

Attn: Loni Ding

**VOX**

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NISEI VETERANS & FAMILY  
Interviewee form

Name Kawahata, Ben Isamu (Maiden name also, if applicable)

(please print)  
Place of birth Mitchell, Nebraska (10/27/26)

Place of upbringing, if different Los Angeles

Number in family 9 children What position in the family were you? 6<sup>th</sup>

What were the occupations of your mother? Managing family grocer store/home maker  
and

your father? Managing family grocery store

What village/district in Japan were they from? Okayama, Japan

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

yes  no  somewhat

Please give examples: 3rd grade in Japan / attended Maryknoll School.  
How much education did you have? high school N/A college \_\_\_\_\_

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

OUTBREAK of WAR

How old were you at war time? 15 How old were other members of family? 23 → 10

Were you and your family evacuated? Yes from where? Los Angeles

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

Santa Anita

Which camp(s) were you detained in? Rohwer, Arkansas

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

Found a job and went to St. Louis. Didn't like the school syst.

What year did you enter the service? 1946 Where were you at the time? LoA.

Were you a volunteer? Yes a draftee? \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY

Where did you serve? 441<sup>st</sup> Counter Intell & ATIS, Tokyo

Which unit(s) were you with? \_\_\_\_\_

Discharged from the Army 31 Aug 49.

Chugoku

Civil Service with Civil Affairs Region:

Sept 49 to May 1951

Returned to L.A. with Miyoko (Tokyo born Japanese national); May 1951

What kind of work did you do? Interpreter - Translator & investigation.

Who were some of the other nisei in your unit? Nob Yoshida, Henry Mizumoto,

Ted Morinishi, Mitsuru Nakaya, <sup>Atsumi, Sugita</sup>  
Are you still in contact? Yes

Who were some of your immediate officers? Marshall Sumida, Geo Obayashi,

Are you still in contact? No

FOR M.I.S. VETERANS:

Did you serve in the occupation of Japan? Yes

If so, where? Tokyo, Yamaguchi, Kure Doing what? Interpreter -

Translator Under whose command? GHQ, Mac Arthur, <sup>Civil</sup> Affairs <sup>8th</sup> Army

How long did you serve there? 4 Did you get to know any Japanese nationals with whom you are still in contact? Yes

Which other nisei served with you there? Mitsuru Nakaya, Akira Yamashiro

Are you still in contact? Yes, with Nakaya

POST-WAR *(-Veterans and Family please answer)*

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

What situation did you return to? Relatives and friends lived in Yamate, Okayama. Visited the relatives. Had a party with the fellows in the same class. They were all pretty well off living in the country-side.

If you have children, how old are they? What do they do, and where do they live?  
Joyce Kawahata 36 Lawyer, San Francisco, Gregory 34, Pacific Bell technician, Brian 32 student, James 25 student  
all 3 sons live at home. Diane Fredricksen 30, Assistant Manager at U.S. Amada, Alhambra, CA. Thank you.

• CURRENT INFORMATION (Date: 7/15/85)

Name: Ben Kawahata

Address: [redacted] Monterey Park, CA

Zip 91754

Phone(s) home and work: [redacted]

Please mail form for annual SF by July 15

or leave with George Kanegai for my LA visit July 17 onward.

• George Kanegai [redacted] LA, CA