

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

VOICES OF INTERNMENT

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Elaine (EF) and Edward "Charlie" Fukada (CF)

March 14, 2018

By: Melvin Inamasu (MI)

Notes: Comments in brackets [] are by the transcriber. Inaudible words or sections are identified by ((?)) in the transcript. This transcript has been lightly edited for readability.

MI: Today is March 14, 2018 and we're at the residence of Elaine Fukada, her son's home to learn about Mrs. Fukada's father. [She is here with her son, Edward Fukada]. My name is Mel Inamasu. I am a volunteer at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. I'm going to begin by asking Mrs. Fukada to introduce herself, her full name, the month and year of your birth and where you were born.

EF: My maiden name is Yoneko Terada.

MI: When did you get the English name?

EF: I think this was, I'm not sure what grade, but one of the teachers at school, I think it was about the fifth or sixth grade. I can't remember if it was Kanahale or Boyd but one of those two, they said we should try to change all these Oriental names, try to get an American name. This is how ... my sister suggested that ... I had an older sister who was helping my dad with the wholesale and retail business.

MI: So, your sister chose the name for you.

EF: Well it was a decision, we debated and then ...

MI: When were you born and where were you born?

EF: Six, twenty seven [June 1927] and I was born right where we had our official business. My grandfather was a *shoyu* [soy sauce] maker and so my father took over.

MI: Let me ask you about your parents. Start with your father's side. Your father's name and your mother's name to begin with.

EF: My father's name is Kyuzo Terada.

MI: And your mother's maiden name and full married name?

EF: My mother's name is Ura Sugimoto. Then she got in to the Terada [family].

MI: Were your parent first generation in Hawaii? They immigrated?

EF: No. I think my grandfather.

MI: Let's go back on your father's side. Do you know much about his parents? Their names, why they came to Hawaii?

EF: No, I don't know. My grandfather's name was Tajiro Terada.

MI: He's the one who came to Hawaii on your father's side?

EF: Yes.

MI: Your father was born in Hawaii? Or he came as a child?

EF: I really don't know. I don't think he was born in Hawaii.

MI: Do you know if your grandfather worked on a plantation?

EF: No. No. Definitely. None of them. They were merchants and *shoyu* maker.

MI: Your grandfather had the *shoyu* factory.

EF: Yes.

MI: And, your father took over the *shoyu* factory?

EF: Not really took over. There was a period where they stopped. Just before the war started and things were hard to come [import] from the Orient, for some reason I don't know, my father decided to start making *shoyu*.

MI: But his father had made *shoyu* before?

EF: Prior, yes. Actually, it was his father [who] was making *shoyu* too. It's not where we were living but in another spot, further up towards Kalihi. I remember one incident they had was—those were horse and buggy days I guess—they spilled *shoyu* on the road and it was a big mess. (chuckle)

MI: What was the name of your father's *shoyu* company?

EF: It was just Terada Shoten, I think. The name of the *shoyu* was Kikoki.

MI: Kikoki Shoyu in Kalihi?

EF: Kapalama.

MI: Do you think he learned to make *shoyu* from his father?

EF: Apparently. And he started only after things were hard, [things] were not coming in from Japan. *Shoyu*. So it was a big deal. He had a wholesale business anyway so he had the room so ...

MI: So he added it on.

EF: Yes. He had a big ... big, big *kama* [pot] where they boiled and start making the *shoyu*. Then, so many days later they would squeeze it. It was a real ...

MI: In addition to the *shoyu* they had a regular store?

EF: Wholesale business.

MI: That was in Kapalama?

EF: Yes, right across from where Oahu Junk used to be.

MI: What part of Japan did they come from?

EF: Hiroshima.

MI: Let's go now to your mother's side. Her parents, do you know their names?

EF: Her maiden name was, I think, Sugimoto.

MI: And she came to Hawaii as a child with her parents?

EF: No, she came as a bride for my father.

MI: So, they were married [in Japan] and they came here?

EF: I think so.

MI: Did they come with their parents?

EF: No, no. Although my grandmother and my grandfather on my father's side were here. But my mother's side, no.

MI: She came as a bride?

EF: As a bride, yes.

MI: So, they're both first generation. Do you know about when they came to Hawaii?

EF: No.

MI: And, she was also from Hiroshima prefecture?

EF: My nephew has records. My brother just above me was very into this so he has all kinds but my nephew's living in ...

CF: Waialae Nui.

MI: What's his name?

EF: Owen Terada. Owen Kimitoshi Terada. He's the only male.

MI: Your mother helped your father with the *shoyu* and with the business?

EF: She came as a picture bride.

CF: No, Uncle Joey told me she ran away from home. Her brother told us this story. She ran away from home, I don't know where home was, came to Hawaii on her own and she was trained as a seamstress. So, she came to work as a seamstress here. I remember uncle telling this, the first time she saw Hawaii from the boat, she cried.

MI: Cried in joy, or cried in sadness?

CT: She was disappointed because apparently whenever [it was that] she came, all the hills around Honolulu were bare. Lot of erosion when she came. They had somewhat of an arranged marriage. I don't know much of the details, between my grandmother and my grandfather. But she ran away from home. Something about an arranged marriage that she didn't want to go through with in Japan.

MI: Tell us about yourself now. Where were you born, where did you grow up?

EF: Right where we were, in Kapalama. Born there, 1927.

MI: So, you grew up there in Kapalama and you were around where the store was. How many children in your family?

EF: Let's see, my sister, my older brother George, myself and ... five of us.

MI: Can you give me the names?

EF: My sister's name was Hatsuko. My older brother's name was Hisataro and my brother above me was Ryoichi. And me, my name was Yoneko and my younger brother, who is way younger than me, is Tamotsu.

MI: What was it like, growing up in Kapalama? Where did you go to school?

EF: We went to Naalei kindergarten which is right by where the Palama Fire Station used to be. Then it was Kaiulani School, right opposite where Tamashiro Market is now. I don't know whether it's still there or not.

MI: Let me ask you about the wartime period and your father. Do you remember December 7, 1941? Do you remember what you were doing?

EF: It was a Sunday morning, and it was a wash day for me.

MI: What do you mean?

EF: Wash clothes, once a week. It was my duty. I was up on the ... we had a warehouse, we had the wholesale business and my father was making *shoyu*, also. So there was a warehouse. We had a two-story house here and right next to it, there was a warehouse where the *shoyu* was kept. And that building was just as tall as our second story house upstairs. And above the warehouse, my father had made a clothesline to hang clothes. And, that's where I was when the first bomb was dropped, and I saw that under ... I was there and I saw smoke ...

MI: You heard the planes flying over?

EF: Yes, I saw the *Hinomaru* [Japan flag].

MI: What did you think when you saw that?

EF: I thought, "What kind of practice is this?" Training or practice. And then I can see smoke coming up from Pearl Harbor side because I'm on top of the warehouse, two story warehouse. On top of that, I'm hanging the clothes.

MI: You could see all the way to Pearl Harbor?

EF: I can see the smoke; I can't see Pearl Harbor but the smoke coming up. And my sisters down, yelling at me to "Come down, come down! We're being attacked!"

MI: Were they listening to the radio?

EF: I don't know.

MI: But somehow they knew.

EF: They probably found out ... even the radio ... I don't think they used to put it on all the time. (chuckle)

MI: So, you came down [from the roof], what did you do, as a family? Did your parents try to explain to you what [was happening]? You were a teenager?

EF: No, younger than that, I think. 1927 and it was '41. So, I must have been ...

MI: Maybe thirteen or fourteen. Remember what grade you were in, at the time?

EF: Between sixth and seventh [grade]. My father was at a Chamber of Commerce [meeting], which he was very active in.

MI: He was at a meeting there?

EF: At the Kokusai Theater by Aala, in that area over there.

MI: So, the Chamber of Commerce used to meet on Sunday mornings?

EF: I don't know if it was every Sunday but there was a meeting there. He was there.

MI: Besides his business, was he involved in ...

EF: Yes, he was very active in community associations.

MI: What kinds of things?

EF: *Kenjin kai* and *chihojin kai*. *Chiho* is area, the Kapalama area. And also very active in Japanese school.

MI: In what way? How was he active in the Japanese school?

EF: He was an officer, all kinds of ... very, very active.

MI: Did he speak English?

EF: Hardly.

MI: Mainly Japanese?

EF: Yes.

MI: Did he help at the Consulate?

EF: No, I don't know.

MI: So, on December 7, he was away from the house, at the meeting?

EF: He was at the Kokusai Theater, yes.

MI: Then he came home right away, because of this?

EF: Right.

MI: Remember what he said when he came home?

EF: No.

MI: At some point, someone came to the house, the police or the FBI?

EF: We heard about how they came and they tortured the people and took all their things away and all. But my father said, "No, don't worry."

MI: So, you were hearing stories.

EF: Yes, yes.

MI: What kinds of stories did you hear?

EF: They were taking, knocking all the *butsudan*—the altar—down and all that.

MI: Who was doing this?

EF: The Army.

MI: The Army was coming to people's homes? Some of your family friends ...

EF: And the neighbors. People that were more active in the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and the Japanese clubs.

MI: Remember any names of your neighbors who had that kind of problem with the Army? Or, do you remember anybody around you being picked up by the Army or by the police, in your neighborhood?

EF: Not too many. Not too many.

MI: But you were hearing stories about ...

EF: Yes, yes.

MI: What else did you hear about the soldiers?

EF: Well, they were coming ... my father had a whole block ... between lanes, small lanes that we had the big building there. We had a retail business and a barber shop and a warehouse.

MI: The barbershop was yours also?

EF: No, no. Barbershop was a rental. And even the retail grocery store was a rental. But they went bankrupt, and so my father had to take over. He took over.

MI: What was the name of that store?

EF: Kapalama Market.

MI: So, there were two things there, the market and the *shoyu*.

EF: The *shoyu* was in the back. T. Terada Shoten was in the front building, on King Street.

MI: On December 7 after or during the bombing of Pearl Harbor, some people say that they had damage downtown or even in the McCully area. Remember anything like that?

EF: No, we didn't have any. The closest one, if I remember, was ... we lived in Kapalama and Palama, where there was another Japanese retail grocery store, the Army just came in and just scared everybody in there and they even shot the basin, the water basin in the store. And that set off all kinds of rumors but we weren't really [affected].

MI: You were not involved in that way?

EF: No.

MI: But the stories you heard about them coming and knocking down the *butsudan*, those were from December 7?

EF: Yes, and taking the *butsudan*, yes. It's amazing we were not ...

MI: Remember hearing stories about people being arrested, on December 7, December 8, being picked up and taken away?

EF: I think we did and we were afraid that my father will be ... yes.

MI: So, your father and your family were concerned because he was a businessman, he might be ...

EF: And we had ... I had an older sister that was very ... she practically ran the business for my father after he got older. She was very *akamai*.

MI: She was in high school at the time?

EF: I don't think she even had the chance to go to high school. She was the eldest and my father depended on her more than my oldest brother, because he was in Japan.

MI: When did he go [to Japan]?

EF: When the war started, he was on the ship, right in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

MI: The ship was going in which direction?

EF: Coming to Hawaii.

MI: Coming back. But they turned around and took him back?

EF: Back to Japan.

MI: Do you remember the name of that ship?

EF: No.

MI: So, this was one of the last ships but he didn't make it back?

EF: He went to Meiji University and after he graduated, he was supposed to come home and he was on his way and mid-Pacific, they ...

MI: What was his name and how old was he?

EF: Hisataro.

MI: At what age was he sent to Japan? How old was he?

EF: Right after he got out of ... I don't know. He went to high school here but right after he got out, he was sent to Meiji [University].

MI: So he was there about four years or so and was just coming back?

EF: Yes, he was there for a long time. It was the first time he was coming home.

MI: Was he coming home because your father had heard that there was trouble [with Japan] and they wanted him back as quickly as possible or had he finished his schooling?

EF: I'm not sure about that. He had graduated and his duty was to come home to help. Being the eldest, you know how they were really strict about the eldest son doing the ...

MI: Let me ask you about this brother. What happened to him, during the war time?

EF: Then he went back to Japan, the boat turned around and went back to Japan. And I don't know how he lived for a while but he eventually got married.

MI: He survived? He had to serve in the Japanese army? Do you know?

EF: He did, he did. But because he had some hearing problems. I don't know whether it was birth or whatever, injured, and he even ... I think he was in the Japanese Army. He graduated [from] Meiji.

MI: Where was he sent during the war time? Where did he have to serve?

EF: I don't know.

MI: But he did survive the war.

EF: He did survive, yes.

MI: What happened to him after the war?

EF: He was here. He was living in Hiroshima with my grandmother at that time, I think.

MI: Grandmother also survived.

EF: Yes.

CF: Wait, wait. Your grandmother did not survive the bomb?

EF: She did not, yes.

MI: Hiroshima? She died from the atomic bomb in Hiroshima?

EF: Yes, she was right where the Dome ...

CF: Ground Zero.

MI: How did you learn this? Who told you this?

EF: My sister-in-law, who's my eldest brother's wife. She was living with her in Hiroshima, while my brother was in China or Manchuria or wherever. He was in the Japanese [Army].

MI: So, your brother had married a Japanese woman?

EF: Yes.

CF: But, she wasn't from Japan.

MI: Where was she from?

EF: Canadian.

CF: Canada.

MI: (chuckle) How did he meet a Canadian Japanese?

EF: I don't know, I don't know.

MI: And he was going to school [there], right?

CF: That family was sent back from Canada to Japan.

EF: Is that right?

CF: Yes. That's why all of them were in Funabashi.

EF: That's right, Nami ... the Takeuchis ...

CF: Nami, the Takeuchis and Yoshimura ...

MI: Where was this?

CF: They were in Chiba, Funabashi. They have family land there; they're like landowners that had tenant farmers.

MI: Tell me about this Hiroshima bombing. Do you know any of the stories?

CF: Oh, yes.

EF: Many stories. My grandmother, she was living in Hiroshima. And when the bomb fell, it was right where the Dome was. And she was injured.

MI: She didn't die from the bomb?

EF: She didn't die. She did not, she was injured. But my auntie, my uncle's family, they were living in Hiroshima. They were all ... devastated.

MI: Let me follow up a little on your grandma. What happened to her? She was injured from the bomb but she survived. How long did she live? At what age did she die, eventually?

EF: She lived very long. I guess the longevity runs in the family. She lived very long but she lived with my sister-in-law's family, I think.

MI: So she never had any kind of medical problems from the bomb?

EF: I think she had a bad ... one of her legs was injured, how I don't know. My eldest brother was married and living with his Canadian wife.

MI: She also was there, at the bombing, that Canadian [sister-in-law]? She survived also?

EF: Yes.

CF: My understanding is that she was living in the women's dormitory, though.

EF: Yes, that's right because my brother was in ...

CF: China.

EF: China. He was in the Japanese [Army].

MI: She was still going to school?

CF: No, it was just where all the women lived. It was some kind of a dormitory ...

MI: For military wives?

EF: Military wives, that's right.

CF: And, they were on the outskirts of Hiroshima. So, they went to the basement because of the bombing and then they were trapped there for a little while. Then, they managed to dig themselves out and saw the whole city [destroyed?].

MI: Did she also live a normal life? Or did she develop medical problems from the bombing?

EF: Yes, I think she was pretty normal.

CF: No ... she had Parkinson's [disease], from the bomb.

EF: Was that from the bomb? Or later in years?

CF: And she got a stipend.

EF: That was in her later years. You think from the bomb?

CF: Yes, it came on later and then she got a stipend from the Japanese government, I think four hundred and fifty dollars a month or something like that. Then the doctor used to come every five years from Japan and examine not only her but whatever.

MI: Come where?

CF: Come to Hawaii.

MI: She lived in Hawaii?

CF: Yes, yes. Eventually they returned to Hawaii. But that's another story in itself. Right, Uncle Bob was lost. The oldest son, the family lost contact with him.

MI: He was serving in the Japanese Army.

CF: And they didn't know. And then, the second brother was in the Occupation Forces of Japan.

EF: Yes, he was with General Headquarters, [General Douglas] MacArthur's Headquarters.

MI: Okay, when we get back to that part, maybe Charlie can tell us the details. Now, this grandmother who survived the bombing, what about her husband? Was he there, too?

EF: No, he wasn't there already.

MI: He had passed on already?

EF: Just grandmother.

MI: Let's go to your brother, then. Where did you tell me he served in the [Japanese] Army?

EF: Did he go to Manchuria?

MI: But, he survived the war. When did they move to Hawaii?

EF: I have no idea.

CF: I would say 1957 or around that time.

MI: At least ten years after the war. They were there during the occupation.

CF: They came back on the boat and we went down to see the boat and they came in around 1956 or 1957.

MI: During the war, you had no contact with your brother?

EF: No contact.

MI: When did you establish contact? When did you folks find out what happened to him during the war, and what happened to the family, during the war? How and when did you find out?

EF: I remember my mother telling me about it. How they found out, I don't know. But just the moment that they found him, this old-fashioned grandfather's clock was broken in the warehouse. And for some reason, the clock struck. It rang. So my mother said, "Something happened [in Japan]." And way later on they put things together. That was

just when my brother ... was that the time that they met? My two brothers met. One was in the Japanese [Army] and my [other] brother was [U.S.] military.

MI: So one brother serving in the Japan Army. What was the name of the other brother, who served on the American side? What was his name?

EF: Ryoichi [Terada].

MI: What is his story? How old was he?

EF: He was ... how many years older than me? Three or four years.

MI: So when the war started, he was in high school?

EF: Yes, and he was drafted.

MI: He was drafted. Was it out of high school?

CF: He wasn't going to the University? You were in high school.

EF: Yes, that's right. Cause I graduated in 1945 and he was a 1942 graduate of Farrington [High School].

MI: So, he finished high school and then he was drafted. Do you know anything about his story? Like, when he was drafted, where did he go? Did he have to go to Europe? 442?

CF: No, he was with Merrill's Marauders.

MI: So, he was in the Military Intelligence Service?

EF: Yes, yes. Because his of his Japanese [language skills].

MI: How did he have knowledge of Japanese?

EF: Because my father was very active in the Japanese school.

MI: And he spoke Japanese, primarily?

EF: Yes.

MI: But that brother didn't go to Japan for education? Ryoichi.

EF: No.

CF: He went to the University of Hawaii.

EF: My eldest brother was stranded in Japan.

MI: Do you know where he might have gone to language school on the mainland, after he got drafted? Minnesota, or San Francisco?

EF: Yes. Minnesota. Camp Savage.

MI: Then, after he finished that, was this after the war?

EF: Still during the war.

MI: Merrill's Marauders. That was Burma?

CF: But before that, he went to Iran.

MI: Why did he go to Iran? (chuckle)

CF: I don't know. I remember one day, we were talking about how hot it was and he says, "You don't know how hot it is. You go to Tehran in the summer, it was like ... I was there during the war and it was terrible."

MI: Did he tell you anything about serving in Burma? Interrogation? Interrogating the prisoners of war?

EF: He was the interpreter, right?

MI: Interpreter. You don't know too much about that part?

EF: No.

MI: So he [was] there during the war. After the war, then he is sent for the Merrill's Marauders to Japan? Occupation of Japan?

EF: Apparently, yes.

MI: Tell me what you were told about how the two brothers got together, how they found out about each other.

EF: My second brother ended up with General MacArthur's Headquarters in Japan.

MI: In Tokyo?

CF: Washington Heights, Shinjuku. There was an area called Washington Heights and it was in the Shinjuku district.

MI: It still has that name?

CF: I don't know if it still has that name. Shinjuku is still there, but I don't know about Washington Heights.

MI: So, what was the story about them? How did they find each other in Japan?

EF: Just out of ... it was getting dark and my oldest brother was living with his wife's family.

MI: Where?

EF: In Setagaya. That's where the Yoshimuras lived.

MI: That's his in-laws?

EF: Yes. So, the whole family from Canada went back to [Japan]?

EF: Yes. Then, one day, when it was getting dark, they just met, right in front of the Headquarters, right there on the street.

CF: Just chance passing and they saw each other.

MI: Do you know roughly what year this was? I'm trying to figure out did the families try to make contact as soon as the war ended?

EF: I'm sure they must have. They must have.

MI: You think they might have known that the two brothers were there.

EF: No, no. This was really a surprise to them.

MI: They recognized each other?

EF: Yes. And so, my younger brother immediately let my parents know.

MI: Did he send them a letter? Do you know how they were notified?

EF: I don't know if it was a letter or whatever but we ...

MI: You don't remember your father reading a letter?

EF: No.

CF: But, both brothers, interestingly, stayed in Japan for a while, at least ten years.

MI: And, the younger one did not have a family?

CF: He eventually married a lady from Hokkaido.

MI: But, he stayed with the military for those ten years.

CF: Yes.

MI: The other brother did what? What kind of work did he do in Japan [after the war]?

CF: Uncle Bob? He was the representative for Terada Shoten in Japan.

EF: Yes, in the wholesale business.

MI: That was a Japan organization?

CF: No.

MI: From Hawaii, they went to Japan?

CF: Well, my grandfather used to import stuff from Japan. So, since Uncle Bob was there, he became the representative in Japan for the Hawaii store.

EF: And my second brother was in the U.S. military and in Japan. And they met without ... just met.

MI: At that point, you are a teenager, getting close to college?

EF: I was in high school.

MI: Did you get to visit Japan in the post-war years?

EF: No.

MI: When did you first get to see your oldest brother, the one that was in Japan? When did you first get to see him again?

EF: He came back to Hawaii.

MI: To visit or when he moved back?

EF: He got married and she was a Canadian-born Japanese and they eventually came back to Hawaii.

CF: They moved back.

MI: So, your parents never went to visit them in Japan.

CF: No. My grandfather used to go, business.

MI: Did your father tell you anything about how bad things were in Japan, after the war?

EF: No. My sister-in-law had a big family there.

MI: Her parents, they eventually just lived out their lives in Japan? They never went back to Canada?

EF: No.

CF: A couple of the siblings went back. Two or three. So, they lived in Toronto and Montreal.

MI: But the parents never went back. Now, let's go back to your father's wartime story. We got your brother's, the Japan side. What's happening in Honolulu, with your father?

EF: He was very active in community affairs and he ... all that he ... anyway, he ...

MI: How did he end up getting into trouble? Remember that part? Or did he end up getting in to trouble?

EF: My father?

CF: Why was he arrested and interned?

EF: They were going, investigating all those older ... and then, one incident that I distinctly remember is that when he was making *shoyu*, when he had this big warehouse making *shoyu*, and the *shoyu* has to be, at a certain time, it has to be mixed. He used to do that early, early in the morning when it was still dark. And, those were blackout days, yet.

MI: He could do it in the dark? Or, they just blacked out the windows?

EF: They'd black out all the windows. And he was mixing the *shoyu*. Then, this Filipino taxi [driver], I guess he had it with my father, arguing things. Well, he reported this, that the light was peeking ... he could see the lights. He reported him. He turned my father in.

MI: Remember who this person was?

EF: Joe the taxi man.

MI: Joe the taxi man. He reported your father because he didn't like your father?

EF: Yes. My father would argue with anybody. (chuckle)

MI: This was how long after December 7? One year later or one month later?

EF: Maybe one year or more, later, because I got out of high school in 1945. Maybe just before that because my brother probably graduated in 1942 and I'm forty-five ... So, it must have been between that but I cannot ...

MI: Was that brother already in the army? Or, before he even went in to the army, before he got drafted?

EF: I think it was before he got drafted.

MI: So you're not sure about when your father was arrested?

EF: Interned ...

MI: Yes, when did they pick him up? Do you know, Charlie?

CF: My understanding, it was right after, pretty soon after December 7, but I don't know when.

EF: Not too much longer but we were doing wholesale business and retail business. And then, we had connections with lot of mainland distributors.

MI: You were shipping the *shoyu* to the mainland?

EF: No.

CF: Stuff brought in from Japan.

EF: This was in our local business where we had wholesale and retail business and my sister was the buyer. Then, she wanted this liquor salesman, haole guy, my sister talked to him. My father was already getting ... he was already interned and they were shipping them [internees] to the mainland, right? But, my sister talked to this liquor salesman and had them help stop my father from sending him [to the mainland] because he was needed here with us.

MI: Stopped the government from sending him to the mainland?

EF: Yes. So he was fortunate enough.

MI: You're not sure when they picked up your father, but where did they take him, when they picked him up?

EF: They took him to ... near the Kamehameha statue. Must have been the Immigration Station.

MI: Immigration Station, yes, but that was more towards Waikiki, not by the statue.

CF: More towards the ocean.

EF: Somewhere around there. Yes, Ala Moana, that's right, that's right. I think it was there.

CF: Then he went to Honouliuli after that?

EF: After that.

MI: Did he ever go to Sand Island camp?

EF: My father?

MI: Yes, Sand Island had an internment camp. Before the Honouliuli camp opened, they were all being sent to Sand Island. From the Immigration Station, they would send them to Sand Island.

EF: I don't remember where they were. All I know is that Honouliuli is where he was interned.

MI: So it was in early March of 1943 when they vacated Sand Island and everybody at Sand Island was transferred to Honouliuli.

EF: Okay, so my brother graduated high school 1942, and I'm 1945. So somewhere in between there, I think.

MI: So, it could be that it was after Sand Island was already closed that he went. He never went to Sand Island?

EF: I don't think so.

MI: While he was at the Immigration Station, did the family know that he was there?

EF: We didn't know where he was.

MI: When did the family find out that he was at Honouliuli?

EF: Wait, now. He could have been at Sand Island because before he went to Honouliuli, he was somewhere in Honolulu.

MI: Besides the immigration station?

EF: Yes, yes. I forgot the Immigration Station. That used to be on the Ala Moana side.

MI: It still is.

EF: Yes, I think he was there for a while.

MI: But Sand Island, you're not sure.

EF: I'm not sure. I'm not sure about Sand Island.

MI: How did you find out that he was at Honouliuli?

EF: I think they let us know. Let the family know.

MI: How long had it been from the time they picked him up until you found out?

EF: I cannot ... my sister who was running the business was more concerned, worried, about him being shipped away. So, she contacted this liquor dealer and he helped us get him to ...

MI: Do you remember the name of that liquor dealer?

EF: (chuckle) No, I can't remember.

MI: Your sister took over the business when your father was taken away?

EF: She sure did, she sure did.

MI: She wasn't too much older?

EF: She was already an old maid.

MI: You said she didn't go to college. So, fortunately she was able to run ...

EF: Because my oldest brother was stranded in Japan. He went to Meiji University, he was sent to Meiji University and the younger brother was still in ... he's three years older than me and he graduated from high school in 1942.

MI: And then he was drafted. Did your sister know how to make *shoyu*? Or, did they stop making *shoyu*?

EF: By then, it was gone already.

MI: So, the family finds out that the father is at Honouliuli but you don't know how long it was that you [family] didn't know where he was? Did you folks go out there to visit him at Honouliuli?

EF: Yes, yes. I don't know if it was the county or state or what but families were allowed. They had a bus right in front the Kamehameha statue. I think it was once a month the bus would be there. And we would catch the bus and get to there. And then we'd be taken in to Honouliuli.

MI: You went with your mother?

EF: Yes, I went along with her, every time that she ...

MI: Just you, or you took turns with your sister?

EF: No, my sister was already out of the house. She was already married.

MI: She was busy with the business. So you and your mom would catch the bus that would take you out to Honouliuli. What did you think when you first went out there?

EF: It was a very ... those days, with old trucks and old cars, I remember the first time I went out there, wow, we were ending up to the other side of the island. You know, it was way, way inside, I remember.

MI: Did you have to go through the cane field roads?

EF: Yes. It wasn't cane ... there used to be water ... the plantation used to have water reservoirs and it was right opposite and it a Camp Barrett [Fort Barrette, originally Kapolei Military Reservation] around there. And then, the entrance, the road to go up to the valley was somewhere on the opposite side, up towards the mountain.

MI: You came in from the mountain side?

EF: No, no, no. From going-Waianae side.

CF: There was Farrington Highway.

EF: I can't remember the name. I can't remember if it was a road. It must have been a road because the bus had to ...

MI: It as not through the cane fields?

EF: It wasn't cane fields around there.

MI: There was a cane field route to the camp.

EF: The lower side, yes.

MI: Was it up on a hill?

EF: No, It's not from the hill. It's in the valley.

MI: When you came to the camp, did the bus come over a hill and then go down in to the valley?

EF: I don't remember that.

MI: When you first saw the camp, were you on the ground level or were you up on a hill and you could see the camp?

EF: Oh no, no, no. We were on the ground level.

MI: Did you see the soldiers there? The guards?

EF: Yes.

MI: Then you saw the internees?

EF: It used to be a military camp before, I think ...

MI: They had a section for the military guards for the camp.

EF: We would ... the internment camp was down here and we were a little higher on this side and there was a mess hall here. And, that's where they came up to meet the family, from down here.

MI: So, the bus came and stopped by the mess hall.

EF: Yes.

MI: You just got off the bus and you went in to the mess hall and you waited for your father?

EF: For the internees to come up.

MI: Remember the first time you saw your father?

EF: Oh, yes. We were very happy.

MI: What did he look like?

EF: He was very determined he wouldn't show any ... and he's [?] for my mother.

MI: Did he look like he had lost a lot of weight?

EF: He did. I think she was very concerned about his weight loss but he was healthy, very healthy. For an Oriental then, he was very big.

MI: Remember what he told you when he saw you there?

EF: No, no. But my mother was so ... she was very concerned. She would remember how he used to love *kamaboko* [fish cake] and *chikuwa* [bamboo ring fish cake] and all those things. What she did was, she'd get a bunch of flowers, wrap that in between the flowers ...

MI: To hide it?

EF: Yes.

MI: So, you could bring flowers but you couldn't bring food?

EF: Yes.

MI: And, nobody checked?

EF: Nobody checked. She got away with it. Every time we went, I would bring a bouquet.

MI: Did he ask her to do that or did she do that on her own?

EF: That's my mother.

MI: She did that on her own. She knew that that's what he wanted.

EF: Yes. And, we'd be going ... the mess hall would be up here and the camp would be down here. It was sort of a hilly ...

MI: So, when she gave him the flowers, he saw the fish cake ...

EF: Well, he couldn't open it right there. He had to take it back to his camp.

MI: Were some of the other wives or families doing the same thing they were sneaking in ... that you were ?

EF: They weren't supposed to really, I think, but flowers, she was

CF: You said one time that the ladies used to talk among themselves and coordinate what to bring.

EF: They were doing that. I remember.

MI: What kinds of things would they bring for the husbands?

EF: Little things like, personal things they needed.

MI: Like what?

EF: I can't remember, but I know they got the men folks to do things like my father. They would make little things out of toothbrushes.

MI: So, your father did that, too?

EF: Yes.

MI: Did he give you anything like that?

EF: I think my mother had a lot of those things around the house. Toothbrush rings. But it's all with my nephew. He has them.

MI: Remember anything else he might have made besides the rings?

EF: I think there were some statues.

MI: Statues made from what?

EF: From ... I don't know whether it was clay or ... I think they used to fire.

MI: Wood carvings?

EF: Wood, no, I don't know.

MI: Did he keep a diary or anything while he was there?

EF: He might have, I'm not sure. All those things are with my nephew now. My mother had a whole cabinet full of curio things that he had [made?] when ... and that all went to my second brother and now his son. And, if he didn't throw them away ... He used to do a lot of ceramic work, I remember.

MI: Do you think he might have done some ceramics at Honouliuli?

EF: Oh, yes, yes.

MI: You had some ceramic things from Honouliuli?

EF: I think my nephew still has them. He had the ones that we threw away. But there were a lot of things that my mother preciousely kept.

MI: Did he keep a log or anything like that of his experience?

EF: He might have, but I'm not sure.

MI: Did he complain when you folks got together?

EF: No, he never did.

MI: How about the temperature, the mosquitoes? Anything like that? Did he complain?

EF: The mosquitoes were bad, I know. Yes, he did complain about mosquitoes there.

MI: There was an area for the internees, nearby the cafeteria. Did you get to see that area?

EF: Oh, yes. We couldn't walk around there. But it was, sort of an elevated area that we would meet and the camp was down in the gully. But in the back, there were other camps, too. And there were some foreign people that was ...

MI: How did you know that they were foreign?

EF: I don't know how we found out.

MI: Did you hear them talking?

EF: No, no, no. It was further up.

MI: Did you see any women or children in the camp? Never saw any women?

EF: No women.

MI: The foreign people, did you see them wearing any kind of uniform?

EF: No.

MI: You never even saw them?

EF: No.

MI: Why do you say they were foreign?

EF: It was separate.

MI: You could see them from afar?

EF: You could see the camp, yes. But, it was quite a distance.

MI: Was that camp area different from where your ...

EF: Yes.

MI: How as it different?

EF: Because it was run by different people. And, the camp itself, the buildings were ... my father folks, they had old plantation like, plantation outhouse outside that area. And it was down in the gully. And we were up here. And the other camp was way in the back there. They were foreign people.

MI: What did that camp look like?

EF: It was a little different.

MI: How was it different?

EF: The buildings were cleaner, I think. It looked nicer.

MI: You're not talking about where the military, the guards were? There was a section for the guards.

EF: That was in the back of the cafeteria. The guards were maybe below.

MI: So, you remember seeing a section for the guards.

EF: Yes, yes.

MI: And a section for the internees, like your father?

EF: Yes.

MI: And then another section for the foreigners.

EF: For the foreigners.

MI: Did you know that they were prisoners of war?

EF: Yes. How we found out, I don't know.

MI: Anything else you remember about the camp?

EF: There were incidents like this one lady, she insisted on taking ice cream and it melted in the bus and the bus driver was so angry. [chuckle]

MI: Remember her name?

EF: No, she was from Waianae or Nanakuli, from that side.

MI: And, she brought the ice cream from Waianae?

EF: Yes. Whether it was in ice or not, it melted in the bus and the bus driver was so ... and she got hell for it. [chuckle]

MI: Did your mother ever take *shoyu* in there?

EF: I think she always had *kamaboko* or *chikuwa* wrapped around the flowers. She was real ... the *kamaboko* ...

MI: How do you wrap it around the flowers?

EF: Well, she'd have a bunch of flowers, okay? So she wrapped it inside, between and she would wrap it around.

MI: Do you remember any of the other people who went with you on the bus? Any names of some of the families or the wives?

EF: A few of them were businessmen families.

MI: Remember any names?

EF: No.

MI: When you met with your father there, in the mess hall, how long were you able to stay with him?

EF: Not too long.

MI: Did you have a meal there? Have lunch there?

EF: Oh, no.

MI: How often would they allow you to go there?

EF: I don't know whether it was monthly. Maybe every other month. It wasn't very frequently.

MI: Each time your mother went, you went with her?

EF: Yes, yes.

MI: How many times do you think you went out there?

EF: Many, many times.

MI: How long was he there before he was released?

EF: It was not too long, but long for us. Those days, my sister was very smart about ...

MI: You don't know when he was released, what year, what month?

EF: No.

MI: How did the release happen? He just came home one day?

EF: Yes, he just came home one day.

MI: Was he the only one who was released at that time? Or, everybody was released?

EF: Oh, no. I think he was the only one, that one time.

MI: So they were released, one by one? It was not like they closed the camp?

EF: Oh no, no, no. He was one of those that were released in between.

MI: Did he talk about some of the other people, some of his friends there?

EF: No.

MI: After he was released, he never had contact with these people anymore?

EF: They used to have some gatherings but I never keep track of that.

MI: Of the people who were in the camp?

EF: Yes. Most of them were big businessmen. All kinds of business like sake, the Awamura family that had the jewelry store, and there was a clothing dry goods store. Their family was involved too. It was all around that area, Japanese.

MI: Kapalama area?

EF: No, not Kapalama. Just before Aala Park. We used to be across the street from Aala Park.

MI: While your father was away, the business was okay, it survived?

EF: We stopped the *shoyu* and wholesale side and we concentrated on the retail store.

MI: What was the name of the retail store?

EF: Kapalama Market. And, it was right across the street from Oahu Junk, on King Street, just below from Houghtailing. Between Houghtailing and the canal, on King Street.

MI: How did your mother do during all this time without ...

EF: She didn't show any ... and when we complained, she would explain to us. "We can't help it" and all that. She never really expressed herself.

MI: She didn't show anger at the government or anything like that?

EF: No, that's my mom.

MI: Around you, were you aware of some of your neighbors who also had to be interned?

EF: There was another fellow, but I don't think we were close neighbors. And then the temple Bonsan.

MI: Which temple was this?

EF: This was on Kama Lane. At the end of Kama Lane.

MI: What church was this, or what temple?

EF: It was a Shinto.

MI: Remember the name of the minister?

EF: No, I don't.

MI: During that time, was that something that the family was ashamed of, that your father got picked up? Did people stay away from the family because they would get associated with someone who was interned?

EF: Yes, like we had to take over this Kapalama Market, the retail store, when they went broke. There were a lot of Portuguese and different nationalities around. Not so much haoles. Yes, they didn't come to shop often.

MI: People who used to come before ...

EF: Oh no, no. I don't think there was many Japanese. I'm not sure. But this was among locals, more Portuguese, Chinese. There [were] a lot of Chinese around there.

MI: So, you think that they stopped coming after your father was picked up?

EF: A few of them.

MI: How about friends of the family? Did they stop coming around?

EF: Oh, no.

MI: Nothing like that? Family and friends?

EF: No. They were very helpful.

MI: How about you, yourself? In school? Any kinds of racist or discrimination incidents? Calling you names or anything like that.

EF: No.

MI: So, you kept going to school in that period?

EF: I graduated Farrington in 1945. Then I went to ... my mother said I can't go to college because it's going to take me long and they needed me and she wanted me to be ready for a bride. She sent me to sewing school.

MI: Where did you go to sewing school?

EF: In Moiliili, right by the park over there.

MI: What was the name of the sewing school?

EF: I can't remember. It was right on the corner.

MI: Then what happened to you?

EF: Then I got married, I guess.

MI: Did you go to work somewhere?

EF: No, I was helping the family, with the business.

MI: And, your husband's name was?

EF: Edward Fukada.

MI: How did you meet him?

EF: He was a family friend. From Kohala, Big Island.

MI: How did they get to be family friends?

EF: Same Hiroshima-*ken*. And also, they did some business with [us] and eventually. I remember Grandma Fukada saying we're old family friends.

MI: Was it an arranged marriage?

EF: No. He was a few years older than me. And, his grandmother was just set that I was going to be his wife. She was determined.

MI: What did he end up doing, work-wise?

EF: He was working for the City and County of Honolulu. He graduated university and then he did some salesman work some places.

MI: What did he do for the City and County? What department?

EF: He was in, not motor vehicles, I can't remember. I have a couple of pictures that I saw the other day, about him working and it's one o'clock, the clock is up there. It's one o'clock and he's sound asleep at his desk.

MI: When you look back now, how do you think the war, your father being taken away, how do you think that affected your life? Did that change your life?

EF: I guess so, I guess so.

MI: In what way? Did it change your work?

EF: My two brothers. My older brother was stranded in Japan and he eventually did come back. My [second] brother was in the military.

MI: As far as the brother from Japan, you said that he moved back in the 1950s?

EF: Earlier than that, I think.

MI: Why did he move back to Hawaii from Japan?

EF: He was needed.

MI: Needed by the family to run the business? He ended up living and raising a family in Hawaii?

EF: Yes, eventually he had to come back.

MI: What do you mean, he had to come back?

EF: Because we needed ...

MI: So the family needed the older brother to help with the business and he decided to come back. And, he lived the rest of his life in Hawaii.

EF: Yes.

MI: What was he like? Was he angry that he had been sent to school in Japan?

EF: No, he was the nicest guy. He really, really was. And he had a nice ... his wife had a big family in Japan. They lived in Setagaya and they were very, very nice to all of us. But my father was a real headstrong guy. I would argue with him. (chuckle)

MI: But a business leader.

EF: Yes, he was.

MI: So for him, once he got out of the camp, he just resumed his life? His work with the store?

EF: Yes.

MI: He never complained about the whole thing.

EF: Never did. He gave my mother a bad time but ...

MI: He was never mad at the government.

EF: He didn't show it.

MI: Did he get a letter of apology from ...

EF: I don't know whether he got a letter.

MI: Was he alive in 1988? Or 1990?

EF: My father died in ... I have it down somewhere.

MI: In 1990, those people who had been put in to the internment camps received a check from the United States government [if they were still living]. You don't remember if he got a check for twenty-thousand dollars?

EF: I never knew anything about money.

MI: With that was a letter of apology from the government. You never heard about that? Unless he had passed away before that, then he would not have gotten it.

EF: Could be, yes.

MI: Very interesting. I learned a bit about Honouliuli.

EF: I can see ... I can kinda picture the area, the meeting area and then the camps below and above the rocks.

MI: Have you seen the photographs of the camp? In 1945, someone was allowed to go there to take photographs of the camp. This was near the end of the war. You've never seen that?

EF: My son, this one, he was asked to ... it was in the Hawaii Herald ... to visit the ... from the Japanese Cultural Center ... to visit the camp. It was in the Hawaii Herald and he was

reading something. Because he has the same name with my husband, for some reason they contacted him, instead of me.

MI: He volunteers at the Cultural Center.

EF: Now, he's a volunteer. That's probably why.

MI: You didn't go out to visit the camp site. Would you be interested in going out there?

EF: I sure would.

MI: The scheduled public tours are all full but there will be others. It's a very interesting family story. Is there anything else you want to add?

EF: Not really.

MI: Thank you. Thank you for sharing the story.