

# KAORU ATAGI: *Case File*

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Kaoru (in glasses) and his family live on a farm in the interior of British Columbia as they wait out internment.

*August, 1942*

A watchman reports that the Atagi home in Steveston has been “broken into and pilfered.”

—

*April 17, 1943*

Unaware, Kaoru Atagi requests a shipment of belongings from a secret compartment in his home.

—

*May 19, 1943*

Officials search his property.

—

*January 2, 1945*

Kaoru protests losses.

—

*August 15, 1947*

An official tells Kaoru that only a “superhuman effort” could have protected his property.

—

Library and Archives Canada/ RG33-69, RG117-C-3

AUGUST, 1942

Internal correspondence  
between Office of the  
Custodian officials.

FILE NO. 8965

EXHIBIT No. 59-16

DATE 10 Feb. 1948.

FILED BY J. W. G. Hunter

ATAGI BOAT WORKS

House and Net House

Mr. Green

from Robinson

On Aug. 14 received request from C. Bredeson, watchman for Atagi Boat House and Nets, that houses were being broken into and pilfered. He said he reported to police who came out but could do nothing.

I reported to you and was instructed to move the remainder.

This was done but my opinion is that a lot of furniture and utensils and clothes had been stolen and removed before we arrived. It took us 3 days and even then we noticed evidence of pilfering over night.

My report 52 and 53 covers the remainder.

The Custodian only became responsible after the watchman reported the thefts as the owner boarded up the house and left in care of the watchman. This is a very bad case of pilfering.

The Atagi Boatworks  
is broken into and looted.  
Officials do not notify Kaoru.

I hereby certify that the foregoing words are a true copy  
of the original whereof they purport to be a copy.

Date March 5/48...

...E. M. Young...  
Signature

APRIL 17, 1943

Kaoru submits a request to the Office of the Custodian. He would like the belongings he left behind sent to him in internment.



Gelista, B.C.  
April 17th. 1943

British Columbia Security Commission  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I, Kaoru ATAGI, Reg. No. 05071, wish to have my property in the Atagi Residence, Chatham & Dyke St., Steveston, B.C. sent to me as soon as possible. On your approval please notify Mr. Brede C. Bredesen, our Caretaker. He will pack up everything and will send it to me. I have written to him separately and explained where to find it and what to send. X

The said property listed below is vital and very badly need by me at the present and future. Kindly approve and release it as soon as possible.

Description of Property

- |       |   |     |             |                  |
|-------|---|-----|-------------|------------------|
| A. 1. | 1 Wooden Trunk of Clothings                 | 100 | EXHIBIT NO. | 59-5             |
| 2.    | Metal Clamps (Various Types)                | 100 | DATE        | 10 Feb. 1948     |
| 3.    | 1 Wicker Trunk of Clothings                 | 150 | FILED BY    | J. A. New Prabh. |
| 4.    | Boat Nails and Spikes (Various Types)       | 25  |             |                  |
| 5.    | Carpenter Tools                             | 20  |             |                  |
| 6.    | Clothings                                   |     |             |                  |
| 7.    | All the goods on a self                     |     |             |                  |
| 8.    | Office Fixture, Supplies, Books and Files   |     |             |                  |
| 9.    | Others ( Buddha Shrine and Holy Books etc.) | 25  |             |                  |

( Above goods are stored in a concealed compartment at Atagi Residence as shown in the attached sketch)

- |       |  |         |
|-------|--|---------|
| B. 1. | 1 only 12 Volts Generator ( somewhere in the bath-room adjacent to Boat House) |         |
| 2.    | 1 only Grey Tweed Suit, marked "Matsumiya & Nose", inside pocket               | } 30.00 |
| 3.    | 1 only Blue Suit Made by "Tip Top Tailors"                                     |         |

( 2 & 3 are hanging in the north-west room, upstairs, Atagi Residence)

- C. Lumbers and Nails ( in the Boat House)  
Box Lumbers beside the bath room  
( These are for packing the goods)

Some ropes or cork lines from the net-house (Shed No. 2) to be used for tying the trunks and others.

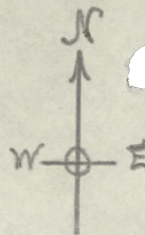
I will pay the expenses as required so kindly release the above property at your earliest date.

Yours very truly,

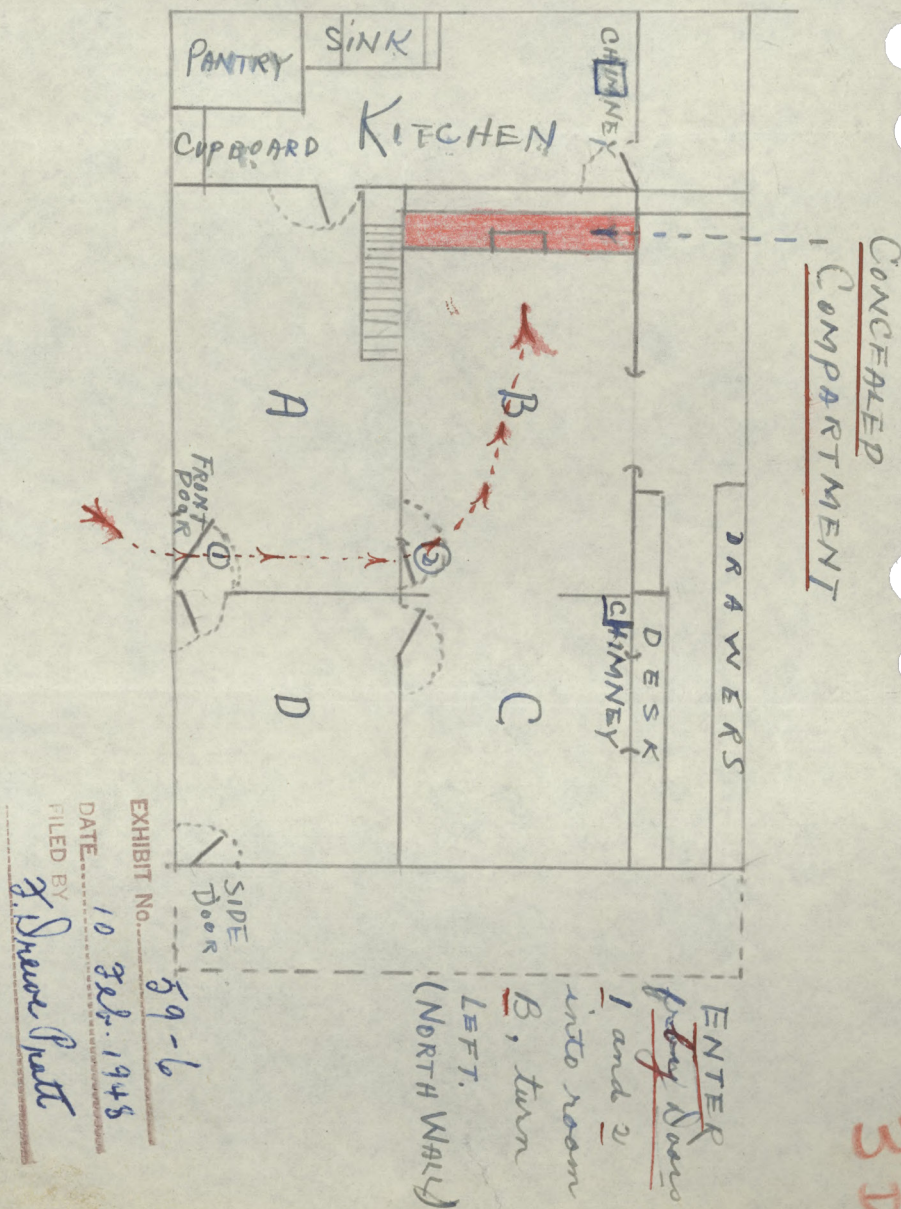
*Kaoru Atagi*



# SKETCH of ATAGI RESIDENCE



Kaoru draws a map to help officials find the secret compartment.





MAY 19, 1943

8965  
4829

Steveston BC  
19 May 1943

ATAGI Kaoru 05071

M. L. Brown  
Secty  
B.C. Security Comm  
Vancouver B C

Exhibit No. 59-16

Date 10 Feb 1948

Filed by J.W.G. Hunter

Dear Sir

The request of K. Atagi with enclosed sketch showing secret apartment in his house has been carefully investigated.

The story of this property is as follows-  
On Aug 13/42 Mr. Bredeson the caretaker of this property reported to me that this property had been broken into and the place pilfered completely and that he wished us to take over.

We immediately removed all the nets from the net house- this had not been broken into- see our list 52. We also moved everything left in the house to central storage- see our list 53.

We have since made a further survey & can find no trace of any secret apartment. This must have been torn down when the place was ransacked. The only chattels we have are contained in our list 53.

Yours truly

C C Robinson

Officials search for the  
secret compartment.

I hereby certify that the foregoing words are a true copy of the original whereof they purport to be a copy.

Date. *May. 4/48...*

*...E.M. Young...*  
Signature

JANUARY 2, 1945

C  
O  
P  
Y

Celista, B. C.  
January 2nd, 1945.

Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Hastings and Granville Streets,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sirs:

Re: Catalogue No. 805  
Lot B of a 3 ac. ptn. of  
Sec. 4/B3N/R7W/Sk.3756.  
Files 4829 and 8965

We have just received your letter a few days ago that  
the above property is in course of sale.

Besides \$4000.00 is too low a price for the above  
property, we have not any intention of selling our property. One  
reason is that we still have quite a few personal things left on  
it and also the other Japanese evacuees have theirs left in their  
houses on our property.

In reply to your last letter, we want to warn you that  
you have not our permission to sell the above property, whatever  
the directions issued from Ottawa.

Yours very truly,

"Kaoru Atagi"  
Kaoru ATAGI, 05071

"Hisao Atagi"  
Hisao ATAGI, 05037

Kaoru and his brother, Hisao, protest the  
forced sale of their home and the other  
houses on their property.



AUGUST 15, 1947

An Office of the Custodian official writes to Kaoru. He summarizes the sale and looting of the Atagi residences and boathouse.

15th August, 1947.

Mr. Kaoru ATAGI,  
Regn. No. 05071,  
Celista, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto cheque in the amount of \$2269.43, being all funds held to your credit by the Custodian as of this date. As no further receipts or disbursements are expected, we are closing your account and request that all future transactions be made by you directly with the parties concerned.

For your own information and records we are enclosing statements of account covering the period from our previous statements to date. One statement is re your personal account and the other (of which a copy is being sent to your brother Hisao today), has to do entirely with the boathouse and its equipment as jointly owned by Hisao and yourself.

Due to the rather advanced age of the boathouse, it was impossible to obtain a sale price as high as you possibly expected, but as you will notice from the statements provided, that every effort was made by this office to procure a price higher than the appraised value placed on it by various impartial appraisers. In this instance, the price received was considerably higher than the valuation placed on it by the appraisers.

It is rather lamentable that your belongings were the object of pilfering prior to the Custodian gaining custody of same. We might add, however, for the benefit of your own duly appointed caretaker, Mr. Bredesen, that we are assured that he made every possible effort to keep your property intact. However, due to the plants geographical position and the numerous small buildings, it would have required superhuman effort on his part to properly police your property. He was reluctant to turn over the remaining chattels to this office, but finally had to do so with the admittance that due to nightly raids by thieves, he was unable to cope with the situation.

Accordingly, this office removed everything movable to safe storage, and in due course liquidated same, crediting your ~~joint~~ account from time to time with the proceeds.

A word or two in regard to your nets might be in order. Two nets and two pieces of line were missing when the property was turned over to this office for protection. The balance were sold at the best price obtainable. It is regrettable, though I am sure you will understand that this office cannot consider itself responsible for the missing articles as they were lost whilst in the custody of your own watchman.

In order to ensure your receipt of this cheque, it is requested please, that you sign and return the duplicate copy of this

(To sheet 2 please -



this letter in the stamped self-addressed envelope enclosed  
for your convenience.

Yours truly,

*J. Cuming*  
J. Cuming  
Administration Dept.  
Office of the Custodian.

JC/..  
Encl. 4.

RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGED

*Sept 7* 1947

*Kaoru Atagi*  
Kaoru Atagi.



# EIKICHI KAGETSU: *Case File*

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The Kagestu family lives in the Minto Hotel for the first years of internment.

*March 31, 1942*

Eikichi seeks labourers to continue operations at Deep Bay Logging Company on Vancouver Island.

—

*April 8, 1943*

Eikichi's timber is advertised for sale.

—

*November 8, 1948*

Eikichi challenges the sale of his property at the Royal Commission on Japanese Claims.

—

*March 30, 1950*

The Commission issues its final decision on Eikichi's case.

—

Library and Archives Canada/ RG33-69;

Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library/ Frank G. Shears Papers

An Order-in-Council in February sends Japanese Canadian men to road camps. Eikichi is left without workers.

MARCH 31, 1942

DEEP BAY LOGGING COMPANY LIMITED

Log, Timber, Lumber, Poles  
and Piling.

335 Princess Avenue,  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

March 31st, 1942.

Eikichi requests special permission to allow twenty-three men to remain on Vancouver Island to process the felled timber on his land. If he cannot, he will lose millions.

Major Austin C. Taylor,  
Chairman, B. C. Security Commission,  
Marine Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

EXHIBIT No. 1388-11  
DATE 8 Nov 1948  
FILED BY J. W. McPherson

Dear Sir: -

In the Comox District of Vancouver Island with the exception of women and a few permit holders most of whom are invalids all Japanese aliens have already evacuated. Those who remain, consisting of in the most part naturalized subjects and Niseis, are now prepared to leave upon notice being under the direction of Mr. T. Kagetsu, a member of the Sub-committee in charge of evacuation.

Unfortunately, in this district I own a logging operation and have now in the woods timber felled to the extent of 2,500,00 feet log measure. Should these logs not be removed before this summer damage from insect attack will make the products almost valueless. On the other hand continued logging will result in marketing to eager buyers the chief of whom being H. R. Mac-Millan interests.

Should occidental labor be available my problems will be solved. The misfortune is that although I now employ five of these men I cannot obtain more by reason of the existing labor shortage and because of the short period of notice at my disposal. I wish to respectfully request, therefore, that through your thoughtful consideration special permission be granted to twenty-three (23) men either Niseis or naturalized Canadians so that I may hire them for two months to complete the operation. In return for your kindness I am willing to accept full responsibility for the hired persons and shall employ them only on condition that upon expiration of their permits they obey whatever is ordered by your commission. I shall submit to you a detailed list of the men concerned including in addition to their names and registration numbers any information required.

I greatly realize the value of your time and that people are constantly presenting their personal problems to you but your favorable consideration to the above will be immensely appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

"E. Kagetsu"

P. S.

A reference of my business connections may be obtained from Mr. R.F.



APRIL 8, 1943

# NOTICE OF CALLS FOR TENDERS FOR TIMBER AREA

Tenders will be received by the undersigned at their office up to noon (daylight saving time) Wednesday, the twelfth day of May, 1943, to purchase Block 195, Cowichan Lake District, containing approximately 979 acres of timber upon the following terms and conditions:

1. This timber is offered for sale on the understanding that the purchaser will undertake to immediately commence continuous operations.
2. A certified cheque to the order of the "Custodian" for ten percent (10%) of the offered price must be enclosed therewith; subject to the condition that should the tenderer not fulfill the terms of his offer and the conditions of the notice calling for tenders, his tender will be cancelled and the amount deposited by him forfeited to the Custodian as liquidated damages; cheques in respect to unaccepted tenders will be returned in due course.
3. The timber is offered for sale without any warranty by the vendor as to quantity or condition of same, and while the general idea thereof may be obtained from data in the office of the undersigned, the sale thereof shall be made in each case subject to shortages and overages, the shortages to be at the charge of and the overages for the benefit of the successful tenderer.
4. Neither the highest or any tender will be necessarily accepted.
5. The purchaser and /or purchasers shall bear all transfer taxes and dues, if any, payable to the Crown.
6. The envelopes enclosing offers should be marked "Tender Block 195 Cowichan" and addressed as follows:

P. S. ROSS AND SONS,  
Agents of the Custodian,  
Royal Bank Building, Vancouver, B.C.

The data on Block 195 on which tenders are being called may be inspected during office hours of any day up to noon on the eleventh day of May, 1943, and arrangements can be made with the undersigned to inspect the timber.

P. S. ROSS AND SONS,  
Chartered Accountants,  
675 West Hastings St.,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Agents of the Custodian,  
in this behalf.

EXHIBIT No. 1388-28  
DATE 23 Nov 1948  
FILED BY R.B. Baldwin

"Sun" - APRIL - 8/43

JAN 13 1948

JANUARY 13, 1948

## CLAIM

IN THE MATTER OF a Commission to Investigate Claims of Japanese-  
Canadians for Property Losses Pursuant to Order-in-Council P.C. 1810-  
1947 as amended by P. C. 3737-1947.

TO: The Commissioner,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Royal Bank Building,  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

ACKNOWLEDGED

Pursuant to the notice issued on the 26th of September, 1947,

I respectfully submit the following claims:

- (1) NAME... Deep Bay Logging Company Limited
- (2) PRE-EVACUATION ADDRESS... 335 Princess Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
- (3) PRESENT ADDRESS... c/o Mr. E. Kagetsu, 8 Mountview Avenue, Toronto.
- (4) REAL ESTATE

Item No. 1

Block 276, Newcastle District, Vancouver  
Island - 240 acres timber limits.

Estimated fair market value at the date of sale.....	\$5200.00
Sold by Custodian.....	600.00
Loss claimed.....	\$4600.00

Item No. 2

Block 617, Newcastle District, Vancouver  
Island - 790 acres

Estimated fair market value at the date of sale.....	\$32000.00
Sold by Custodian.....	\$14596.00
Loss claimed .....	\$17404.00

(5) PERSONAL PROPERTYItem No. 1

2,500,000 feet bucked and felled logs at \$9.00 per thousand	
Estimated value.....	\$22,500.00
Sold by Custodian.....	4,000.00
Loss claimed.....	\$18500.00

(Referred to at sheet 14 of Statement dated  
April 13th, 1942 furnished to the Custodian.)

Item No. 2

Buildings and Railway Lines  
20 Family Residences

Estimated Value.....	5,000.00
10 Bunk Houses .....	2,000.00
2 Kitchen Houses.....	5,000.00
1 School Hall.....	750.00
1 Office.....	250.00
1 Blacksmith Shop.....	150.00
1 Power House and Power Engine.....	1500.00
8 Miles Railway steel anglebar spikes and bolts.....	40000.00
	50150.00
Sold by Custodian	6804.00
Loss Claimed	\$43346.00

CARRIED FORWARD

\$83850.00

Eikichi submits evidence  
to prove that the Custodian  
sold his logging operations  
for a fraction of their worth.

This is Eikichi's business claim.  
He submits a separate claim  
for his home.

This was housing for his employees.



BROUGHT FORWARD \$83,850.00

ITEM No. 3

Railway Equipment

1- 60 ton Shay Locomotive .....	\$16,000.00	
18 Logging Railway Cars.....	14,000.00	
1 Flat Railway Car.....	600.00	
2 Speeders.....	5,500.00	
	<u>\$36,100.00</u>	
Sold by Custodian.....	14,500.00	
Loss claimed.....		\$21,600.00

Item No. 4

Gas Donkeys and Air Compressors

1 Empire steam donkey 10 x 12 .....	6,000.00	
1 tacoma " " 10 x 12.....	3,500.00	
1 washington donkey.....	1,000.00	
1 Fordson gas donkey.....	4,500.00	
1 small gas donkey.....	2,500.00	
1 air compressor.....	2,500.00	
	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	
Sold by Custodian.....	5,000.00	
Loss claimed.....		\$15,000.00

The Custodian sells the Deep Bay Logging Company for \$57,260. Eikichi submits that it was worth three times more, \$198,060. He claims compensation for the difference: \$140,801 (\$2,110,464 in 2019 dollars).

1 set Kitchen goods.....	1000.00	
Blacksmith rer material.....	2000.00	
Engine Machinery parts.....	1500.00	
Oil gasoline and coal.....	1500.00	
1 large number set camp fire protection tools and pump .....	1000.00	
	<u>\$11700.00</u>	
Allowed by Custodian.....	3894.94	
Loss claimed.....		7,805.06

TOTAL CLAIM..... \$140,800.73

All of the above equipment and stocks were left at Fanny Bay, B. C. and were set out in a statement supplied to the Custodian and dated the 13th of April, 1942.

DOMINION OF CANADA }  
TO WIT: }

IN THE MATTER OF The Deep Bay Logging Company

I, Eikichi Kagetsu of the City of Toronto in the County of York, Manager,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT:

1. That I am the holder of approximately 90% of the shares of the above Company and was also the Manager and Director, and have authority to makes this claim on behalf of this Company.
2. That the information set out in the claim form attached hereto is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act."

DECLARED before me at the City of }  
Toronto in the County of York, this }  
6th day of January, A.D.1948. }

*Fa Brawn*      *E. Kagetsu*  
A Commissioner, etc.

NOVEMBER 8, 1948

CASE NO. 1388

JAPANESE PROPERTY CLAIMS COMMISSION

BEFORE

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE H. I. BIRD, (COMMISSIONER)

Vancouver, B.C.

November 8th, 1948.

Eikichi testifies in court. His lawyer defends his claim and government lawyers cross-examine him.

Eikichi eventually submits over one thousand pages of testimony and evidence.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF  
THE DEEP BAY LOGGING COMPANY  
(Eikichi Kagetsu)

PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING

Discussion on details of claim 1-11  
Kagetsu chief.

11-76.

cross.

76-93c.

The Commissioner



Thomas Grantham Norris has been Eikichi's lawyer since the 1930s. At the Commission, his job is to push the government to fulfill its promise to Japanese Canadians.

MR. NORRIS: Now, the Custodian, of course, owed a duty not only to the people of Canada, but he owed a special duty to the owners of this property:  
20 In fact, his main duty, I submit, to these owners, particularly as this was a very substantial property. It was a going concern, and as a going concern was of great value.

I propose now, Mr. Commissioner, to call Mr. Kagetsu.

Eikichi is sworn in.

EIKICHI KAGETSU, being first duly sworn, testified through the interpreter as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. NORRIS:

30 MR. NORRIS: While Mr. Kagetsu speaks English slightly,

E. Kagetsu,  
In Chief.

I think it would be hopeless to carry on without an interpreter. I have had to use an interpreter myself.

THE COMMISSIONER: Will you swear the interpreter, please Mr. Watson.

(MRS. Irene Smith, sworn as interpreter).

MR. NORRIS: Q: Mr. Kagetsu, you are by occupation a logging operator?

A Yes.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Now, Mr. Kagetsu, insofar as you can will you answer in English? If you are in doubt as to any question, let your counsel know at once and it will be interpreted to you.

A Yes.

MR. NORRIS: Q: And you are now living in the city of Toronto?

A: Yes, sir,

No. 8 --

Q Well never mind the address, you are living in Toronto?

A: Yes.

20 Q And you came to this country in 1906?

A Yes.

Q And in 1909 you were naturalized?

A Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: He would be naturalized in two years?

MR. NORRIS: Well, things happen, Mr. Commissioner.

THE WITNESS: You will see there 1909.

MR. NORRIS: The prior natrualization certificate was issued on the 12th November, 1909 -- which

30 was probably a tribute to Mr. Kagetsu's res-

Norris emphasizes Eikichi's long and established career in Canada.



E. Kagetsu,  
In Chief.

possibilities.

Q And you have lived in this province until you were evacuated --since that date --since the date you came here? A: Yes.

Q And you have taken an active interest in public affairs in Vancouver and in British Columbia?

A Yes.

Q Now, Mr. Kagetsu -- Mr. Commissioner, I want to refer now to a matter of which Mr. Kagetsu is very proud -- and it is not necessary to go on the record. Mr. Kagetsu, in 1936 you were invited by the Government to attend the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial? A: Yes.

Q And you went there and you were received by the King and Queen? A: Yes.

Q Now, in 1908 you commenced your logging business?

A Yes, in 1908.

Q When did you start to export timber?

A 1916.

20 Q At that time, where were you operating-- in 1908, first of all, where did you commence operations?

A Sechelt.

Q At S<sub>e</sub>chelt? A: Yes, and in 1916 operated up in Seymour Creek.

Q Where? A: Seymour Creek.

Q You operated in Seymour Creek in 1916?

A Yes.

Q And when did you first go to Fanny Bay?

A In 1923, I started in to logging business -- the  
30 Deep Bay Logging Company, I started.

E. Kagetau,  
In Chief.

MR. NOERIS: Yes, this is at Fanny Bay. That is the only case, Mr. Commissioner where there was a camp.

Q And ten bunkhouses? A. Yes.

Q And two kitchen buildings?

A Yes.

Q One community hall?

A Yes, one community hall, yes.

Q A powerhouse? A. Yes, a powerhouse.

Q An office? A. Yes.

10 Q A blacksmith's shop? A. Yes.

Q A workshop? A. Yes.

Q A double storage garage?

A Yes, it was on the highway.

Q And some smaller structures?

A Yes.

Q Now what was the nature of these buildings? What was the condition of them?

A I had insured the structures for \$10,000 and they were in perfect condition for them to live in.

20 Q Were they built on cedar sills?

A It was lumber. He calls it lumber -- sawmill lumber.

Q Cedar? A. No, only the foundation was cedar.

Q Only the foundation. They all have cedar foundations. And your community hall, how big was that -- how many people?

A He says my employees was 70 to 75, and their wives and children included were about 170, and on Saturdays and Sundays I used to hold cinemas there.

30 Q Cinemas for those people?

The Commission is concerned with the value of the buildings. It cares little for the lives that have once filled them.



in his experience he cut 10 million feet from the same area?

A. Yes, I do. I mean that.

Q The E. & N. cruise must be very bad.

MR. NORRIS: Well, of course, they are done for a different purpose entirely.

Q Now, Mr. Kagetsu, you have some pictures here (Producing same). Is that your booming ground?

A That is the booming ground. Yes, it is.

10 (EXHIBIT No.1388/7 PHOTOGRAPH)

Q And is that your wharf?

A Yes, that is a logging wharf.

Q Yes, and what is this?

A This is loaded on the carriage.

Q This is the railway?

A Yes.

Q And this is your logging engine?

A Yes.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: You can put all those photographs in as one exhibit, Mr. Norris.

MR. NORRIS: Yes, Mr. Commissioner.

Q And is this a picture of your camp?

A Yes, this was taken for the purpose of advertising. It is a very old one -- I have a film -- a cinema made of all those places.

Q Yes -- west -- on this plan, Exhibit 2, I think it was, wasn't it --

THE COMMISSIONER: The blueprint?

MR. NORRIS: The blueprint.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

Claimants submit photographs to prove the quality of their property. Turn the page to see these photos.



Eikichi, wearing a striped tie, stands beside his locomotive.



KAGETSU  
Hosono

EXHIBIT No. 1388-7  
DATE 8 Nov. 1948  
FILED BY J. Norris



Bunkhouses for workers.



PROPERTY OF EMERY PROPERTY

R E P O R T  
UPON THE INVESTIGATION INTO  
CLAIMS OF PERSONS OF THE JAPANESE RACE  
PURSUANT TO TERMS OF  
ORDER-IN-COUNCIL P.C. 1810  
July 18, 1947, as amended  
BY  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HENRY IRVINE BIRD

The Commissioner submits his final report in April 1950.  
He writes a special report on Eikichi's claim.

Eikichi is awarded a third of what he believed  
would be a fair adjustment to the original sale  
price of his property.

Many Japanese Canadians are outraged at the slim  
adjustments. Eikichi's eldest son, Hajime, protests  
the settlement but earns no further compensation.

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1950

Copy for  
J. G. Shears

Appendix III  
Fair Market Value  
Attached.

# TEIJI MORISHITA: *Case File*

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Families could avoid separation if they moved to sugar-beet farms on the Prairies. The Morishitas worked on a farm in southern Alberta.

*December 20, 1941*

The Custodian of Enemy Property records the shared ownership of the Ebisuzaki store in Vancouver.

—

*Spring 1942*

The Custodian creates a file on Teiji Morishita.

—

*April 27, 1942*

Officials takes control of the Ebisuzaki store.

—

*September 29, 1942*

The Custodian holds an “exceptional auction” of Ebisuzaki merchandise.

*1943-1945*

The Custodian forces the bankruptcy and closure of the Ebisuzaki store.

—

*August 28, 1948*

Teiji asks an official for compassion in his case.

—

*October 21, 1950*

Accounting firm P.S. Ross & Sons completes the liquidation of the Ebisuzaki store.

—

Library and Archives Canada/ RG33-69, RG117-A-3, RG117-C-3, RG117-C-4



DECEMBER 20, 1941

# M. EBISUZAKI COMPANY

GENERAL STORE

GROCERIES, DRY GOODS AND HARDWARE, ETC.

337 POWELL STREET,

VANCOUVER, B. C., ~~December 20 1941~~, 193

Mr. G. W. McPerson,  
P.S. Ross and Sons,  
1012 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of December 11th,  
regarding Consolidated Regulations Respecting Trading with  
the Enemy, we are making the following report:

The firm known as "M. Ebisuzaki Co." is run  
by three partners:

- X Mr. Masataro Ebisuzaki, now in Japan, a  
Naturalized Canadian,
- Mrs. Hide Ebisuzaki, wife of the above party,  
residing at 466 East Cordova Street,  
Vancouver, B.C. and
- Mr. Teiji Morishita, a Japanese National,  
residing at 466 East Cordova Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.

The net profit which is earned by the firm  
is divided among these three partners as follows:

- 25% to Mr. Masataro Ebisuzaki,
- 50% to Mrs. Hide Ebisuzaki,
- 25% to Mr. Teiji Morishita.

Yours very truly,

M. Ebisuzaki Co.,

Per *Teiji Morishita*  
Manager.

*Under supervision*

5078

MORISHITA, Teiji (Mr.)

Reg. No. 05077

466 East Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

25% interest in M. EBISUZAKI & Co. -Int. 170

Tenant - EVANCHUK, Steve

Father - MORISHITA, Fusakichi - Deceased

Mother - " Hatsu - in Japan

Brother - Jiichiro - File 1902

Sister - EBISUZAKI, Hide (Mrs. Masataro) - File 12144

Wife - Sawa - File 6040 **FILE CLOSED**

Children - Kuniko (F) - 17/7/32

Teruo (M) - 27/6/34

Matsumi (F) - 29/4/37

Setsuko (F) - 22/8/38

Misako (F) - 30/3/40

The Office of the Custodian  
creates a file on Teiji Morishita.



APRIL 27, 1942

The Office of the Custodian places the business under the control of P.S. Ross & Sons, an accounting firm.

501 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.,  
April 27, 1942.

Messrs. P. S. Ross and Sons,  
504 Royal Bank Bldg.  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sirs:

Re: M. Ebisuzaki and Company

Information which the Custodian has indicates that Mr. Teijo Morishita has been evacuated from the protected area and his interests in this area have, therefore, vested in the Custodian. Masataro Ebisuzaki is an enemy and his interest is vested in the Custodian with the result that the Custodian has a 50% interest in this unincorporated company.

In view of the fact that the Japanese working in the store will shortly be evacuated I consider it desirable that you take immediate and active control of the business and would appreciate receiving your recommendation on the question of liquidation.

Yours truly,

"Liquidation" means forced sale.

(G. W. McPherson)  
Authorized Deputy of the Secretary  
of State and/or Custodian.

GWMcP/FC.

# EXCEPTIONAL AUCTION SALE

Large Stock of Ladies', Gent's  
and Children's Ready-to-Wear,  
Notions and Hardware.

Wednesday, September 30,  
Starting 10:30 a.m., at 337  
Powell St., and Continuing  
Same Hour Each Day Until  
Everything Sold.

Under instructions received  
from the Controller for the Custodian of Enemy Property, we will offer for sale the entire stock of M. EBISUZAKI & COMPANY, consisting of:

Ladies' dresses, blouses, sweater coats, pullovers, jackets, gloves, shirts, slacks, scarfs, handkerchiefs, hats, etc.; also large selection of Lingerie and Yardage Goods.

Gent's shirts, pants, overalls, sweaters, gloves, hats, caps, jackets, handkerchiefs, socks, etc.

Large selection of boys', girls' and babies' ready-to-wear.

Also stock of hardware consisting of saws, peavies, hammers, files, kitchenware, etc.

Also stock of notions consisting of zippers, threads, buttons, hooks, buckles, thimbles, ribbons, stationery, toilet goods, etc.

Ladies don't overlook this sale. Everything the family can wear.

Everything to be sold, no reserve. Terms of sale, cash.

G. W. ROSS  
Auctioneer in Attendance.

**THOMPSON & BINNINGTON LTD.**

Royal Trust Bldg.  
PAC. 3564-3565.

The Office of the Custodian sells the merchandise of the Ebisuzaki store.

A year later, the Custodian will also sell the home and belongings of Teiji Morishita and his family.





OCTOBER 21, 1950

CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL  
COMMUNICATIONS  
TO THE  
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE

PLEASE REFER  
TO

FILE No.....

506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.,

October 21, 1950.

K.W. Wright, Esq. K.C.,  
Chief Counsel,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Bldg.,  
7 O'Connor St.,  
Ottawa, Ont.

The Office of the Custodian records the  
completed liquidation of the Ebisuzaki store.

Dear Mr. Wright:     Re: M. Ebisuzaki Company

Enclosed is P. S. Ross & Sons' Report on  
Liquidation of the above Company, dated 18th October, 1950.

Yours very truly,

*F. G. Shears*

F. G. Shears, *per G.N.*  
Director.

FGS/GN  
Encl.



# MARY MURAKAMI: Case File

---



Families could avoid separation if they moved to sugar-beet farms on the Prairies. The Morishitas worked on a farm in southern Alberta.

*March 29, 1942*

Acting on behalf of the Custodian of Enemy Property, a family friend, Gavin C. Mouat, inventories the Murakami property on Salt Spring Island.

—

*August 19, 1942*

An agent of the Soldier Settlement Board appraises the farm.

—

*February 25, 1943*

Mary's father, Katsuyori, inquires about the protection of his farm and belongings.

—

*June 26, 1943*

Mary's older sister, Alice, accuses Mouat of betrayal.

—

*July 5, 1943*

An official, H.F. Green, promises to investigate and questions Mouat.

—

*September 18, 1943*

Katsuyori requests funds "for clothes for winter."

—

*1948*

Katsuyori receives a receipt for the forced sale of his farmland.

—

Library and Archives Canada/ RG33-69, RG117-C-3

MARCH 29, 1942

To Mr. C. L. Drewry,  
Custodian's Office,  
Vancouver, B. C.

EXHIBIT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE August 27/48  
FILED BY Ch. A. Rice

REPORT RE: KATSUYORI MURAKAMI, REGN. NO. 10089

Investigation & Inventory made Sun., March 29/42

(1) The legal description of land is as follows:

PARCEL 1: Lot 1, of Sec. 3, R. II, E., Plan 3912 of North Salt Spring, Cowichan District, containing ten (10) acres. Annual taxes \$11.00 paid up to end of 1941. About 4 acres cleared and about 1 acre covered with buildings; balance partially cleared and cultivated.

PARCEL 2: That part of E. 1/2 of Sec. 3, R. II, E., as shown on Plan 246R, of North Salt Spring, Cowichan District, containing seven (7) acres. Annual taxes \$7.70 paid to the end of 1941. About three acres cleared and cultivated, balance partially cleared.

Parcel 1 is registered in the name of the above Katsuyori Murakami, Registration No. 10089, and title deeds are held by wife of the said Katsuyori Murakami.

Parcel 2 is held by Katsuyori Murakami under Agreement of Sale from Mr. T. F. Speed of Ganges. Under the Agreement dated 13th day of November, 1938, the total purchase price was \$704 and there is a balance of \$400 principal owing to Mr. Speed, plus interest at 7% from November 13th, 1941. Title deeds are held by Mr. Speed.

(3) The above property is located about two miles from Ganges wharf and is near the main road. There are 7 acres of good garden land in crop. The balance of the land is not sufficiently cleared for crop purposes. The present crops are asparagus 3 acres, strawberries 3 1/2 acres, loganberries 1/2 acre. All these crops have been very well kept. The buildings consist of a four-room living house, 8 chicken houses approximately 20 ft. x 50 ft. each, 1 brooder house 18 ft. x 46 ft., 1 incubator house 14 ft. x 28 ft., 1 feed shed, 1 wash house, 1 woodshed, 2 packing houses, and 4 other small outhouses. The buildings are all in a fair state of repair.

(4) The property was inspected Sunday, March 29, 1942, and inventory made as follows:

~~10 shovels~~  
~~12 rakes~~  
~~2 cultivators~~  
3 double bitted axes  
~~1 hoe~~  
4 Japanese (M) large cultivators  
2 " " " "  
2 potato " " "  
1 peevce " "  
1 Japanese (M) hand size "  
1 " " " "  
5 " " " "  
2 hatchets  
1 pump (liquid)  
1 water sprinkler  
1 cross cut saw  
~~2 sledge hammers~~  
~~1 large Japanese rowlock~~  
~~1 small " "~~

Katsuyori Murakami  
is Mary's father.

This is Mary's home.



## Inventory, Cont'd.

1 scale	<del>1 1200 egg electric incubator</del>
<del>1 large scale</del>	(cost \$150)
1 scale	<del>4 lamp incubators (cost \$2/\$100)</del>
1 straw cutter	<del>1 incubator (cost \$15)</del>
25 baskets - 4	6 small water fountains
2 hand saws	for chicks \$2.10
1 Japanese hand saw	3 large " " 1.95
1 " plane	3 small " " .45
1 screw driver	<del>1 saw, 5 panel 3 1/2" x 5 1/2"</del>
1 Japanese chisel	1 electric iron
1 wheelbarrow	1 fry pan
2 large baskets	1 dish pan
2 hammers	1 preserving kettle
1 square	1 egg box
1 box misc. small tools	1 be. odd dishes and glassware
<del>1 sheet 10 sack elm shell</del>	1 box knives, egg beater & other
1 Singer Sewing Machine	kitchen hardware
<del>1 sideboard with mirror</del>	6 sauce pans, aluminium
<del>3 tables &amp; 6 chairs</del>	2 roast pans
1 Japanese tray	1 double boiler
<del>4 beds, double fold</del>	<del>1 black board</del>
<del>1 baby crib</del>	4 platters
<del>1 sheet of canvas</del>	<del>2 fruit dishes</del>
5 cartons rubber bands for asparagus	12 tea spoons (Andover silver)
3 Japanese ornaments	6 white handle knives, stainless
1 bench	7 forks
1 trunk of clothes	30 saucers
1 kitchen stove	20 cups
2 kettles	6 bread and butter plates
3 tea pots	11 dinner plates
125 asparagus crates, new	1 bowl
241 tomato punnets, new	1 tea pot
20 strawberry crates, new	10 fruit dishes
60 jam berry crates, used	
32 berry picking trays, used	<del>50 ft. garden hose</del> X
23 wooden berry pails	1 child's play waggon
2 empty wine barrels	<del>1 cultivator machine</del>
35 gals. loganberry wine	(Reference to this item is made below)
60 new jam berry crates	5 - sold by auction, Nov. 3, 1943. Sold Spring 1.

- (5) The dwelling house is insured with the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society for the sum of \$500. Policy No. 10222621, expires May 16th, 1943. No other insurance in force.
- (6) Liabilities owing to Mr. Speed as above mentioned \$400, plus interest at 7% from November 13th last. No other liabilities.
- (7) I suggest that if possible this property be rented to some responsible person who will look after and market the oncoming crop and continue to carry on and farm this property. I have commenced negotiations along this line with a Chinese produce dealer in Vancouver, Mr. Cheu, and if negotiations reach a point that I think would be equitable I will immediately refer them to your office for instructions.

The above inventory was made very carefully by myself, but as the wife and family of the above mentioned Katsuyori Murakami are not yet evacuated and were in possession of the house, I considered it advisable to leave them in possession and to be responsible to me for the care of the property pending further arrangements.

I may say that when I investigated this property I found that the cultivating machine which K. Murakami had reported at Hastings Park and which is shown on page 2 of the registration form was missing, and on inquiry I found that it had been sold for a trifling sum the previous day. I took steps to have this machine returned to the property and instructed Mrs. Murakami that nothing was to be removed from the property without the permission of your office.

Mary's neighbour, Gavin Mouat, offers to be responsible for the care of the Murakamis' property.

Gavin Mouat

The Soldier Settlement Board uses these forms to determine the value of Japanese Canadians' farmlands.

BC/710-P  
BC/2361-B

**AUGUST 19, 1942**

# Farm Appraisal Report

File No. J.L. 782

Lot 1, Sec.3, Range 2 East, Plan 3912

Land Description That part of E<sub>1/2</sub> of Sec. 3, R.2 E., Plan 246 R., North Salt Spring Island.

Containing 10 acres & 7.04 = 17.04 Acres

Owner's Name Katsuyori MURAKAMI

Post Office Address R. R., Ganges, B. C.

Nearest Rail Point N.A. C.P.R. boat service at Ganges

Distance 1 1/2 miles

Market Town Vancouver or Victoria

Distance 40 "

Church (give denomination) Protestant at Ganges

Distance 1 - 1 1/2 miles.

Nearest School Ganges Consolidated

Distance 1 - 1 1/2 "

State how property was identified: Road. Posts and map check.

Roads: State whether property has access to main road, the kind of road and its condition.

Yes, it has frontage on Public Road, gravelled, fair.

Is this district a good one? Fair, but rather far from markets.

Employment opportunity Strictly limited.

Predominating Nationality and religion: British, Protestant.

Describe Fencing and its condition: One good wire fence on west.

Value \$

Water supply: Piped from property to south. Water license #10360. allows 1000 gallons per day. Applicable to Lot 1. Value \$

## BUILDINGS ON FARM

BUILDINGS	DIMENSIONS	MATERIAL	HEIGHT	ROOF	AGE	Foundation	REPAIR	VALUATION
House & addn.	24x26x12	Frame	12	Shingle	approx	Wood	Fair	500.00
HOUSE	10x1 1/2 x 7	"	9	"	5-6	"	"	300.00
Poultry hse.	20 x 60	"	6	Shake	10-15	"	Poor	10.00
Brooder hse.	12 x 14	"	9	"	10-15	"	Fair	250.00
"	18 x 46	"	7	"	10-15	"	poor	10.00
Packing hse.	14 x 14	"	7	"	10-15	"	"	10.00
BAON shed	12 x 14	"	8	"	10-15	"	"	10.00
Poultry shed	12 x 13	"	8	"	10-15	"	"	10.00
BAON shed	14 x 30	"	8	Shingle	5-6	"	good	150.00
brooder hse.	18 x 22	"	7	Shake	10-15	"	Poor	10.00
SHED	18 x 50	"	7	"	10-15	"	Poor	50.00
Poultry hse.	18 x 50	"	7	"	10-15	"	Poor	50.00
"	18 x 45	"	7	"	10-15	"	Poor	25.00
"	20 x 30	"	8	Shingle	2-3	"	Good	125.00
"	8 50	"	8	Shake	10-15	"	Poor	50.00

Electric light installed.

Total present day value \$ 1550.00

Total Value Buildings add to farm \$ 1000.00

Is dwelling habitable without repairs? Yes. If not what is your approximate estimate of cost to make it habitable? A good cleanout is all that is necessary. Has open fireplace.

Describe the basement and chimneys: No basement, brick chimneys to ground.

No. rooms downstairs? 4 Upstairs? -- How finished V.Joint

Are buildings painted? House. Yes. Condition of paint Fair

Distance from nearest bush All clear.

Note: Particular care must be taken when examining and reporting on foundations, sills and roofs.



## Cultivated Land

BC/710-P  
BC/2361-B

Page 2

ACRES	LEVEL, UNDULATING, ROLLING OR HILLY	SOIL (State Depth)	SUB- SOIL	KIND AND QUALITY OF CROP	VALUE PER ACRE	TOTAL
4.	gently sloping to south	light, sandy and shale	shaly with clay	strawberries, logans and asparagus.	50.00	200.00
Area which can be cultivated without cost other than for breaking.						
.25	Low level	clay loam	clay & shaly	drain for winter water	50.00	12.50
Area which can be cultivated after a reasonable amount of clearing timber, stones, drainage, etc.						
5.	Gentle rise to south	Light, sandy & shaly 8"	shaly clay	clear small conifers and dead fall	50.00 15.00	75.00
Area Unsuitable for Cultivation.						
7.79	CHARACTER OF LAND E. G. HILLY, SWAMPY, ROCKY.		NATURE OF TIMBER IF ANY AND WHETHER MARKETABLE		VALUE OF LAND PER ACRE	
	Side hill, scrub trees, very shaly with rock outcrops, includes poultry, building sites.		Not even firewood yet, some early and late sheep pickings.		3.00	23.37

Total value of Land \$ 310.87

Total added by buildings to value of farm \$1000.00

Total fruit trees add to value of farm (for use in orchard districts only) \$

Total value of farm \$ 1310.87

Describe condition of farm commenting on tillage, length of time unoccupied or partly occupied:

Owner vacated about May. Land has been worked by the Chinese firm of International Company Ltd. of Vancouver, rental not known. Dwelling is vacant.

State most suitable type of agriculture for farm bearing in mind the district's limitations, if any.

In my opinion poultry on this very shaly soil would be in the long run more suitable than small fruits.

Noxious weeds:

Lots of Canada Thistle.

Give approximate detail and  
amount of all annual taxes and  
names of Taxing Authorities:

Provincial taxes - Land and school  
\$7.70 plus \$11.00 = \$18.70

Date: August 18, 1942.  
Place: Victoria

I certify that the above report is based on a personal examination  
of the whole farm made on the 6th day of August 1942

Inspector's Signature

"T. Godfrey"

Note: (Use Form 43 (Sheet 2) in connection with this form.)

The total value that the Soldier  
Settlement Board agent assigns  
to the Murakami farm.

## Farm Appraisal Report

K. Murakami

J.L. 782

Remarks: On Salt Spring Island situated midway between Vancouver and Victoria and served by C.P.R. some four days a week. Very limited employment opportunities on the Island. Good shopping centre at Ganges. The land is entirely underlaid with shale. The water - 1000 gals. per day on Water License comes from other land to the south and would appear to be tapped in from a pipe line jointly with K. OKANO adjoining on the west. The actual source was not located. The 1000 gals. allowed daily would be adequate for domestic and poultry use, but for little else. The present Chinese operators are also handling two other Japanese properties adjoining. I could not ascertain amount of rental paid. Strawberries, Loganberries, and asparagus seem to have grown well in spite of the very pronounced shale. In my opinion only a Japanese or Chinaman would have attempted small fruits, etc. on this land. There is little or no fuel available.

The appraisers believe that people of Japanese and Chinese descent would see value in land that a “white man” would not. That means that in a “white man’s” perspective, a Japanese Canadians’ farmland could be valueless.

(FOR ORCHARD LANDS ONLY)

REMARKS: re general lie of land, fertility of soil, irrigation, drainage or dyking and reclamation.

#### ANNUAL COST OF IRRIGATION, DYKING AND DRAINAGE.

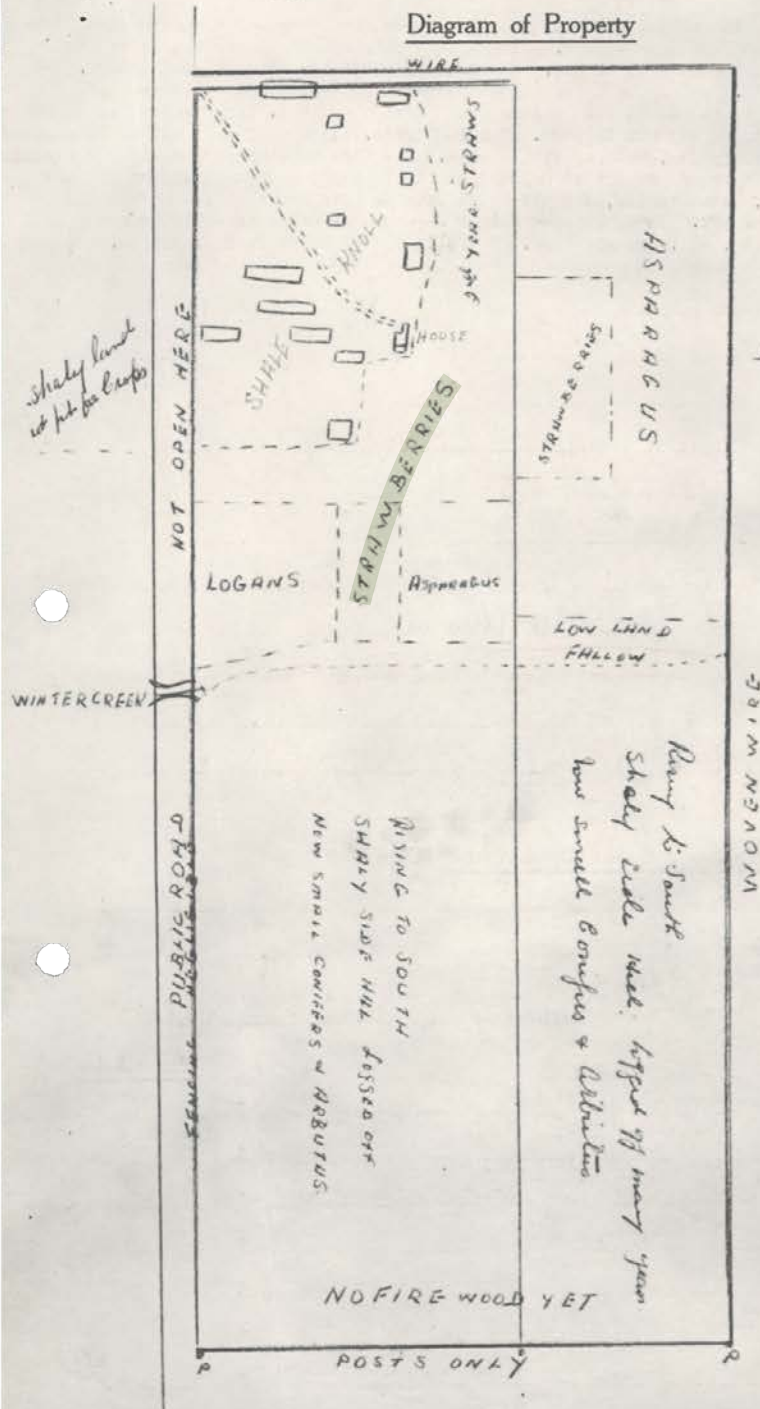
### ORCHARDS, SMALL FRUITS, ETC.

(Give number, age, variety and condition of all tree fruits, condition and area of each kind of small fruits.)

[illegible]

Amount fruit trees add to value of farm \$.....





The appraiser maps  
the Murakami farm.

Following careful review of this appraisal report, it is my opinion that the present value is \$ 1300

Date 19th August 19 42

"I. T. Barnet"  
District Superintendent.

FEBRUARY 25, 1943

16  
Doseberry, B.C.  
Feb. 25, 1943

The Custodian's Office  
Department of the Secretary of State  
of Canada

MAR 1 1943

Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir,

"I would like to know if somebody has leased our land..."

Mary's father, Katsuyori, asks the Custodian about the management of his farm.

I would like to know if somebody has leased our land. No money profit is coming out of our land. I would like to know the answer soon as possible.

Last year when we were leaving our home, we said that we would pay the taxes before we left. But the Custodian Agent told us that we didn't need to pay it. So we didn't. Could you tell us what is becoming of our taxes. Could you tell us what has become of the tax. And quite a few while ago, we asked the Custodian to send our kitchen utensils. Well all the things came but every aluminium things were missing. I would like to know what has become of them. Right now, as you know, aluminium things are dear. And we haven't very much left to do our cooking in. All we got sent was



27

somebody else's kettle which was all enamel  
plated. So could you please look into this  
matter because we are in need of them badly.

I would like to know if we can get our garden  
tools through the Custodian. If so please send  
us the answer.

"... So could you please look into the matter  
because we are in need of them badly."

Katsuyori requests that the Custodian  
send the family their aluminum  
kitchenware and garden tools and hose.

"Yours truly, K. Murakami"

Yours truly  
K. Murakami  
Registration No. 10089

We lived at Ganges.

Our Agent is Gavin Mouat

"We lived at Ganges. Our Agent is Gavin Mouat."



JUNE 26, 1943

Gastodian Office  
Vancouver B.C.

Dear Mr. Green.

A few days ago the B.C.S.C. came and told us to pay the bill for the kitchen utensil and such articles which we got sent to us.

If you can remember when we were chased out, we were told not to take anything except our clothing. Well the people who came later from

"If you can remember, when we were chased out, we were told not to take anything except our clothing..."

very thing they possessed. And they got it sent free. We have the idea that we didn't have anything to cook our meals with, so we sent for them. And besides when they come, half of it was missing and but they couldn't get anything as bad as those utensil even if you went to a junkpile. They put in old ~~books~~ which took half of the weight. And they tell us to pay for it!

Where do you think we can get the money for it, I think the B.C.S.C. is too ~~slow~~ only gets "22 1/2" an hour and we have people should do a little thinking and remember we aren't Indians. But we're just as civilized as any Canadian people living in Canada.

Katsuyori argues that it is unfair that he must pay for the shipment of his belongings.

"And where is the brand new garden hose we asked for. But somebody look it."



"And where is the brand new garden hose we asked for... You know Gavin Mouat. Well when we were leaving, he told us the Custodian would repay everything stolen or lost. Well I think that's the biggest lie a person could tell. If you people [don't] agree, where is our new garden hose?"

...don't lead it to the people ask this question. Where are the things we got sent? And what if the other people their luggage free? If the government thinks we're going to starve and pay for it, they are badly mistaken. I would like to have the money soon.

Yours very truly  
Alice Murakami

(Reg. No. 10089) Mr. Katsuyori Murakami  
former resident. Ganges, B.C.

"Alice Murakami  
Mr. Katsuyori Murakami,  
former resident Ganges, B.C."

Alice is Mary's older sister. Born in Canada, she attended public school on Salt Spring Island. It is possible that she wrote to the Custodian on behalf of her father.



JULY 5, 1943

1364

July 5th, 1943

H.F. Green is an agent at the Office of the Custodian. He promises Mary's sister, Alice, that he will contact Gavin Mouat to find out what happened to their missing belongings.

Miss Alice MURAKAMI,  
Registration No. 10089,  
House 208,  
Rosebery, B. C.

Dear Madam:-

Thank you for your letter of June 26th from which we were very sorry to see that some of the articles asked for have not been received.

We are promptly taking up this matter with Mr. Mount and will report to you as soon as we can. It is a fact that we have had great trouble with pilfering of Japanese effects but we have done whatever possible to protect your belongings.

Turning to the question of payment for shipments, we are afraid that this is a matter where we cannot help you and where you will have to apply to the Security Commission. You will appreciate that the movement of Japanese and the provision of necessities for them is solely the responsibility of the Security Commission and that this office is only charged with the protection of effects left behind.

Yours truly,

H. F. Green  
Protection Department

HFG:IF  
c/cs sent to Security Commission



JULY 5, 1943

The Custodian's agent writes to Gavin Mouat about the Murakamis' belongings. Mouat represents the Office of the Custodian on Salt Spring Island. Before the uprooting, he was a friend of the Murakami family.

1964

July 5th, 1943

Mr. Gavin Mouat,  
P. O. #1,  
Ganges, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

Re: Katsunori MURAKAMI

Our records show that the above Japanese registered with the Custodian at Hastings Park on March 20th, 1942 having left Salt Spring Island earlier than the other Japanese. We have on file your report and inventory of March 29th compiled by you.

On December 14th the Security Commission wrote direct to you enclosing a release for kitchen utensils, tools, and sewing machine, but apparently (Security Commission's letter of January 27th) shipment of the wrong items was made. Complaints were received from the Japanese and a subsequent request made for some garden tools. The Security Commission wrote to you again on March 7th.

We have now heard from this Japanese or rather, his daughter Alice, as follows.

"....Half of it was missing and I bet they couldn't get anything as bad as those utensils even if you went to a junk pile. They put in old boots which took half of the weight."

"....And there is the brand new garden hose we asked for. Bet somebody took it."

May we please have your comments promptly? We may say that we are rather disturbed about the position of chattels on Mayne and Salt Spring Islands. You have not answered any of our recent letters and experience has shown that if a very close check is not kept of effects such as tools, implements etc., they soon disappear. May we therefore have your comments as soon as possible?

Yours truly,

H. F. Green  
Protection Department

HFG:IF  
c/c sent to Security Commission

There is no record  
of Gavin Mouat's answer.



SEPTEMBER 18, 1943

Sept 18, 1943  
Hoscherry, B.C.

Mr R. G. Bell  
Administration Dept.  
Office of the Custodian  
Vancouver, B.C.

EVACUATION SECTION	
Rec'd	SEP 21 1943
File No.	1364
Ans.	RGB
Referred	Bell

out to you

Dear Sir

I received your  
referring to the Agreement  
to Mr. J. F. Speed, the  
the remaining amount, do I get the sale of the land.

Mary's father, Katsuyori, requests that the  
Custodian release funds from the sale of his properties.

"In regards to the balance of money for me, do you think  
I can get any out? The reason is that we need clothes for winter."

In regards to the balance of money for me,  
do you think I can get any out? The reason is,  
that we need clothes for winter. And we can't  
get any from the Commission, because I am working.  
We have seven in our family, and we can't  
ever eat on the pay given to me. And as the  
winter is coming, we need some clothes for the  
children. Since April, 22, 1942, we haven't hardly bought

"... we can't even eat on the pay given to me.  
As the winter is coming, we need some clothes for the children."

we left all of the  
Last winter, it  
was so bad.

I have a daughter going to high school. She  
walks four miles to West Vancouver and four miles back.  
They haven't any transportation because we cannot get  
any. We have to buy her books and shoes and other things.



2  
 And it is pretty hard for a parent to say no when  
 she asked if she can buy herself a shoe. But she  
 has tried to hear it best I know I know she feels  
 Some of her friends can have fine clothes because  
 their are working in a family But how do you think  
 I can buy the shoes when we can't hardly get what we  
 wouldn't have had to wear for things when we were  
 at home because we need get enough to go on.  
 So if you can spare some of our money please  
 let us know

Yours very truly  
 Katsuyori Murakami  
 Aug 1008  
 Roseburg, B C

Katsuyori describes how one of his daughters walks eight kilometers each day to attend the internment camp school. After a year, her shoes have worn out. Katsuyori cannot afford to replace them on the government's limited payments.

"... it is pretty hard for a parent to say no when she asked if she can buy herself a shoe."



1948

J.L. No. 782

Canada

**DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN**

**JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION**

File No. 1364 ✓  
Reg. No. 10089 ✓

506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Mr. Katsuyori MURAKAMI, ✓  
Roseberry, B. C.

Katsuyori is notified sometime in 1948 that his farm  
was sold to the The Director, The Veterans' Land Act.

Dear Sir:

Re: District of Cowichan- That part of the East Half of Section 3, Range 2 East, North Salt Spring Island, shown outlined in red on Plan 246R, containing 7.04 acres more or less. C. of T. 139613-1, and Lot 1 of Section 3, Range 2 E. North Division of Salt Spring Island, Plan 3912. C. of T. 85046-1.

You have previously been advised that a sale of lands in rural districts was entered into between this Department and The Director, The Veterans' Land Act.

Due to the size of this transaction, the arrangements for same and the completion of the transfer have taken a considerable time. Negotiations were started in the early part of 1943 and were based upon valuations made by qualified appraisers and on the basis of a sale effective as at January 1st of that year. This means that the 1943 revenues from the property were for the benefit of the purchasers, but that taxes, fire insurance and other operating charges were assumed by them.

The following is a statement showing the sale price and adjustments:

Sale price of above described property	\$ 1,284.00
Add:	
Unexpired insurance premium as at January 1st, 1943	1.35
	<u>1,285.35</u>
Less:	
Tax arrears to December 31st, 1942	\$ 2.00 (Water Rental)
Registration fee	6.00 8.00
Encumbrance—Principal	
—Interest	
Net proceeds of sale	<u>1,277.35</u>

This amount has been placed to your credit and a statement of your account is endorsed hereon showing the present balance on our books. A small amount for legal fees in connection with the conveyance to the Veterans' land will be charged later.

Yours truly,  
F. G. SHEARS,  
Director.



# HIROSHI OKUDA: *Case File*

---



Japanese Canadians are ordered to register with the RCMP in early 1941.

*April 13, 1942*

Hiroshi Okuda registers with the Custodian of Enemy Property.

—

*June 28, 1943*

An official thanks Hiroshi for his service establishing education in the Tashme internment camp.

—

*November 22, 1943*

Hiroshi undergoes a medical inspection to travel to Montreal.

—

*January 25, 1944*

Hiroshi describes his experience in Montreal to a sympathetic Member of Parliament.

—

Library and Archives Canada/ RG117-C-3; Nikkei National Museum/ 2018.3.1.1

APRIL 13, 1942

FORM "JP"

BUREAU HASTINGS PARK

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

JAPANESE SECTION

To be completed by persons of the Japanese race having property in any protected area. The proper administration of this property requires such persons to give full particulars as requested in this form.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: OKUDA, Hiroshi,

HOME ADDRESS: 306 Jackson Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

REGISTRATION NUMBER 10333

SEX: M

AGE: 27

OCCUPATION:

Logger

Hiroshi registers with the Office of the Custodian at the Hastings Park processing centre.

(If any business or businesses carried on, state where, under what name and whether partnership with anyone; if partnership, give partner's name.)

EMPLOYER: Cameron Lake Logging Co., 711 Pacific Building, Vancouver, B.C.

MARRIED? No

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: None

ADDRESS OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: ----

NAMES OF ANY LIVING CHILDREN: ----

ADDRESS OF CHILDREN: ----

AGE OF CHILDREN: ----

STATEMENT OF ALL REAL PROPERTY (Each parcel must be mentioned and particulars given)

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

Hiroshi is a young man at the beginning of his career as an accountant. He does not own real estate and has few belongings to declare.

2. BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS:

3. INSURANCE (Give particulars; state where policies are)

4. TAXES (Amount and where payable)

5. ENCUMBRANCES (Including any unregistered claims or deposit of title deed)

6. OCCUPANCY AND LEASES (If vacant so state)



7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS: None

8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST: None

9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN None

**STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED**

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: 306 Jackson Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

Rooming House.

2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS: T. Sakamoto

306 Jackson Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID: \$23.00 per month.

Paid up to date.

4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE: No lease.

5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid). None

6. IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN: None

**STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:**

1. GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND STATE LOCATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, STOCK IN TRADE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

2. HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS, POULTRY AND PETS

3. GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY.

Hiroshi rents a room in Vancouver.

4. INSURANCE CARRIED ON ABOVE PROPERTY: None5. MORTGAGES, LIENS AND OTHER CLAIMS ON PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF  
OTHERS: None

6. MONEYS OWING TO YOU (State if any of these debts assigned and if so, to whom)

None\$595.00 owing me from the Cameron Lake Logging Co. as per letter  
already written you, it being money I advanced to them, \$285.00  
they owe me on account of salary.

7. BONDS, DEBENTURES, SHARES, STOCKS OR OTHER SECURITIES (State whereabouts)

\$100.00 Victory Bonds

Many Japanese Canadians bought  
Victory Bonds to support Canada's war effort.

8. BANK ACCOUNTS: None9. LIFE INSURANCE: \$2000.00 25 year endowment policy Sun Life  
Insurance Co. Beneficiary my father, Mr. Kasaku Okuda, Box 129,  
Cumberland, B.C.10. INTEREST IN ANY ESTATES OR TRUSTS: None11. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX: None

## LIABILITIES:

1. PERSONAL DEBTS: None2. TRADE DEBTS: None

## REMARKS:

I certify that the above information is true and complete and fully discloses all my property of every description in any protected area in British Columbia and sets forth all my liabilities direct and indirect.

Dated this 13th day of April 1942.

(Signature)

Witness

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE



JUNE 28, 1943

DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOUR



The British Columbia Security  
Commission grants Hiroshi a permit  
to seek employment in eastern Canada.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

June 28th, 1943

Mr. H. Okuda  
School Director  
TASHME B. C.

The provincial and federal governments  
refuse to provide education in the internment  
camps. Hiroshi helps to establish schooling  
for children at the Tashme internment camp.

Dear Mr. Okuda,

I wish at this time to express my sincere  
appreciation of your efforts in organizing the school system  
in Tashme. I realize that the difficulties in the earlier  
days were very great and naturally the staff setup where  
Assistant Supervisor and Director were not certain as to  
exact duties must have lead to difficulties.

When in the East I made enquiries regarding  
the possibility of your obtaining work along the lines in  
which you have been trained but could get no definite inform-  
ation in this connection. However, when you wish to proceed  
East permit will be granted for you to travel to Montreal and  
report to Mrs. O'Connell of the Selective Service. She will  
make every effort to assist you in finding the type of work  
you desire.

I would suggest that you fill out the attached  
application forms (in duplicate) so that same may be forwarded  
to her in the hope that she will locate something suitable  
for you even before your arrival in that City.

It was a great privilege for me to attend  
the closing of the school and I feel that the disciplined and  
interested manner of the children reflected great credit to  
yourself and Miss Hidaka as well as their young teachers.

Yours very truly,  
BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

*C. V. Booth*  
C. V. Booth

CVB:ew  
enclosure

RECEIVED  
B. C. Security Commission  
JUN 29 1943

NOVEMBER 22, 1943

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

Special Medical Checkup for Japanese Going to Eastern Canada

Name . Okuda, Mr. Hiroshi . . . . . Reg. No. 10333 . . . Age . . 28 . . .

Relocation Centre . Tashme, B. C. . . . . . M. or F. Male . . . Weight . . . . .

Previous Illness:-

Smallpox . . . No . . . . . Typhoid . . . . . No . . . . . Diphtheria . No . . .

Whooping Cough . . No . . . . . Tonsils . . . . . No . . . . . Measles . . . Yes . . .

Kahn (Blood Test) . . . Positive . . . . . Negative . Neg. . . . . .

Tuberculosis . . . . . Positive . . . . . Negative . Neg. . . . . .

Remarks: . . Physically fit . . . . .  
.  
.  
.

Hiroshi undergoes a medical inspection  
in order to travel to Montreal.

Date Nov. 22/43 . . .

C. G. McNair  
Doctor



JANUARY 25, 1944

5868 Bannantyne Ave.,  
City of Verdun,  
Montreal, P.Q.  
January 25, 1944.

Mr. Angus MacInnis, M.P.,  
355 West 14th Ave.,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. MacInnis:-

Thank you for the complimentary copy of the pamphlet which Mrs. MacInnis and you were instrumental in publishing. The firm stand you have taken in aiming at understanding and cooperation, and legislation for the welfare of the people brings to mind the passage from Lincoln's Gettysburg speech: "that the Government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the face of the Earth."

The pamphlet has covered within its limits the main highlights of the subject in question. Your brief summary on the subject "Evacuation from Defence Areas" is to be highly complimented. In this connection I can truthfully say that the majority of the Japanese in the Interior Relocation Centres of B.C. are rather reluctant to plunge into the unknown East because the program of rehabilitation has been carried out and will be carried out by the Commission without much consideration of conditions in the East.

I left Tashme on December 28th arriving in Montreal on New Year's Day. The various petitions which we submitted to the responsible parties during the previous two months were either unanswered or answered very unsatisfactorily, yet ten of us within the affected group headed East. We left because we were granted open permits to seek employment in worthwhile jobs or jobs in which we have interest or the necessary experience. We in Tashme had highly resolved that we will not resort to open demonstration

Hiroshi writes to Angus MacInnis, a Member of Parliament from Vancouver. MacInnis is an outspoken critic of the internment policies and an ally to Japanese Canadians.

I am an accountant versed in business cycles and trends, with varying degree of experience in logging and mining accounts, and thorough knowledge of business management. Yet to date I have searched in vain for an opening. There is no open discrimination here, but during my rounds of the chartered accountants firms I was reminded time and time again that being a Japanese it will be difficult to seek employment along my line. I have not pounded the pavements consistently so cannot form any criterion on the chances of a Japanese relocate out East, but from the few contacts that I have made I know that it will be no leadpipe cinch. As far as practical experience is concerned I have 100% confidence in myself, so I have come to the conclusion that if I wish to seek employment along my line I will have to sell myself to the

Hiroshi describes his own experience in Montreal.

business firms and convince them if convincing is necessary.

As you mention ours is only a part of the problem of racial minorities in Canada. Yet to one who is in the know it seems as if it is the whole. We call ourselves Japanese Canadians, but we are neither Japanese nor Canadians. We are actually a racial minority without a nation to call our own. We are thorns on the side as far as Canada is concerned, and we know that Japan will not welcome us with open arms. Who are we then? Outcasts or citizens? For the time being I am inclined to think that we are more or less outcasts. Time will be the only healing factor, and time supported by people like yourself will eventually define our position - outcasts or citizens.

I have not as yet had the opportunity of talking to you. I feel, however, as if I had known you for a long time. I do hope the time will come when I will be able to see you and express our gratitude for your unselfish and humanitarian views.

Yours very truly,



Hiroshi R. Okuda.

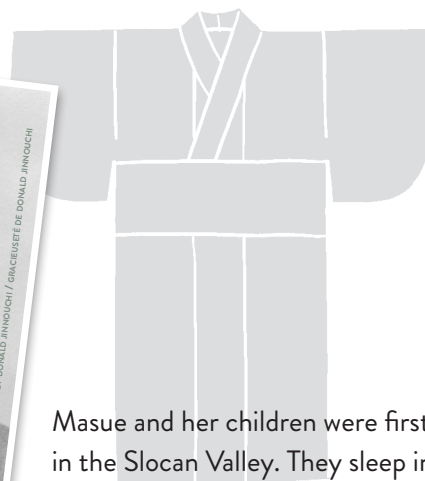
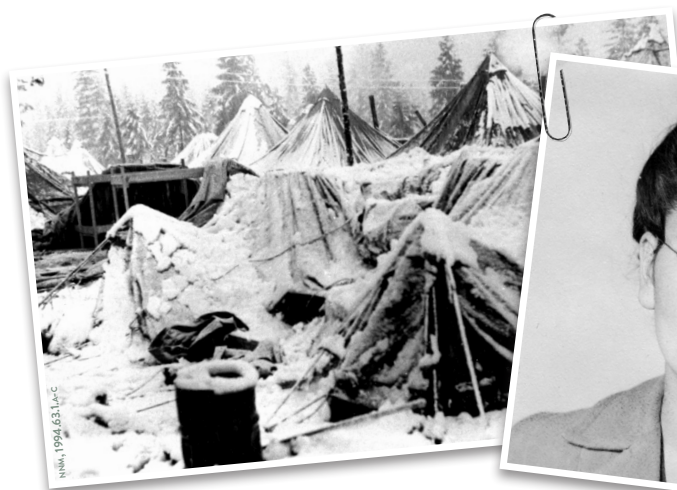
81.1.1.8.8105





# MASUE TAGASHIRA: *Case File*

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Masue and her children were first interned in the Slocan Valley. They sleep in tents. As soon as they can, they join Rinkichi in Revelstoke, a nearby town.

*Spring 1942*

Masue and her partner, Rinkichi Tagashira, register with the Office of the Custodian.

—

*September 28, 1942*

Rinkichi arranges the temporary management of his tobacco shop.

—

*1942 – 1944*

Rinkichi fights to protect his home and business from government control.

—

*December 27, 1944*

The Office of the Custodian seizes and sells the tobacco shop.

—

*February 16, 1948*

Masue and Rinkichi challenge the sale of their property at the Royal Commission on Japanese Claims.

—

Library and Archives Canada/ RG33-69, RG117-A-1; Vernon Museum and Archives/ 6069



Whether they have property to declare or not, each Japanese Canadian is required to register with the Office of the Custodian.

MAY 30, 1942

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

DATE 16/2/48

JAPANESE SECTION

Mr. Hunter

To be completed by persons of the Japanese race having property in any protected area. The proper administration of this property requires such persons to give full particulars.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: JINNOUCHI Masuye (Mrs Shigeo)

HOME ADDRESS: 679 Cordova St., Vancouver, B. C.

REGISTRATION NUMBER 09070

SEX: Female

AGE: 33

OCCUPATION: Housewife

(If any business or businesses carried on, state where, under what name and whether carried on by yourself or in partnership with anyone; if partnership, give partner's name):

EMPLOYER: None

MARRIED? Yes

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: (Deceased)

ADDRESS OF WIFE OR HUSBAND:

NAMES OF ANY LIVING CHILDREN: Masayuki (M) Aiko (F)

ADDRESS OF CHILDREN: 679 Cordova Street., Vancouver, B. C.

AGE OF CHILDREN: 13, 11.

STATEMENT OF ALL REAL PROPERTY (Each parcel must be mentioned and particulars given)

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: None

"Disregard  
See original this file"  
"D"

2. BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS: None

3. INSURANCE (Give particulars; state where policies are) None

4. TAXES (Amount and where payable) None

5. ENCUMBRANCES (Including any unregistered claims or deposit of title deed) None

6. OCCUPANCY AND LEASES (If vacant so state) None

Masue is not yet married to Rinkichi. She registers with the Office of the Custodian under her late husband's name.

7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS: None
8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST: None
9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN: None

Masue declares Rinkichi as her landlord.

#### STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Renting 2 room dwelling at 679 Cordova St., Vancouver, B. C.
2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS: R. Tagashira Co. 285 Hearley Ave.,
3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID: Monthly rental of \$15.00. Paid up to date (May 31/42)
4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE: None
5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid)

6. IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN: None

Masue lists her belongings on Rinkichi's form.

#### STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:

1. GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND STATE LOCATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, STOCK IN TRADE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS: None
2. HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS, POULTRY AND PETS: None
3. GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY: None



APRIL 22, 1942

EXHIBIT No. 165/9

DATE 19/2/48

FILED BY

Mr. Hunter

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

JAPANESE SECTION

To be completed by persons of the Japanese race having property in any protected area. The proper administration of this property requires such persons to give full particulars as requested in this form.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: TAGASHIRA, Rinkichi

HOME ADDRESS: 679 E. Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

REGISTRATION NUMBER 07988

SEX: Male

AGE: 55

OCCUPATION: ~~Employed~~ Owner of wholesale house.

This is the R. Tagashira & Co.

(If any business or businesses carried on, state where, under what name and whether carried on by yourself or in partnership with anyone; if partnership, give partner's name.)

EMPLOYER: ~~None~~ Self

MARRIED? Yes

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: Kotoko

ADDRESS OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: Japan

NAMES OF ANY LIVING CHILDREN: None

ADDRESS OF CHILDREN:

Rinkichi owns many properties in Vancouver.

AGE OF CHILDREN:

STATEMENT OF ALL REAL PROPERTY (Each parcel must be mentioned and particulars given)

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Building "671-9 E. Cordova" 285 Heatley "Sept. 9/42  
D.D."  
Dwelling 679 E. Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.

Legal description unknown. "D.L. 196-Ek 52 - Lots 17 & 18" "Sept. 9/42  
see memo. 18 is at 679 E. Cordova D.D."

Lot 6 Ek. 42 D.L. 196 - 510 Alexander St.

2. BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS: 12 roomed frame building "Sept. 9/42  
D.D."  
(Stucco on three sides) dwelling house for more properties see letter McGrossan June 18/42 & see memo. D.D."

3. INSURANCE (Give particulars; state where policies are) Insured, amount of policy, No. of policy & company name unknown.

4. TAXES (Amount and where payable) App. \$200 yearly. Paid to the City of Vancouver, B.C.

5. ENCUMBRANCES (Including any unregistered claims or deposit of title deed)

None

6. OCCUPANCY AND LEASES (If vacant so state) 2 rooms leased to Mr. Isogai for \$27 per month. 1-room rented to Mr. Koyanagi for \$15 per month.

Declarant uses ground-floor as a warehouse & office building.

7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS: Title believed to be in Land Title office, Vancouver, B.C.
8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST: None
9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN: None

#### STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Lives in 12-roomed building at 679 E. Cordova St., Vancouver, B.C.
2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Self
3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID: None
4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE: None
5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid): None
6. IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN:

Masue and her children live with Rinkichi. They list their belongings along with Rinkichi's on his registration form.

#### STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:

1. GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND STATE LOCATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, STOCK IN TRADE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:
- 1--Chesterfield suite; dining room suite; 5-piece bedroom suite;  
 4--Beds & Mattresses; 4--Wardrobes; Kitchen table & about 24 chairs;  
 1--Kitchen stove; Electric appliances; 3--Bridge lamps; 12--table lamps;  
 2--Electric clocks; 3--bookcases & large quantity of books; 3--Dressers  
 Library-room suite; 4--sets of silverware; chinaware; kitchenware;  
 3--Dinner-sets; 3--Rugs; kitchen & hall linoleum; 4--Lge. Flower stands  
 and a number of small flower stands; 1--Morris chair & other household  
 effects. All of above in residence above store at 679 E. Cordova St.,  
 Vancouver, B.C.
- 2--radios; 2--cameras; 1941 Dodge Sedan; 1941 Dodge truck in custody of police.  
 (see page 4)
2. HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS, POULTRY AND PETS: None
3. GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY: None -- Sole owner



SEPTEMBER 28, 1942

PHONES: HIGHLAND  
DS89 - 1127

## R. TAGASHIRA & CO.

WHOLESALE TOBACCONISTS & CONFECTIONERS  
CAMP SUPPLIES AND SHIP CHANDLERY

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN  
JAPANESE SECTION  
**RECEIVED**  
SEP 28 1942

285 HEATLEY AVE.

VANCOUVER, B. C. September 28 1942

R. P. Alexander, Esq.,  
Manager, Office of the Custodian,  
Department of the Secretary of State,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.

EXHIBIT No. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FILED BY \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Sir:

As you know, Mr. G. E. McCrossan, K. C., has been handling my affairs in respect to the contact with your Office regarding my Accounts Receivable from Japanese clients.

However, I have been in touch with Mr. R. C. Messenger of Harold D. Campbell's Office, who is effecting a very satisfactory arrangement in connection with my Wholesale Tobacco business for the duration of the war, and I request that he be appointed your Agent in respect to my properties and business.

Yours truly,

Rinkichi arranges to protect his business from government control while he is interned. A manager will run R. Tagashira & Co. in his absence.

*R. Tagashira*

File No. 5129  
Registration No. 07988.

EXHIBIT No. 165-16  
DATE 23 Feb 1948  
FILED BY n-a. Davidson

NOVEMBER 24, 1942

CLASS OF SERVICE	
Full Rate	
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	
Evening and Sunday Messages	
Please mark an X opposite the class of service desired.	

# CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS



World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL, Gen.

A telegram informs Rinkichi of the Custodian's attempt to seize his business.

The arrangement protects the business from sale for two years.

Send the following message, subject to the conditions on the back thereof, which are hereby agreed to.

VR OW 57 RX GET REPLY XCI

VANCOUVER B C NOV 24 TH 1942

MR RINKICHI TAGASHIRA

REVELSTOKE B C

CUSTODIAN DECIDES TO TAKE OVER YOUR BUSINESS FROM ME TODAY

STOP DID NOT GO AHEAD TO OBTAIN BOND SOONER

BECAUSE MANUFACTURERS STOPPED SUPPLYING US GOODS NOW I MANAGE TO

GET IMPERIAL WILLING TO SUPPLY US AGAIN WITH LIMITED STOCK

STOP IF YOUR OPINION IS CONTRARY TO THE CUSTODIANS DECISION PLEASE

WIRE ME AND YOUR LAWYER IMMEDIATELY

FRANK MAH

165 - 18

I hereby certify that the foregoing words are true copy of the original whereof they purport to be a copy.

EXHIBIT No. 23 Feb 1948

DATE: FILED BY J. W. G. Hunter

April 14, 1948

The first manager Rinkichi hires.

W. M. THOMPSON, Assistant General Manager, Montreal

E. H. GOODFELLOW, Assistant Manager, Montreal, Que.

R. R. BACON, Supt., Sudbury, Ont.

H. S. INGRAM, Supt., Toronto, Ont.

W. S. EMERY, Supt., Montreal, Que.

C. W. MACDONALD, Supt., Saint John, N.B.

D. L. HOWARD, Assistant Manager, Winnipeg, Man.

P. G. McLEAN, Supt., Vancouver, B.C.

L. A. RAYMOND, Supt., Calgary, Alta.

T. H. HOLMES, Supt., Moose Jaw, Sask.

A. J. CLARK, Supt., Winnipeg, Man.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPON WHICH TELEGRAPH AND CABLE MESSAGES SHALL BE TRANSMITTED ARE PRESCRIBED BY ORDER No. 4974 DATED DECEMBER 5th, 1932, OF THE BOARD OF TRANSPORT COMMISSIONERS FOR CANADA, AND PUBLISHED IN THE CANADA GAZETTE.

It is agreed between the sender of the message, on the face of this form and this Company, that said Company shall not be liable for damages arising from failure to transmit or deliver, or for any error in the transmission or delivery of any unrepeatable telegram, whether happening from negligence of its servants or otherwise, or for delays from interruptions in the working of its lines, for errors in cypher or obscure messages, or for errors from illegible writing, beyond the amount received for sending the same.

To guard against errors, the Company will repeat back any telegram for an extra payment of one-half the regular rate, and in that case the Company shall be liable for damages, suffered by the sender to an extent not exceeding \$200, due to the negligence of the Company in the transmission or delivery of the telegram.

Correctness in the transmission and delivery of messages can be insured by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon at the following rates, in addition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz.: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent. for any greater distance.

This Company shall not be liable for the act or omission of any other Company, but will endeavor to forward the telegram by any other Telegraph Company necessary to reaching its destination, but only as the agent of the sender and without liability therefor. The Company shall not be responsible for messages until the same are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices; if a message is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers he acts for that purpose as the sender's agent; if by telephone the person receiving the message acts therein as agent of the sender, being authorized to assent to these conditions for the sender. This Company shall not be liable in any case for damages, unless the same be claimed, in writing, within sixty days after receipt of the telegram for transmission.

No employee of the Company shall vary the foregoing.

## CLASSES OF SERVICE

### FULL RATE TELEGRAM

A full-rate expedited service.

### NIGHT TELEGRAM

Accepted up to 2 a.m. at reduced rates, to be sent during the night and delivered on the morning of the next day after their date at places where the Company's offices are open on Sundays, and on the morning of the next ensuing business day at places where the Company's offices are not open on Sundays.

### DAY LETTERS

A deferred day service at rates lower than the standard telegram rates as follows: One and one-half times the ten-word day telegram rate for the transmission of 50 words or less, and one-fifth of the initial rate for such 50 words for each additional 10 words or less.

Day letters may be forwarded by the Company as a deferred service, and the transmission and delivery of such Day Letters are, in all respects, subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of full-rate telegrams.

Day Letters may be delivered by the Company by telephoning the name to the addressee and such delivery shall be a complete discharge of the obligation of the Company to deliver.

Day Letters are received subject to the express understanding and agreement that the Company does not undertake that a Day Letter shall be delivered on the day of its date absolutely and at all events; but that the Company's obligation in this respect is subject to the condition that there shall remain sufficient time for the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter on the day of its date during regular office hours, subject to the priority of the transmission of full-rate telegrams under the conditions named above.

### NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to 2 a.m. for delivery on the morning of the next day after their date at places where the Company's offices are open on Sundays, and on the morning of the next ensuing business day at places where the Company's offices are not open on Sundays, at rates still lower than its standard night telegram rates as follows: The standard day rate for 10 words for the transmission of 50 words or less and one-fifth of the initial rate for such 50 words for each additional 10 words or less.

Night Letters may, at the option of the Company, be mailed at destination to the addressee, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such Night Letters at destination, postage prepaid.

## EVENING AND SUNDAY MESSAGE

An expedited service admitting up to 40 words at the same rate as a 10 word full rate telegram, each additional 10 or a lesser number of words is charged at the rate of 1/5 of the cost for the initial 40 word telegram. Evening and Sunday messages may be filed at any hour where circumstances permit and will be delivered on week days after 7 p.m. point of origin or destination time whichever provides for earlier delivery. The service is also available all day Sunday. If the message should require a reply and the sender prepays same at the time of filing, the reply will be charged at 50% of the normal rate for an Evening and Sunday telegram. If the reply exceeds 40 words, each additional ten or a lesser number of words will be charged at 1/5 of the reply paid telegram rate.



JULY 19, 1944

Rinkichi protests the sale of his business, home, and properties. This is one letter of many.

P. O. Box 666,  
Revelstoke, B. C.  
July 19th, 1944.

Mr. George Peters,  
Administration Dept.,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Received your letters dated March 21st and May 25th,  
1944, also January 14, 1944.

I do not understand why the Custodian sold my property at such dumping price. As you know those buildings were being reconstructed for better revenue until I was evacuated at the end of October 1942, and the revenue was very near \$1000 (One thousand dollars) a month. The reconstructing expense was more than \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) unsettled. Can you tell me what kind of protection I can get from you to settle this matter for my protection.

Rinkichi repeats the language of the Order that seized Japanese Canadians' property. The government said that the seizure of property was "a protective measure only."

Yours truly,

"R. Tagashira"

File No. 5129/2  
Reg. No. 07988

cc for Mr. Shears

DECEMBER 27, 1944

5129/3

24.  
27th December, 1944.

Mr. Rinkichi Tagashira,  
Registration #07988,  
P.O. Box 666,  
Revelstoke, B.C.

Rinkichi changed the name of  
the business to disguise its ownership.

Dear Sir:

At the time of evacuation you made your own arrangement with Mr. J.Y. Lim in regard to the affairs of the Heatley Trading Company. We were subsequently advised that the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada Limited were not very favourable to this arrangement but they agreed to continue supplies during the period of the lease and requested us to inform them when the arrangement terminated.

As you are aware, your agreement with Mr. Lim expired on December 8th last and you were notified of its cancellation.

Rinkichi wants to renew the arrangement when it expires in 1944. The Custodian intervenes and sells the business to his current manager.

It came to our attention that there were some supplies of Mr. Lim for sale on a consignment basis. The prices of these items made a total of \$1,792.00 but in many cases were not in line with actual values and independent appraisal was made by qualified Appraisers placed the value of these goods at \$786.60. We have, however, been able to make a deal with Mr. Lim under which he has purchased the business as a going concern, together with the merchandise referred to for the sum of \$1,800.00.

Enclosed herein is a statement of your account showing an amount of \$1,800.00 and showing a balance to your credit.

Rinkichi receives \$1,800 for his business.  
A year earlier, he was offered \$5,000.

Mr. H.D. Campbell has advised us that he will send you the usual statement of operations showing a division of profits up until the expiration of the lease.

As mentioned above, the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada Ltd., requested us to inform them when your agreement expired and they have been so advised. Other manufacturers and suppliers have also been advised that you have now no responsibility in connection with any future dealings they may have with Mr. J.Y. Lim.

Yours truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH

I hereby certify that the foregoing words are a true copy of the original whereof they purport to be a copy.

April 8, 1948

*Mulanstace*



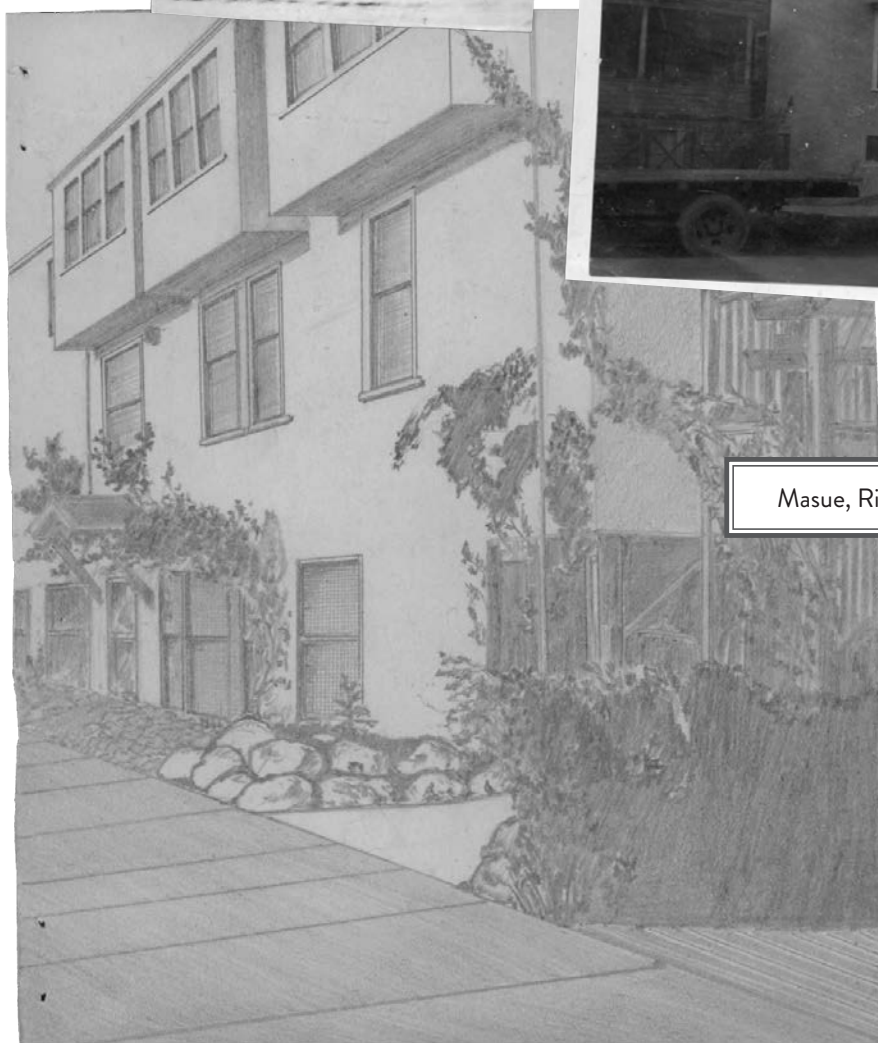
FEBRUARY 1948



Masue and Rinkichi testify at the Royal Commission that investigates Japanese Canadian losses. They argue that the Custodian sold their properties for an eighth of their worth. When a government lawyer denies the government's role in their losses, Masue replies: "It was the fault of the Custodian."

They testify six times over two years. Masue's claim is rejected. Rinkichi receives only partial compensation.

Evidence submitted to the Commission.



Masue, Rinkichi, and her children lived in this building.



*at home*

SEP 25 1948  
FINISH PHOTO

638

EXHIBIT NO. 165/3  
DATE 19/2/48  
FILED BY Dawson

EXHIBIT NO. 165/3  
DATE 19/2/48  
FILED BY Dawson

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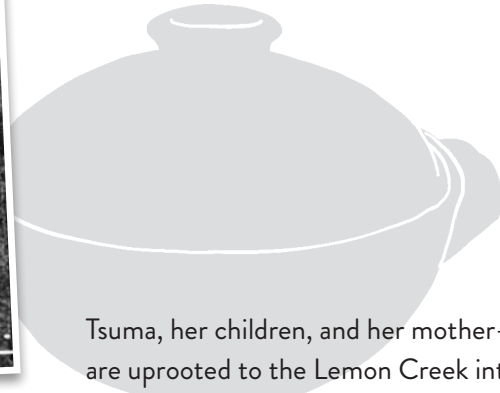
Exhibit 3

ANALYSIS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY CLAIM			FILE No. 5129	EXHIBIT No.	DATE	CASE No.
NAME Hinkichi TAGASHIRA			REG. No. 07988	FILED BY	VENUE	VERSION
DATE	INVENTORY	DETAILS OF CLAIM	SALES		REMARKS	
DECLARATION	DATE		AUCTION	VENUE		
DECLARATION Apr. 22/42	Taken by Mr. Willis (Warehouse No. 307)					
EVALUATION Oct. 27/42	DATE Dec. 21, 1942					
1 Chesterfield suite diningroom suite	1 Safe	Dodge Coupe				
12 pe. bedroom suite	1 Counter	" Truck	2275.00	975.00		
4 beds & mattresses	1 Typewriter #1110773			950.00		
4 refrigerators	1 Adding Machine #03, 662457	Goods & Chattels as listed in claim -				
24 chairs	1 Cash Register #2448187	762 E. Cordova St.				
1 Kitchen stove	4 Office Desks	679 E. " "				
Electric appliances	1 Umbrella stand	285 Westley Ave.				
2 Table lamps	1 Clock	285 " "				
2 Electric clocks	4 Penell sharpeners					
3 Bookcases & large quantity of books	2 Wire letter baskets	Wholesale jobbing business carried on at 285 Westley Avenue.				
3 Dressers	1 Numbering stamp	Value of business, including assets, and trade fixtures,				
Library room suite	1 Stationary Cabinet					
4 sets silverware (chinese); kitchenware.	1 Cheese Protector					
3 dinner sets	1 Stapler					
3 rugs	3 Index books					
Kitchen & Hall linen.	2 Swivel chairs					
4 large flower stands and a number of small flower stands.	2 Kitchen chairs					
1 Morris chair & other household effects.	2 Dining pads					
All above in residence above store at 679 E. Cordova St. Vancouver, B.C.	2 sponge dishes					
2 radios	4 rubber stamps					
2 Cameras.	4 sponges					
1941 Dodge Sedan.	2 Bates punches					
1941 Dodge truck in custody of police.	1 Invoice machine					
(see Page 4)	3 door checks					
*PERSONAL PROPERTY	17 file covers					
Contents of wholesale house located at 285 Westley Ave. Vancouver, B.C.; H. TAGASHIRA & Co. H. Tagashira sole owner. Groceries; tobacco, smoker's supplies; silverware, small handware, cash registers, showcases, soda fountain & supplies. Value approx. lately \$15000.00. Above stock covered by insurance. Amount of policy, number of policy, Company name unknown.	8 office stools					
	2 brooms					
	1 Dust brush					
	2 Paper Cutters 27" x 26"					
	125 lb scale					
	1 Wall clock					
	3 Pails					
	1 Roller towel					
	1 Hand truck					
	2 Gas ranges					
	1 Trunk					
	9 Cartons fruit jars					
	2 Extension cords					
	1 Water pump					
	1 Card table with 4 chairs					
	10 Sample cases					
	12 Pictures					
	5 Kite trays					
	1 violin					
	21 parcels					
	2 carton 1 box (Mishimura)					
	2 boxes (Totokondo)					
	1 bed spring					
	1 case & 7 asbestos tubing					
	3 ceiling fixtures					
	6 rubber step mats 36"					
	4 " " 22"					
	1 door mat					
	1 rubber mat 34 x 27					
	1 " " 41 x 27					
	1 Penknife					
	3 300 watt globes					
	2 200 " "					
	2 150 " "					
	2 100 " "					
	8 40 watt globes					



# TSUMA TONOMURA: Case File

---



Tsuma, her children, and her mother-in-law are uprooted to the Lemon Creek internment camp. The RCMP arrest Tsuma's husband, Moichiro, for protesting. He is imprisoned in Ontario.

*Spring 1942*

Tsuma and her husband, Moichiro Tonomura, register with the Custodian of Enemy Property.

—

*September 25, 1942*

Moichiro refuses to leave his farm and is incarcerated in a prisoner-of-war camp.

—

*December 3, 1943*

Tsuma's mother-in-law, Kuni, asks a neighbour to send the ashes of her late son to her in internment.

—

*1944 – 1946*

Government officials disagree over what department is responsible for sending the ashes to the Tonomuras.

—

*February 16, 1946*

Tsuma's mother-in-law, Kuni, pleads with the Custodian to release funds.

—

*August, 1946*

Officials in Japan record the circumstances of Tsuma's deportation from Canada.

—

Library and Archives Canada/ RG27, RG117-C-3; Nikkei National Museum/ 1995.125.2

**MISSION  
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN  
JAPANESE SECTION**

**MAY 15, 1942**

To be completed by persons of the Japanese race having no property in any protected area.

NAME: TONOMURA, (Tsuma) Mrs. Moichiro

HOME ADDRESS: Wren Rd., R.R. No.1. Mission, B.C. REGISTRATION No 13351

SEX: Female AGE: 40 MARRIED? Yes

OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER: Housewife

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: Moichiro ADDRESS: R.R. No.1, Mission, B.C.

NAMES OF LIVING CHILDREN: Shigeru (M) 14 ADDRESS: "

Tsuyuko (F) 13 ADDRESS: "

Mitsuko (F) 11 Eiji (M) 7 ADDRESS: "

I certify that the above information is true and complete and state that I have no property of any kind whatsoever in any protected area in British Columbia.

Dated this 15th day of May 1942.

WITNESS: T.D. Williams

(Signature)

外村 友三  
Mrs T. Tonomura

**LIST OF LIABILITIES:**

**None**

**HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO PAY THESE OFF?**

**FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE**

Whether they have property to declare or not, each Japanese Canadian is required to register with the Office of the Custodian.



MARCH 27, 1942

Powell Stl Branch  
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN  
JAPANESE SECTION

To be completed by persons of the Japanese race having property in any protected area. The proper administration of this property requires such persons to give full particulars as requested in this form.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: TONOMURA, Meichiro  
HOME ADDRESS: Wren Road, Mission District, (R.R. No. 1)  
REGISTRATION NUMBER 13550 SEX: Male AGE: 45  
OCCUPATION: Farmer

(If any business or businesses carried on, state where, under what name and whether carried on by yourself or in partnership with anyone; if partnership, give partner's name.)

EMPLOYER: Self

MARRIED? Yes

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: Tsuna (Name)

ADDRESS OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: R.R. No. 1, Mission District, B.C.

NAMES OF ANY LIVING CHILDREN: George (M); Betty (F); Gene (F); John (M).

ADDRESS OF CHILDREN: R.R. No. 1, Mission, B.C.

AGE OF CHILDREN: 14; 12; 11; 8.

STATEMENT OF ALL REAL PROPERTY (Each parcel must be mentioned and particulars given)

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: (1) Block 14, South-west quarter of section 20,  
Township 17, Map 905, District of New Westminster, Title No. 84943E.

Certificate of title in owner's possession.

(2) Property as described at back of this form.

2. BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS: (1) 5 room bungalow, 1 storey,

frame building, chicken house, rhubarb hot-house with up-stairs, horse barn,

cabin and wood-shed.

(2) Buildings as described on last page of this form.

3. INSURANCE (Give particulars; state where policies are) None

4. TAXES (Amount and where payable) (1) Approximately \$40.00, in arrears, payable at

Mission, B.C. (2) Approximately \$60.00, in arrears, payable at Mission, B.C.

5. ENCUMBRANCES (Including any unregistered claims or deposit of title deed)

(1) Clear

(2) \$150.00, owing Title held as Collateral by Fraser Valley Growers, Ltd, Mission, B.C.

6. OCCUPANCY AND LEASES (If vacant so state) (1) Occupied by declarant

(2) Vacant

The Tonomura home and farm



7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS: (1) Owner's possession.  
(2) Fraser Valley Growers Ltd. Mission, B.C.  
8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST: (2) Fraser Valley Growers, Ltd.  
Mission, B.C.  
9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN  
(1) and (2) Strawberries, loganberries, rhubarb, asparagus, vegetables,  
fruit trees;

**STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED**

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: See Clause (1) and (2), page (1).  
2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Owner is declarant.  
3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID:  
4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE:  
5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid)  
6. IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN: See Clause (9) above,

**STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:**

1. GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND STATE LOCATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES,  
EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, STOCK IN TRADE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:  
Furniture, equipment, and personal property, as per description in attached list.  
2. HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS, POULTRY AND PETS: 1 horse, 1 dog.  
3. GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR  
CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY: None



Reg No 13256

Certificate of Pledge  
Name: Moichiro Tonomura

No. 136395

Building - House 32' x 32'  
Kitchen 20' x 96'  
Rhubarb Hot " 20' x 48' with upstairs.  
Tasse Barn 18' x 24'  
Cabin 12' x 14'  
Wood Shed 12' x 32'

Tsuma's husband, Moichiro, registers everything from their home and farm with the Office of the Custodian.

Kitchen Utensils:

Stove - McAlister's Kitchen & another one	2
Cupboard	1
Pantry	1
Table	2
Electric Stove	1
Dishes	75
Glass Bowls	3
Ordinary Bowls	3
Big Plates	2
Middle size Plates	2
Ordinary Plates	38
Chopsticks	100 pieces
Serving Plates	6
Japanese tea cups	12
Bowls 5 pieces that pile up on top of each	2
Chopping machine	2
Tea cups	18
Candy dishes	3
Japanese sake cup	12
Bake boiler	12
Japanese soup bowls	48
Rice bowls	12
Glass jar (canning)	24
Bread pans	4
1 gallon glass Bottles	4
Lunch kits	2
Kettles	2
Tea pots	2
Large cooking pan.	4



<u>Kitchen Utensils continued</u>		<u>Kitchen Utensils continued</u>	
Double Boiler	1	Pastry Cutter	1 set
Roast pans	2	Butter Dish	1
Frying pans	2	Sugar bowl	1
Bitter knives	5	Flour sieve	1
Forks	6	Egg beaters	3
Knives	6	Salad pans	2
Tea spoons	6	Pie plates	2
Table "	6	Iron plates	1
Big Bowls	2	Rice boiler	1
Large "	2	Water pan	2
Ice Box	1	basin	2
Wash tubs	2	Wash board	1
Furniture		Wash pan	1
Singer Sewing Machine			1
Water stove			1
Office Desk			1
Bureaus			2
Beds			5
Gramophone Records			50
Wooden chairs			9
Trunks			5
Large lock			1
Farming Implements			
Flw.			1
Cultivators			3
Hagon			1
Horse 1 dog			8
Stone Bolts			2
Matticks			4
Doors			4
Potatoe forks			4
prag pumps			3
Double head axes			3
Cross cut saws			4
swede saw			1
pu-vel			1
wegge hammer			1
felling wegge			2
50 ft kalle			1



# Farming Implements continued

cable block	2
crook bar	1
brush axe	1
manure forks	3
pruning scissors	3
fruit tree pruner	2
fly spray	1
bitches	2
shovels	4
shake knife	1
scales	2
large hatchet	1
short handle axe	2
hay hooks	2
scythes	1
sickle	6

# Carpenter Tools

hand saws	2
hammers	3
fruit box hammer	1
sand level	1
square	1
brace	1
grinding stone	1
chisel	5
tin snips	2
box	1
plane	4
auger bits	10
key hole saw	2
tri square	1
hand saw gauge	1

# Mechanic Tools

set of socket wrench	1
measuring tape	1
blue paint snap on tool	1
ordinary wrenches	26
timer point gauge	1
adjusting wrenches	4
screw drivers	6
pliers	3
cold chisels	7
pipe wrenches	3
hammers	5
punches	18
soldering iron	2
small vice	1
jacks	2
grease gun	1
sharpening stone	1

Electric Iron	2
Bicycles	2
fishing rod	1
Electric caution	1
apparagus	1/2 acre
strawberries	1 acre
Rhubarb	1 acre
Logan berries	1 acre
Edstus	1 acre
vegetable garden	1/4 acre

Title No. 28609-E



Certificate of Land  
Name: Naichiro Tonomura

No 136395

Building - House 14' x 34'  
Horse Barn 16' x 24'  
Garage 12' x 16'  
Chicken House 10' x 20'  
Wood Shed 24' x 30'  
Packing Shed  
Fruit Trees 1 Acre  
Strawberries 1 1/4 Acre  
Blackberries 1/2 Acre  
Pasture 2 Acre  
Land for vegetables 2 Acre

Title No. 123210-E



AUGUST 1942

— ICE  
OTTAWA, CANADA

Interment Camp "—"

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Service \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

PRISONER OF WAR MAIL      FREE  
FRANC DE PORT

アングラー捕虜収容所に抑留中郵便料

FORM I.O. 17  
M.F.M. 316  
SSOM-10-44 (5691-2-5333)  
H.Q. 1772-39-2054  
K.P. 18372

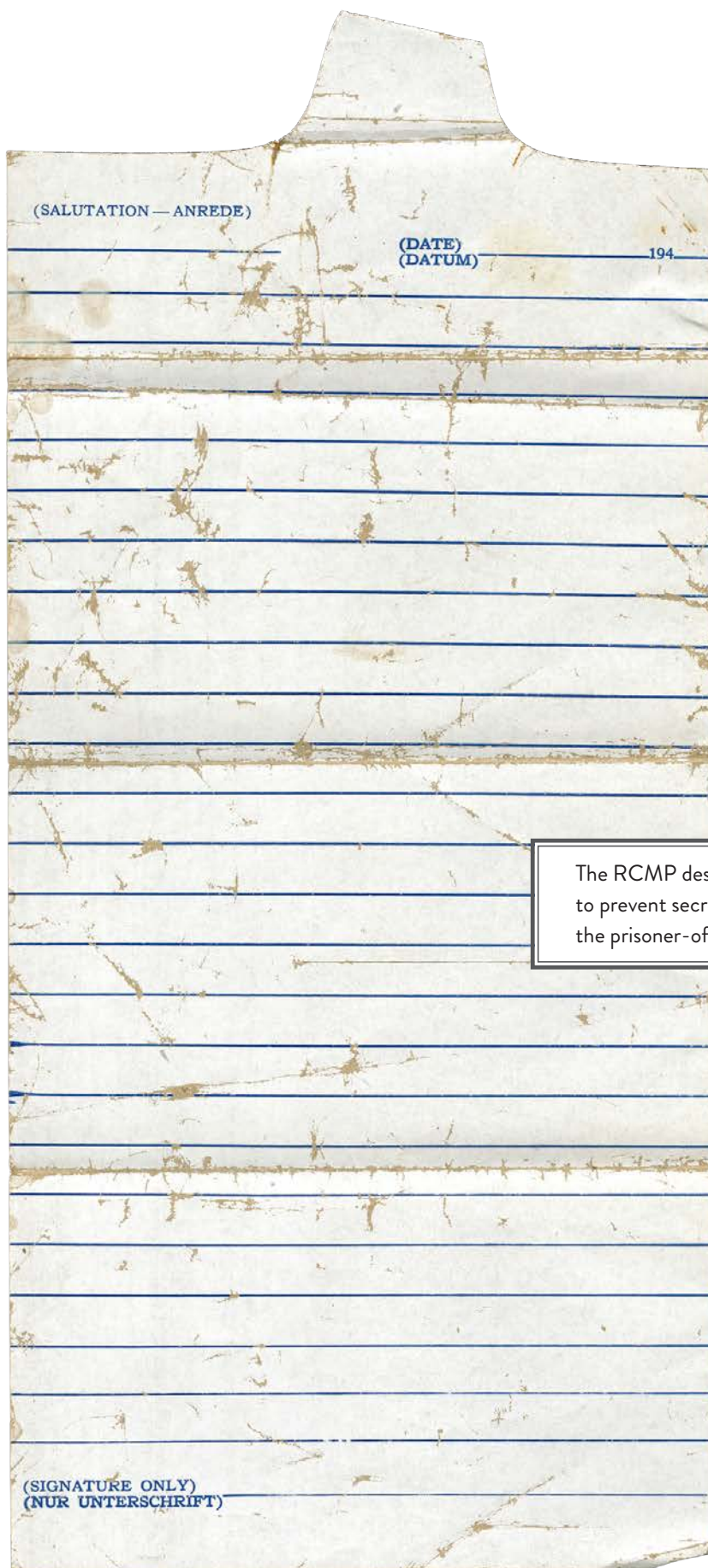
NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN HERE.

NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN.

NON SCRIVERE NULLA.

書勿レ

The RCMP arrest Tsuma's husband, Moichiro, when he refuses to leave the family farm. He is sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Ontario.



The RCMP design this special paper to prevent secret messages from escaping the prisoner-of-war camps.



DECEMBER 3, 1943

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Tsuma's mother-in-law,  
Kuni, writes to a neighbour.

Dear Mr. Thompson,  
Hello! I know you and Haru's  
everything will get over this miserable  
winter day? Haru's <sup>the</sup> spirit is not of your  
family folks, feeling bad? I hope you're  
all feeling very well. Please send my  
very warm regards to your family.  
I meant to have written to you long  
before this but since I had been in my  
your health, being unable to get out of  
bed, most of my first months, and  
I've made myself comfortable at  
last. I hope you'll accept my deepest  
apology for the almost long delay.

"How's the district of my  
former Mission City, B.C.?  
I still miss it terribly..."

Haru's the district of my former  
Mission City, B.C. I care miss it terribly.  
All this, daily in prayer that I might  
well enough to visit the district again.  
We're all living together  
in a very small home, where it is  
very lonesome. The people nearby are

"We're all living together  
in a very small home,  
where it is very lonesome."





DECEMBER 28, 1943

9322

December 28th, 1943.

Mrs. Kuni TONOMURA,  
Registration No. 13352,  
56 Gilead Avenue,  
Lemon Creek,  
Slocan, B. C.

Dear Madam:

Mr. Thompson has forwarded to us for attention your letter dated the 3rd instant with reference to the forwarding of your son's ashes.

We enclose the customary Custodian Release form and would advise you to fill in the form and hand it to the Supervisor of the B. C. Security Commission for attention.

Yours truly,

Geo. B. Spain,  
Protection Department.

GBS/HMS

Mr. Thompson, the Tonomuras' neighbour, forwards the request to the Office of the Custodian.

The Custodian tells Kuni, Tsuma's mother-in-law, to submit a formal request to the British Columbia Security Commission.



APRIL 25, 1944

ACQUITTATION SECTION  
APR 26 1944  
File No. 9322  
Ans. 28/4/44  
Referred Green



BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION  
360 Homer Street,  
Vancouver, B. C.  
April 25th 1944

Dept of Secretary of State,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir,

Re Kuni TONOMURA #13352

We enclose herewith copy of a letter  
received from our Supervisor at Lemon Creek.

In this regard we would point out that  
on February 24th we telephoned your Department  
and we were given to understand that your office  
was not prepared to do anything in the way of  
recovering these ashes.

We would point out that Mrs TONOMURA is  
on maintenance and that this Commission is not  
prepared to meet the costs.

Yours truly,

M.L. Brown  
Office Manager.

A British Columbia Security Commission  
agent refuses the request of Tsuma's  
mother-in-law, Kuni Tonomura.

This is one of many letters between the B.C.S.C.  
and the Office of the Custodian arguing over which  
department is responsible for the Tonomuras' request.

MLB/MS  
enc



APRIL 29, 1944

9322

April 29th, 1944

An Office of the Custodian official argues that they should ship the ashes to the Tonomuras.

The B. C. Security Commission,  
The Dick Building,  
360 Homer Street,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sirs:-

Re: Kuni TONOMURA--Reg. No. 13352

Thank you for your letter of April 25th. On going through our file we saw that this lady had never, as far as we could trace, put in a Custodian Release for these ashes. The writer did not recall the telephone conversation to which you refer, if indeed it was with him. As this lady is now seventy-two years old, we felt that on compassionate grounds, some consideration should be given to her request.

In any case, we feel that the second paragraph of Mr. J. S. Burns' letter of April 25th would not be correct as we have never asked for any guarantee of payment for services of this kind which would be done by our own staff. This, of course, refers only to the locating of the ashes and not to the shipment of them which would come under your Department.

Shipment would not be expensive and we doubt if locating the ashes would cost very much. Under these circumstances, if your Department will look after the shipment cost, we would be prepared to take all reasonable steps to locate the ashes.

Yours truly,

H. F. Green  
Protection Department

The agent offers to search for the ashes if the B.C.S.C. will pay for shipment.

HFG:IF

JANUARY 18, 1946

Tsuma's husband, Moichiro, tries again to have the ashes sent to his family. They have registered for "repatriation" to Japan, and hope to bring the ashes with them.

23-2-17-18

AIR MAIL.

OTTAWA, January 18, 1946.

Mr. T.B. Pickersgill,  
Commissioner of Japanese Placement,  
Department of Labour,  
360 Homer Street,  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Mr. Pickersgill:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of January 15, with respect to the internee Tonomura who wishes to collect his brother's ashes which are buried on their former farm, before repatriation.

We are willing to leave particular problems such as this to your consideration and decision on the merits of the individual case, and certainly if it is difficult or impossible to comply with such a request it should be turned down.

You might suggest to Tonomura in replying to his letter that he ask the local police or a local undertaker to secure the ashes and send them to his family at Lemon Creek.

Yours very truly,

A. MacNamara.

HTP:PD

There is no record of the ashes ever reaching the Tonomuras.



FEBRUARY 16, 1946

Tsuma's mother-in-law, Kuni, pleads for the Office of the Custodian to release additional funds to feed her family.

Reg. No. 13352  
Lemon Creek  
Shonan, B.C.  
Feb. 16, 1946

Mr. H. E. Anderson  
Dept. of the Secretary of State  
Office of the Custodian  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.  
Hastings and Grenville  
Vancouver, B.C.

EVACUATION SECTION  
Rec'd FEB 16 1946

"I would like you to send me the \$80.00 . . . I am in great need of it . . . Not only myself but my son's family is also in great need . . ."

Dear Sir:

I received your letter of the 8th, telling me of the redeemable shares of \$80.00. Thank you very much for your kindness in letting me know.

I would like you to send the sum of \$3.28 which is the interest on my shareholding. I would like you to send me the \$80.00 too. I am in great need of it. That is because I am living on relief and that is not sufficient for me. Not only myself but my son's family is also in great need of money. I pray you'll send it to me very soon.

I am an old woman of seventy-six; my only son is interned and his family is also in the same condition as I am in. I just can't stand this and I can't stand to watch my son's family in such a pitiful state. Since the children are all grown, relief is not sufficient. They can't receive any relief until the middle of March and so my daughter-in-law is worrying every day thinking how she should get along till then. She can't possibly feed her children until middle of March since they didn't

"I am an old woman of seventy-six; my only son is interned and his family is in the same condition I am in. I just can't stand it and I can't stand to watch my son's family in such a pitiful state. Since the children are all grown, relief is not sufficient."



Tsuma is struggling to feed her family on the allowance the government permits Japanese Canadians in the Lemon Creek internment camp.

from the beginning of January. It turned out  
because the B. C. Security Commission gave  
me no relief in such a peculiar way. This was when  
their son was working last year. He tells me nothing is  
left of his work and couldn't even buy his clothing because  
he had to put in \$3.00 to feed his brother and sisters and  
his mother. At the end of every month then  
and don't know what to do because relief  
he worries so much that I always think  
nervous break down sometime. I worry  
no one to depend on if she falls ill. And I am told she does  
all my washing for me and  
everything about the house  
watch this any longer. I want

"... my son's wife worries and [doesn't] know what to do because relief isn't enough. She worries me so much that I always think she might have a nervous breakdown sometime."

"I just can't stand to watch this any longer. I wanted to help them in anyway . . . please help me, then I can save my son's family."

but I am in the same condition and so I couldn't do  
anything. However this time, please help me, then I can  
save my son's family. Unless you do so  
all, it means we'll have to starve to death

"Unless you do something to help us all, it means we'll have to starve to death."

If there were any kind of job anyone can do  
right now, we don't have to suffer this much. There's  
no job that my grandson can do in this snow and no  
job for girls around here. Please, please send me the  
sum of \$80.00. I am sure of it.

I came to Canada when I was forty-two years old,  
and farmed with my son, in Mission, till we had to  
evacuate. I think and I'm sure I did all I can to help  
this country, and wish you to help me this time. It's just  
a little sum that is supposed to be coming to me but it's  
a great help to me and my son's family when we're in



AUGUST 1946

Tsuma registers as a "repatriate" in Japan.

(11) The date of departing...  
and the name of the port:

August 2, 1946,  
Port of Vancouver

(3) Name of Repatriate:  
Tsuma Tonomura

(4) Address as  
of August 15, 1945:  
Lemon Creek,  
Province of B.C., Canada

(14) I declare the circumstances  
outside Japan and repatriation  
of the Repatriate as above:

(15) Address: 640 Kondoh,  
Gokashocho, Kanzaki County

(16) Name: Tsuma Tonomura

9) Family members who lived  
with the Repatriate outside  
Japan on August 9, 1945

昭和二十年八月九日(十五)日までの就職、就業、転居、転居先、その職業を必ず記入すること。就職、転居、その職業を必ず記入すること。就職、転居、その職業を必ず記入すること。

外地における状況等に関する申立書

引揚者の外村つま、昭和二十年八月九日(十五)日の住所 カナダ、ビクトリア、レモンクリーク

右引揚者の外地渡航(外地で出生した者は出生)から昭和二十年八月九日(十五)日までの履歴その他の状況(欄外注意事項参照)

右引揚者の引揚状況 及び出港年月日 昭和二十年八月二日バンクーバー港

本邦上陸年月日 昭和二十年八月十三日蒲賀港

続柄 氏名 住所

長男 外村英次 外村英次子

三男 外村英次 外村英次子

長女 外村英次 外村英次子

二女 外村英次 外村英次子

妻 外村英次 外村英次子

昭和二十年八月九日(十五)日以上の家族引揚の有無 有

引揚者の在外実居調査の有無 有

氏名 住所

外村つま 外村英次子

六四〇番地



# 外地における状況、引揚の状況等に関する申立書

引揚者の氏名	昭和二十年八月九日(十五)日の住所	引揚者の在外実況調査規則による届出の有無
右引揚者の外地渡航(外地で出生した者は出生)から昭和二十年八月九(十五)日までの履歴その他の状況(欄外注意事項参照)	昭和二十年八月九(十五)日の上記家族	
右引揚者の引揚状況	及外に出港年月日 及上陸港名	昭和二十年八月九(十五)日の上記家族
右引揚者の続柄氏名職業(欄外注意事項参照)	住所	昭和二十年八月九(十五)日の上記家族
右引揚者の続柄氏名職業(欄外注意事項参照)	住所	昭和二十年八月九(十五)日の上記家族

右引揚者の外地における状況、引揚の状況等を右のとおり申し立てます。

昭和 年 月 日

住所 氏名

印

注意 一 履歴その他の状況は、外地渡航又は外地で出生したときから昭和二十年八月九(十五)日までの就職、就業、転職、転業、住所移転、応召、入営、入学等の状況を年月日をおつて記入すること。就職、応召、入学等をした場合、それぞれ就職先の名称、所在地及び就職先における地位、応召部隊名、入学学校名等を、自営業の場合は、その業種を必ず記入すること。

二 職業欄は、昭和二十年八月九(十五)日において、入営又は応召中であつたときは、その者の職業を記入し、その下に括弧をつけて、その中に「入営中」又は「応召中」と記載すること。