strafed. At the time I thought it very brutal. Later, I saw a map in the paper showing the

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specific targets damaged. My ^{original} hostile feeling subsided.

33. Very poor. The air raid shelters were made by persons of no experience. The original order stated that they should be dug under the houses. It was found that this is dangerous so we were told to dig outside. This was a compulsory order but without help or materials. Many had no space to dig. Some dug shelters in the streets & the water would seep thru. In practice air raid warnings we were told to bail the water out but nothing could prevent clothing from getting wet. all in all, the whole thing was very inadequate. About 2 to 3 months before surrender, most of us voluntarily prepared own shelters as raids increased. The fire fighting force was very impractical and it was almost impossible to practice.

34. At time of bombing of Hiroshima the damages were minimized according to papers. By the time Nagasaki was hit, we knew of the deadliness of the atomic bomb. We were resigned to it in Fukuoka. As to its use, I did not criticize, I regretted that Japan ^{could have} ~~did~~ not invented it & used it.

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35. At the time of the raid on Fukuoka, I still was not officially discharged from military service but I was home attending to my radio work. I sent my family in the shelter & I stood out in front. The raid started between 11-12 PM & lasted about 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Fire bombs were dropped but there may have been some explosives & I could hear explosions. There is a lake in front of the house while the other 3 sides of house are surrounded by the hills. The house was saved but the fire had spread ~~to~~ ^(military) ~~without~~ dangerously close. About 2 AM I went to my unit to report that my house (includes shop) did not burn. I wondered when the next raid would be. I wanted to continue to carry on my business. I urged my wife & 1 child to go to the country but my wife stubbornly refused to go & preferred that we die together.

36. SEE 35.

37. No daylight experience.

38. Personally, explosive bomb is worse because one does not know where it will drop and with how much power.

39. I had only 1 air raid experience. I thought how can Japan carry on at this rate? All production would come to a halt.

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40. There may have been some special measures but I was too involved in my work to notice. The rate of absenteeism was at its highest.

41. Very little aid in my district. It seemed that the city was prepared to some extent to offer food & clothing, but the average person was not in position to render aid.

Evacuation schedule does not apply in this case.

^{neither} Respondent nor respondent's family evacuated & no evacuees came to his community.