

Attn: Loni Ding

VOX

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NISEI VETERANS & FAMILY
Interviewee form

Name DON C. OKA (Maiden name also, if applicable)

Place of birth Watsonville Ca *(Father's brother's uncle's aunt)*

Place of upbringing, if different U.S.A + JAPAN 1925-1937 (5-17 years); Skid *(left)*

Number in family 7 Brothers *(6 kids)* What position in the family were you? 3rd

What were the occupations of your mother? HOUSEWIFE and

your father? FARMER + HOTEL OPERATOR

What village/district in Japan were they from? OKAYAMA, (village) of Hiroshima *SOMI*

Did your parents provide explicit training in Japanese language, customs and values?
yes _____ no _____ somewhat

Please give examples:
How much education did you have? high school college ART SCHOOL

If you went to college, where, and what did you major in?
Earlier, 2 elder brothers, 17, grade school, ~~Castroville~~; learning English; Mother died when 12; 4 childbirths; 3 boys making;

OUTBREAK of WAR *2 older sealed: already in US army; Later Smelling (MIS) Brothers; 2 younger brothers in Japanese (kamikaze) air force; wounded; ship sunk on way from Japan/ Okinawa*

How old were you at war time? 20 How old were other members of family?
working fruit stand #4 main street; OTS ART INSTITUTE; interested AD WORKING; staying in L

Were you and your family evacuated? NO from where? They wanted me to succeed

When were you evacuated? Feb. 1942 What assembly center were you taken to?

Which camp(s) were you detained in? _____

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

What year did you enter the service? 1942 Where were you at the time? CASTROVILLE

Were you a volunteer? _____ a draftee? *(Only 3 Nisei; displayed while, all others interviewed;)*

MILITARY 3 Nisei alone *short loyalty by 3; Arkansas, Camp Robinson, Basie, ~~Arkansas~~; Crowder, Mo;*

Where did you serve? U.S. ALASKA, SAIPAN, TINIAN *(served w/ YAN in Alaska)*

Which unit(s) were you with? U.S. NAVY - MARINES (JICPOA) *(didn't want to go to interview - lousy RP; possible)*

Aleutian

Kiska (most fortified; Alaska Scout, any outfit; many of had nip Considered Nisei committed (Furthypella) - like Royce - (and Shelter of Human) Staged 2-3 weeks & returned to Snellby; Troops withdrawn in fog, returned; late arrival to JKPOA; Reassigned (Veterans and Family) Interviewee form, page 2

What kind of work did you do? TRANSLATION + INTERPRETER

Who were some of the other nisei in your unit? JOE HARAD, NOB FURUIYE

STEVE YABI, GEO INABAKI (DIED IN 1980?) Are you still in contact? YES

Who were some of your immediate officers? _____

Are you still in contact? NO

FOR M.I.S. VETERANS:

Did you serve in the occupation of Japan? YES

If so, where? KYUSHU Doing what? INTERPRETER

FOR OCCUPATION FORCE (MARINE) Under whose command? ?

How long did you serve there? 4 mos. Did you get to know any Japanese nationals with whom you are still in contact? NO

Which other nisei served with you there? _____

Are you still in contact? _____

POST-WAR (Veterans and Family please answer) DID NOT want to visit relatives, sick of TB; 7 Years Arizona Hospital;

Did you return to your home area after the war? NO 1952 discharged;

What situation did you return to? AM Frem CALIF. BUT DISCHARGED IN

COLORADO = Won Nat'l cartoon contest; China Act LA; job (w/ing)

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

DAUGHTER (43) TEACHER LOS ANGELES

Thank you.

• CURRENT INFORMATION (Date: 7/15/85)

Name: Don C. Oka

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Zip _____
Phone(s) home and work: _____