

Takashi Matsui

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Question: If I could just get your name, first and last name and the correct spelling of it so I have it on tape and I can set audio levels at the same time, so when you're ready.

Answer: My name?

Question: Yes, please.

Answer: Takashi Matsui, T-A-K-A-S-H-I M-A-T-S-U-I.

Question: Thank you very much.

Answer: You're welcome.

Question: Let's start off with, now you're a Kibei, right, isn't that correct?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: And, so you were born in the United States?

Answer: I was born in Oregon.

Question: And, did your Mom, your Dad immigrated to the United States?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And what was he doing in Oregon?

Answer: I heard they were working on an apple orchard.

Question: And then you were born and then did your Mom and Dad and you go back to Japan?

Answer: No, my Mom took me back to Japan.

Question: Just you or, do you have a brother or?

Answer: No I was a first-born and I was the only one she took me to Japan.

Question: And now where, what Prefecture was your family from?

Answer: They were from Fukuoka in the southern part of Japan.

Question: Is that where you went back to.. Fukuoka?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: And did that, now why did they take you back to Japan?

Answer: I don't know but I heard those days it was customary for the pioneer, first generation to send boys back to Japan for education because they thought American education was no good. Well anyway they thought that the, we should

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learn Japanese language so we can communicate with them later on. I think that was the main reason.

Question: So your Mom and Dad were very traditional Japanese being Issei, correct?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And they, they weren't citizens, isn't that right? They weren't allowed to be citizens in the United States?

Answer: No, they were not allowed to become citizens until; well I'm talking about the first generation, until I don't know, way after the war.

Question: Huh.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Now, how old were you when you went back to Japan?

Answer: Well I don't remember but they say I was about three.

Question: And how long did you live in Japan?

Answer: I lived in Japan through high school.

Question: So you spent quite a long time there?

Answer: About fourteen, fifteen years. I grew up over there.

Question: So did you think, did you feel that you were Japanese or did you feel that your were American after that?

Answer: When I was there?

Question: Yeah.

Answer: Well, I knew I was Japanese but I also knew that I was born in the United States and that some day I would come back here, yeah.

Question: Did people over there.. your friends at school, did, was there a difference because you were American born.. did your friends at school?

Answer: No.

Question: They didn't..

Answer: They didn't, in fact a lot of them didn't know that I was born in this country.

Question: You didn't have an accent then?

Answer: No.

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Question: Cause you were so young.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Yeah.. huh. Now what year did you come back to the United States?

Answer: I came back here in 1934.

Question: And what did you do then?

Answer: Well, I came back to Seattle because my uncle was here. By then both of my parents were in Japan. So I came back here relying on my uncle and I stayed with them for a little while. I came back in April..

Question: Yeah.

Answer: April, and I stayed with them for a while. And they thought that instead of just staying with them I should go out to the countryside to work, which I did. Went out to Bellevue to pick strawberries and later on to Sumner area to pick blackberries and peas.

Question: So did you...were, what were you doing in the, do you remember where you were when Pearl Harbor happened?

Answer: Pearl Harbor?

Question: Yes.

Answer: Yes, I was staying with an American family and going to University of Washington. And I was in my senior year about to finish my course in business, June of the following year, 1942. But I couldn't do it... Army got me.

Question: Do you remember how you heard about it? Where you were when you heard that it had been bombed... Pearl Harbor?

Answer: Do I remember?

Question: Yeah, do you remember when you, where you were and when..?

Answer: Yes, I was with this American family. I heard about radio broadcast about 11 o'clock in the morning, yeah.

Question: Did the, what did, did you know it was, did you know that maybe this was gonna' happen and maybe we were gonna..?

Answer: Well, things were getting bad and I don't think anybody expected the Pearl Harbor attack. We kind of thought that the Navy, the war is inevitable, that it's coming, it was coming but I guess we, nobody knew where and how it's gonna, was gonna happen. So it was a surprise.

Question: But there was a surprise where but there weren't, but people did know that we might have trouble...I mean the, it was a surprise that it happened in Pearl

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Harbor but that we, people in this country, they did know that Japan and we were at odds, right?

Answer: Yes. I think most of the people knew something bad was gonna happen you know.

Question: Nowadays for kids in school and for the majority I think of children when they talk about World War II and Pearl Harbor and the attack, their opinion is, is just that it just happened and there wasn't any preamble to it, to where there was a warning or anything. But we, it's, we, our country actually had been sort of battling with Japan diplomatically for quite a while, hadn't we, because of what was going on in China, is that true that they?

Answer: Well, we that is I, I knew that the Japanese diplomats, we knew their names, were working with American foreign department, well was it a foreign, no department of..

Question: State?

Answer: Oh, State department officials like, now I forgot the name...diligently in Washington D.C. and we were hoping they would kind of resolve the situation, solve the situation. But apparently, according to the stories and the movies I've seen, there was a lack of communication between Japanese foreign department and the General Tojo's war cabinet.

Question: Did the, was there a big change, on December 7 when you heard about Pearl Harbor on the radio was there an immediate change for you here in Seattle?

Answer: Well, that was Sunday, the following day I went to school and lot of friends of mine came to me and said I had nothing to do with it and that they were still friends of mine.. and they kind of encouraged me. No I didn't personally, I didn't feel any inconvenience or anything out of ordinary the following day and weeks after. I don't recall anything bad taking place as far as I was concerned. I understand that wasn't the case when I went to school some of the students said that the regular bus didn't pick them up and so they had to wait for the next, or next, next bus. And then some bad thing happened in a farm area, like Auburn, Renton, places like that. But I didn't, I didn't feel anything different. I think everybody treated me fine.

Question: Did you graduate from the U of W before you went to the military or?

Answer: Did I what?

Question: Did you graduate from the U of W?

Answer: No, I couldn't graduate. After, no, before Pearl Harbor attack my draft board said that I was subject to draft and this was before Pearl Harbor so I said, well I'm going to school and that I have one more year to go so let me finish and the official said, well you apply deferment which I did. And they gave me three months deferment so I was, so that I could finish so I could attend the winter quarter. Well, then this attack came and there was no more deferment so I had to forget about the education.

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Question: So they drafted you right away then.

Answer: Not right away but I put things in order so I could be drafted any time. Actually I was drafted March of '42, the following year.

Question: Did the, now you do have a heavy accent because you were raised in Japan and your Japanese must be very good.

Answer: Well, I learned the Japanese language before English you know.

Question: So when you were, how did, when you finally were, entered the military what happened about.. Did they immediately say to you, you're a Japanese speaker and we want to do something special with you or how did that happen?

Answer: Well, no I was at the, I was drafted at the, Fort Lewis and for about at least ten days I didn't do anything except get shots and eat good food and then more and more boys of Japanese descent came and I think after about ten days or two weeks there were about fourteen, fifteen of us and they give us a order to go to Arkansas for basic training. And I guess I was, well I was 25; and they figured I was the oldest so they put me in charge of these boys and so we got on the train and went to Arkansas.

Question: It was all Japanese Americans?

Answer: About fifteen of us, yes, went together.

Question: So why did they send you to Arkansas to train?

Answer: I don't know.

Question: Cause there were people were being trained here at Fort Lewis weren't they?

Answer: I guess so. Some might have gotten basic training at Fort Lewis. I don't know why Arkansas, yeah.

Question: Had you.. now that.. did you take.. you took a train back to Arkansas?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: What was that like, the train trip back there going across... did you, did people hear your accent and look at you differently or were everybody..

Answer: Well, no, we didn't, I don't remember meeting anybody... we were among ourselves on the train. I don't remember anything about other passengers. They told us to close our blinds so we closed the blinds. That's about all.

Question: They didn't want, they didn't want everybody to know there was a trainload of Japanese going across the country or?

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Answer: I don't know; I don't know what the reason was... maybe because of precaution to avoid the, like well-lit train going might attract enemy or whatever. I don't know.

Question: Now, when was it that the military intelligence, when did they take you?

Answer: Oh, how did that happen?

Question: Yeah.

Answer: Well, after the basic training quite a few of us didn't get any assignment and others, Caucasian soldiers were assigned almost every day but we didn't get any assignment so we waited and about I think August of '42 we were sent to Fort Warren, Wyoming in Fort Warren, Wyoming for, to be assigned to Headquarters Company. In the Army we used to call it the Boo-gang, for doing nothing.

Question: Now what was that that you called it?

Answer: Boo-gang.

Question: Boo-gang?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: And how did you come up with that name?

Answer: I don't know. Headquarters Company was known as Boo-gang and so every day we were doing odd jobs, like moving old wooden stove from one end of the warehouse to the other end, the following day put them back to where they were and all that. And one day in the company day room I was looking at the, all kinds of books and brochure and I don't know who published that but there was a small brochure on Japanese language so I was looking at and I saw a lot of errors so I was talking to my friend looking at how many errors it has and we were all kind of ridiculing the brochure and I think 1st Sergeant or somebody, a Caucasian Sergeant overheard what we were saying. He must have report it and in about a couple of weeks I had an order to go to, myself, just myself, order to go to place known as Camp Savage in Minnesota and I didn't know what the, it was all about but after I got off the train small, real small station the station master said, boy you're going to Camp Savage. I'll call them. And he called and somebody came after me so that's how I knew that there a whole bunch of us. And then after I went, the Commandant who was a Full Colonel asked me to come into his office and I went and he talked to me a little bit but he had my background information. And he asked me if I could read certain pages of some kind of a Japanese textbook and I read and he says, well what does it say? So I told him what it said in English and he says, well okay. You're assigned to Class A-1 and so tomorrow morning you will report to A-1 and I did. And the class was already going on for three months, June to September, three months already. And I went in there and then after three months the school was, the course was over in December and I graduated with the rest of them and that's how I got involved in the Intelligence Service Language School.

Question: You were an instructor there were you?

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Answer: After the course, we were given furlough and I went to see my uncle in Idaho. He was in camp and after a few days I went back to the post and they told me I was to remain with the school and be one of the instructors, yeah. That's how I began to stay there during the war.

Question: Your uncle was in Minedoka was he?

Answer: Yeah, Idaho.

Question: Was it just he or did he, his whole family there or..?

Answer: His whole family.

Question: Was that hard for you to see that happening?

Answer: Well, I think all of us were kind of resigned to that. There wasn't much anybody could do. It was a government order. Japan was enemy and everybody was there so I figured that's the way it's gonna be.

Question: Now your Mom and Dad were in Japan, were they? So was that sort of a hard situation? Had you heard from your Mom and Dad?

Answer: No, not until after the war, yeah. After the war...during the war they won't, that school won't let me go overseas. They, I guess wanted us to remain to teach and so the war was over and so I said, now that the war is over, can you let me go to Japan or overseas and then they let me go, 1946, about a year after the war was over. And after I got to Japan, first thing the Army asked me was whether or not I had relatives in Japan. I said, I do and they said, well, take a two-week furlough and go and see them. So I did. That was the first time I saw them and talked to them since before the war.

Question: Like five years or..?

Answer: No, you see, I left them 1934 and this was 1946 so..

Question: Years and years..

Answer: Yeah, yeah.

Question: Did, was, were you worried about your parents during..?

Answer: I was wondering if they were all right, yes, I was concerned.

Question: So did you remember when you finally found them do you remember them, meeting them again or..? Do you remember that first time when your Mom saw you?

Answer: You mean after the war?

Question: Yeah, when you found them.

Answer: Oh sure, I recognized right away. I went to their home.

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Question: Is that where you had been when you were living in Japan?

Answer: Yes.

Question: So did, were they surprised? Were you in a uniform?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Were they surprised?

Answer: Yes. But they were happy to see me. For one thing I had duffel bag full of all kinds of goodies and I give all that to them so they are very happy.

Question: So were they, were they proud of you?

Answer: I think so.

Question: So even the, it was sort of odd to, here your Mom and Dad were Japanese living in Japan and then you come, then the next time they see you you're an American serviceman.

Answer: Well they told me to come back here (the US) and I did and that's the way it happened. My younger brother didn't have a chance... he was born in Seattle, but he didn't have a chance to come over here before the war but after he finished high school a couple of years, he was conscripted into the Japanese Army and he didn't come back.

Question: He didn't survive the war?

Answer: No, no. He was sent down to New Guinea and Mother said first he was missing in action and then later I understood that he was still missing. They couldn't find his remains.. so... well, that happened to a lot of us, you know.

Question: Yeah it's sort of different and here your Mom and Dad had sons on both sides to worry about, one son was in the Japanese Army and one was in the American Army so that must have been..

Answer: That happened to quite a few families.

Question: So that was a common thing to?

Answer: I heard about some other person here in the states now say that his brother who was in the Japanese Army... they didn't meet in the front, the front line but they met in Japan after the war was over, yeah.

Question: So were your Mom and Dad, I suppose they were equally worried and proud of both of you regardless of what side you were on, huh?

Answer: I think so.

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Question: Did you, when you got to your home town in Japan, it was probably big news, I suppose everybody in, was it a small area that your parents lived in, a small city or?

Answer: Small area, yeah.

Question: So you were probably, it was probably big news in that area when you showed up in town?

Answer: Well, if my parents told them, yeah. I guess they told them.

Question: Did lots of people come to see you?

Answer: Well, I didn't stay very long. I stayed only a couple of days, yeah.

Question: There wasn't a lot of...Japan was, the war really cost Japan dearly, I mean, it was pretty heavily bombed and people were starving, weren't they towards the end, weren't they?

Answer: In big cities, the situation was much, much worse than the countryside. Our folks were in the countryside so I guess they didn't have too much trouble finding food. In fact, they could raise their own food so I think they didn't starve. But in city, it was a different matter.

Question: What city did you go to when you first..?

Answer: Well, first city I was.. was in Tokyo. And every night we used to see lot of Japanese lying down on the street near the basement windows because warm vapor was coming out. This is a building where we were staying and so the steam was coming out so they were all around there. We used to, it was dark and we used step on them, yeah and go two, three blocks I don't know which side but away from the train station we used to see people living in a well, not so, it was sort of a cave, they had tin roof and they were shining shoes all people go back and forth. Anyway I had my shoes shined by them but they were doing that.

Question: Did Tokyo; you had seen Tokyo before the war right?

Answer: No, I, I didn't go to Tokyo before the war. From the countryside I took a train to Yokohama to board the ship. I didn't go to Tokyo, no.

Question: But Tokyo, when the Tokyo you saw in 1946 it was pretty well destroyed, wasn't it?

Answer: No, it wasn't bad. (Not very audible)

Question: Could you, you could probably, could you look for a mile and see nothing but bombed buildings or..?

Answer: Yes, from the... either from the train window or you know, as you drive by jeep between Tokyo and Yokohama, I used to go back and forth from Yokohama where our war crimes trials were being held in Tokyo where the prisoners were incarcerated I had to go back and forth on a jeep. And for months, maybe for a couple of years on both side of the highway we could see nothing but concrete

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chimneys. Everything else was flat. Gosh, and that was true where my folks were.. not immediate neighbor, but the big steel mill you know, Yahata Steel Mill. Around there as far as I could see it was flat, nothing, only the concrete chimneys were standing.

Question: And there were people trying to live in that, huh?

Answer: Well, I guess they did the best they could.

Question: I heard, Mr. Doi said that there were lots of children who were orphans that were in Tokyo.

Answer: There were?

Question: Lots of orphans, children that were..

Answer: Why sure..

Question: trying to survive..

Answer: They lost their parents, maybe their parents died in bombing or something happened to them. I saw orphans too, yeah.

Question: Now in Yokohama is where the trials were, right. Is that what you, now explain why, now you were still in the Army, right?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Now what was your duty when you got sent to Japan?

Answer: I didn't know what my duties were. They just sent me there and first I was assigned to office known as Fundamental Research and there was American Ph.D., Dr. somebody. Well there were quite a few doctors, Ph.D.'s, in that area and this office had to do with custody of precision machines that universities had and the universities because it was about a year or so after war was over so university wanted the machines back for education purpose. And our job was to visit the various universities to see if they really needed precision machines. And we went from Tokyo to all the way up northern part of Japan to see various universities and talk to them and I think eventually the machine tools were released. That was my first job. And then after that was over I was assigned to 9th Corp which was situated in northern part of Japan and they were in charge of, among other things, processing Japanese coming back from Russia and so my job was to take charge of about fifteen, twenty enlisted men to do interrogation or inquiries of Japanese soldiers, especially officers coming back from Russian zone. We did that in northern part of Japan.

Question: So where they coming back from... what was the name of the island that..?

Answer: Sakhaline

Question: Sakhaline?

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Answer: Yeah.

Question: Is that where they were coming from?

Answer: Yeah, they are coming back from there, yeah. And that was toward the end of 1946 and pretty soon the port in Sakhaline froze and the ship couldn't go in anymore so we were sent down to southern part of Japan to do the same kind of a thing involving Japanese coming back from China and we had to open up a new port. So we did that and we stayed there about three, four months and then once the port in northern part of Japan or Sakhaline unfroze we had to go back there again.

Question: So what was it that you were interrogating them for, what did you want to find out?

Answer: Well, we wanted, the Army wanted us to find out what these Japanese found out about Russian Army I guess, what kind of a weapons they had, who were, or if they knew the name, high ranking officers, how they lived and things like that, military information.

Question: So we really wanted to find out about the Russians then is what we wanted to know. What you really were trying to do is find out what the Russians were up to.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Yeah. So then you eventually finished interrogating people when, and then you moved on to war crime trials or how did you..?

Answer: Well then my active duty came to an end and the Army wanted me to stay and continue to do this but I thought I had enough of Army life so I said, no thank you. They were promising all kinds of things... higher rank and nice quarters to live and all that, but I said, no. In the meantime friends of ours were already working for war crimes and they needed more people so they said, come on down to Yokohama 8th Army Headquarters and work for the war crimes as a civilian, not active duty soldier, but as a civilian and the pay was better. So I took discharge and went to work for war crimes, war crimes defense.

Question: Did, jumping back before we get to that... all these soldiers, these Japanese military that you were interrogating, were they glad the war was over?

Answer: Yes, yes, they were very happy to be back, yeah.

Question: The war was pretty terrible on the Japanese, huh?

Answer: Uh huh.

Question: Now when you were working for the defense, now you, were, was the U.S. government paying you or..?

Answer: The U.S. government.

Question: Okay.

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Answer: Well, the 8th Army, yeah.

Question: And you were, now you were working, you were appointed as a, you were a member of the defense of Japanese war criminals, is that, what was your position with the defense?

Answer: Well, in 8th Army there was a Judge Advocate section and under that or in that there was a defense division, War Crimes Defense Division. The prosecution was in Tokyo and we, the defense people were in Yokohama and the, there was a Major in charge of the defense division. We had lots of civilian lawyers from the United States. We hired Japanese lawyers also and somebody had to go and do the job in between so we were hired as investigators and our job was to get testimony from witnesses favorable to defense. We had to go all over Japan to find witnesses and then the testimony was in English and we give it, we gave that to American lawyers and they did their defense work.

Question: Did, now... were these Class-A criminals or were these, was this like Tojo in..?

Answer: No, they were known as B-Class war criminal; they were perpetrators. For instance in prisoner of war camp in Japan when the air raid came they had to evacuate and there were quite a few American B-29 flyers in there. Some of them were sick; some of them couldn't walk. They had to evacuate everybody and one, one guard decided to make it easy for the prisoner... he couldn't walk and if you leave, if he was left there, he would be burnt to death. They couldn't carry everybody and the fire was on so he got the idea maybe he would make it easy for him, so he took his Japanese sword and killed him. It was a merciful deed but in the eyes of our American Army that's a crime so he was tried as a war criminal. I mean that's one example and others were like as I said, denied medicine or failed to provide medicine, the right kind of food and right kind of treatment I guess. And then there was a detachment of Navy personnel in southern Okinawa where B-29 flyers were killed where the charge said that the, they put the B-29 flyers tied to a post or something and officer, Naval officer ordered the enlisted sailors go charge with a bayonet - that was a charge and that sort of thing. You see they were not policymakers; they were perpetrators and all those, there must have been hundreds of cases like that so we were supposed to work in defense of all these criminals.

Question: Did you meet these people?

Answer: Pardon me?

Question: Did you talk to these people that were being tried?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: So you actually could sit there like you and I and talk to them?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: So you could question them, as part of your job, would you, so you could find out what they had to say and..?

Answer: Uh huh, well, superior order they said.

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Question: Oh, the defendants would say superior order..

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Is there a difference you know, you talked about the man who, that he thought he was being merciful by executing the airman before he burned in the fire... is, is there a difference in how I guess you look at war and being a soldier and responsibility between a Japanese imperial military and a U.S. military man? Do you see what I'm saying? That is there that man who, that man who took his sword and executed that airman was he really, truly thinking he was being a merciful person?

Answer: Uh huh.

Question: He was?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: So was he found guilty for that crime?

Answer: He was found guilty, yeah. Just like, say, a doctor killing a patient to stop him suffer more or take the plug out because he's vegetable... same kind of a thinking you know.

Question: But for, so the, I guess the thing is it depends on who, where you were standing if he was guilty or not I guess. Because of our mentality, he would be guilty then, is that, was that hard for, when that man was found guilty, was he surprised that he was found guilty?

Answer: No, he wasn't surprised.

Question: He wasn't?

Answer: No, so well because he knew he killed. But he killed, not savagely, well, he thought he did American soldier, flyer a favor so he won't suffer anymore.

Question: That, it has to do, I guess, with just different countries and the way you're raised and you think I suppose. So with you being raised as, you being Kibei and having been raised in Japan, do you see issues, can you be, can you stand in that man's shoes and see his point of view?

Answer: I can, I could understand him.

Question: So you could understand..

Answer: Especially during the war time, especially when air raid took place and then they had to evacuate everybody. There were too many to evacuate.

Question: So were there, were there times in these war crime trials that there were verdicts that you disagreed with or that did you think that it was sort of western justice and they should have been..?

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Answer: Well, that's a, you know, the trial was a... trials were held after the war during the peacetime, in heated courtroom where everybody can talk peacefully. It's a different situation, yeah. It's hard to understand but his wife said that the husband did kill, yeah.

Question: What was the verdict in his case? Or what was the penalty?

Answer: The verdict was hanging by neck.

Question: So he was executed. And you met his widow then?

Answer: Huh?

Question: You spoke to his wife?

Answer: Yeah. During the trial, yeah.

Question: Huh. So is that someone that was hard, did you... that must have been sort of hard because you were his, part of his defense team, so you had actually worked on this case and everything?

Answer: It was very, very difficult.

Question: Do you think that it was, so you think it's circumstances that he hung because we won the war, I mean is that sort of the thing is that, if it was someone else judging him they might have said oh we understand. Does, this is something that comes up all the time and I asked Mr. Doi this and.. Because there's.. Things in Japan were completely different pre-World War II and you know, I think it's real hard for people, young people, maybe even young people in Japan to understand about things like the Code of Bushido Do you know what I'm talking about? Because wasn't that the code, for a warrior's code, about what an imperial military's behavior was supposed to be like, wasn't that what Bushido was?

Answer: Code of Samurai is a convenient term. Somebody coined it. I really don't know what it is.

Question: Oh see, you don't know what Bushido, is that what Bushido was supposed to be Code of Samurai?

Answer: That's what it is.

Question: Oh okay.

Answer: Yeah, Bushi is a Samurai. Ido is a way. Way of Samurai or Code of...I don't know, I think they coined a word to say whatever was, whatever made sense for them.

Question: To explain their way of life.

Answer: Yeah. It wasn't, it wasn't something that was easily understood by people other than Samurai. Years ago it was all right for Samurai to kill anybody.. if he found justified. That doesn't make sense.

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Question: Does a.. I think, you know, someone we talked to they had said they had spoken to some Japanese in Imperial Military and asked about viewpoints on things and this man's response was, you can never understand because you're not Japanese. Is there some of that, is there some truth to that? That I could never understand what, that the man that you defended that got sentenced to death that I can never understand his point of view because I'm, I wasn't raised in that time and Japanese?

Answer: Well, I think you could be made to understand. I think somebody should be able to explain to you logically so that you understand. Whether you agree or not is something else and when, whenever they say, well you gotta' be Japanese to be able to understand I think they're just escaping. I think they are just making excuse. Basically all these things must be understood by all people.. to me.

Question: Yeah, I understand when you talked about this man and his view on really putting this airman out of his misery before he burned to death. It's very understandable that point of view. I understand that but I think that there's a lot of talk, cause we've spoken to lots of veterans who were POW's during the war and had fought the Japanese and they're always amazed by the ferocity, like in Okinawa, how fierce the fighting was and that a lot of it was to, it was to the death where there, what was the name of the castle on Okinawa that they, the last, I can't remember the name of it. There was a castle and it was like the last, last pocket of resistance in Okinawa that they..

Answer: Okinawa?

Question: Yeah.

Answer: Last pocket of resistance? I don't know what that was.

Question: Well, there's, I think what I'm trying to get to is that it's hard under, you know, I can understand the point of view and the thinking of Japanese military back then but it was a very, it was extremely different type of thought in life compared to United States, the way that your Japanese military mind worked, wasn't it? What I'm saying..

Answer: I think so.

Question: That I mean that it wasn't that a man who there's certain things that in our viewpoint were excesses and were things that should be tried as war crimes, that the man who did it, that he felt he was doing his duty, did he? Do you see what I'm saying?

Answer: Uh huh, well if I think, if Japanese won the war and if Japanese flyers were in American prisoner of war camp and air raid took place and if American guard shot the man, merciful killing, maybe Japanese will find him not guilty.

Question: Uh huh. So it's sort of the man, it's the winners make the rules, is that sort of the..

Answer: I think so, yeah.

Takashi Matsui

Tape 1 of 2

Question: One more question about this. In the seventies the fourteen.. weren't. The Class A war criminals they were policymakers, isn't that right?

Answer: How many?

Question: Tojo Sp and that group, they were all, they were policymakers, weren't they?

Answer: About twenty-some odd, yeah.

Question: Were fourteen that were executed I think, wasn't it.

Answer: Fourteen, something like that.

Question: Well in, I read it, I was reading that in, there's a famous temple in Tokyo which is where, it's, the temple is the memorial for the war dead... do you know what the name of that is?

Answer: Yeah, the Yasukuni Shrine.

Question: And it's in the news all the time because the prime minister of Japan..

Answer: Yeah, uh huh.

Question: and he, and the Koreans and the Chinese are sort of mad at him because he went there and (let me change tapes first before I ask that)