

Fort Snelling - 1944-45
Philippines - 1945-46 - WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION
JAPAN - 1946-48 - INTERROGATION - POW-FR SIBERIA
INFO - USSR.

Attn: Loni Ding

VOX

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NISEI VETERANS & FAMILY
Interviewee form

Name IWAO YAMAGUCHI (Maiden name also, if applicable)

Place of birth ^(please print) UPLAND, CALIFORNIA

Place of upbringing, if different RANCHO CUCAMONGA

Number in family 7 What position in the family were you? OLDEST (SON)

What were the occupations of your mother? AVOCADO RANCHER and
your father? AVOCADO RANCHER

What village/district in Japan were they from? SHODOSHIMA (MOTHER)
KOZAI - FATHER (KAGAWA-KEN)

Did your parents provide explicit training in Japanese language, customs and values?

X yes no somewhat

Please give examples:
How much education did you have? high school 8 YRS college 3 YRS

If you went to college, where, and what did you major in?

GEOGRAPHY

OUTBREAK of WAR

How old were you at war time? 16 YRS How old were other members of family? 15, 11, 9, 4

Were you and your family evacuated? YES from where? CUCAMONGA, CALIF

When were you evacuated? MAY 1942 What assembly center were you taken to?

DIRECTLY TO POSTON I ARIZONA (BUS LOADED AT - RIVERSIDE 12R STA.)

Which camp(s) were you detained in? POSTON I (only)

Did you leave camp to go to work or college? YES If yes, please explain.

IN 1943 AFTER GRADU.S. SIX OF US PICKED FRUIT (PEACHES) IN UTAH.

What year did you enter the service? AUG 1944 Where were you at the time? POSTON I

Were you a volunteer? YES a draftee? _____

MILITARY

Where did you serve? FORT SNELLING MISLS 1944-45 - PHILIPPINES (MANILA)

JAPAN OCCUPATION 1946-1948 Which unit(s) were you with? GHQ TOKYO, WAR CRIMES INVEST.

SIS
PRO SIS
BRD
SIS

What kind of work did you do? INTERROGATE JAPANESE SOLDIERS IN PHILIPPINES ABOUT INFO. ON WAR CRIMES.

Who were some of the other nisei in your unit? SGT. TAK YAMADA, SGT. YAMAKI

SGT. ARD KOZONO, Are you still in contact? NO.

Who were some of your immediate officers? CAPT. FRENCH, LT. UNO, LT NAGANO

LT. HELM, Are you still in contact? NO

FOR M.I.S. VETERANS:

Did you serve in the occupation of Japan? YES

If so, where? Tokyo, Kyushu, MAIZORU Doing what? INTERROGATING

JAPANESE SOLDIER RET. FR USSR SIBERIA Under whose command? G-2, GHQ TOKYO

How long did you serve there? 2 YRS Did you get to know any Japanese nationals with whom you are still in contact? YES

Which other nisei served with you there? LT INOKUCHI, LT. UNO

Are you still in contact? NO -

POST-WAR (Veterans and Family please answer)

Did you return to your home area after the war? YES

What situation did you return to? RUN DOWN FARM, FINANCIALLY POOR, HOSTILE AND SCARY ENVIRONMENT - LOTS OF HARD WORK TO DO

If you have children, how old are they? What do they do, and where do they live?

YES 36 YRS - WILLIE 35 YRS - ROY 27 YRS - JOYCE
WILLIAM = SO CAL EDISON, ROY - JAIL, JOYCE - MOTHER OF 5 GIRLS
↓ CUCAMONGA ↓ L.A. JAIL ↓ "Silver Lake" L.A.

Thank you.

• CURRENT INFORMATION (Date: July 15, 1985)

Name: WAO "Rocky" YAMAUCHI

Address: [REDACTED]

Zip

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA. 91730

Phone(s) home and work:

[REDACTED]

1920-1979

MY FATHER WAS THE "RARE JAPANESE"

AVOCADO GROWER, INTRODUCED AVOCADO TO

JAPAN THROUGH A AGR. STUDENT PR. WAKAYAMA

(JUNJI INOUE)

GETTING DISCHARGED + PLANNING TO RET. HOME AFTER 6 YRS + ARMY. WRA camp

IN 1948 - US ARMY JAPAN OCCUPATION -

I WAS SCARED TO DEATH TO RETURN TO USA

REMEMBERING THE SEVERE DAMAGING EFFECTS

TO MY SPIRIT DURING 1941-1944 IN US.

I WANTED TO GO TO AUSTRALIA OR ALASKA THEN.

I FOUND MY ORPHANED BOY COUSIN Yōji 洋次

AND HELPED HIM WITH FOOD AND CLOTHES WHILE I WAS

IN OCCUPATION 1946-48. Yōji WAS BORN IN MEXICO,

EDUCATED IN JAPAN - WAR BROKE UP HIS CHANCE TO

RET. TO MEX. TO HIS FAMILY.

I STUDIED SELF TAUGHT JAPANESE LANG. WHILE IN

WRA CAMP PR 8AM - 11PM FOR 3 SOLID MONTHS, TO

QUALIFY FOR MISLS, FOR I DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT

IN EUROPE AS INFANTRY - I SUCCEEDED AND WENT

TO MI SET.

1946-48 PORT OF MAIZURU JAPAN

most interesting Experience was talking to POW
from Russia - who told me their treatment by
USSR - in Siberia as POW. I became very much
knowledgeable of Central Asia + Eastern Siberia
Steel mills, RR; mines, Lumber, Housing, Weather,
people, Food, USSR policies, USSR Soldiers etc.

Juan Yamauchi