



OBON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

November 2024

The USS MISSOURI: Part Two

The Scholar's Edition

As you may recall the **USS MISSOURI** had given **OBON SOCIETY** three *Yosegaki Hinomaru* to search. This is an update to show the mystery surrounding one of these flags.



We brought the flags home and immediately passed them on to our archivists. That is the first step to finding the family. Each flag must be photographed and documented in great detail.



Flag Number One



Flag Number Two



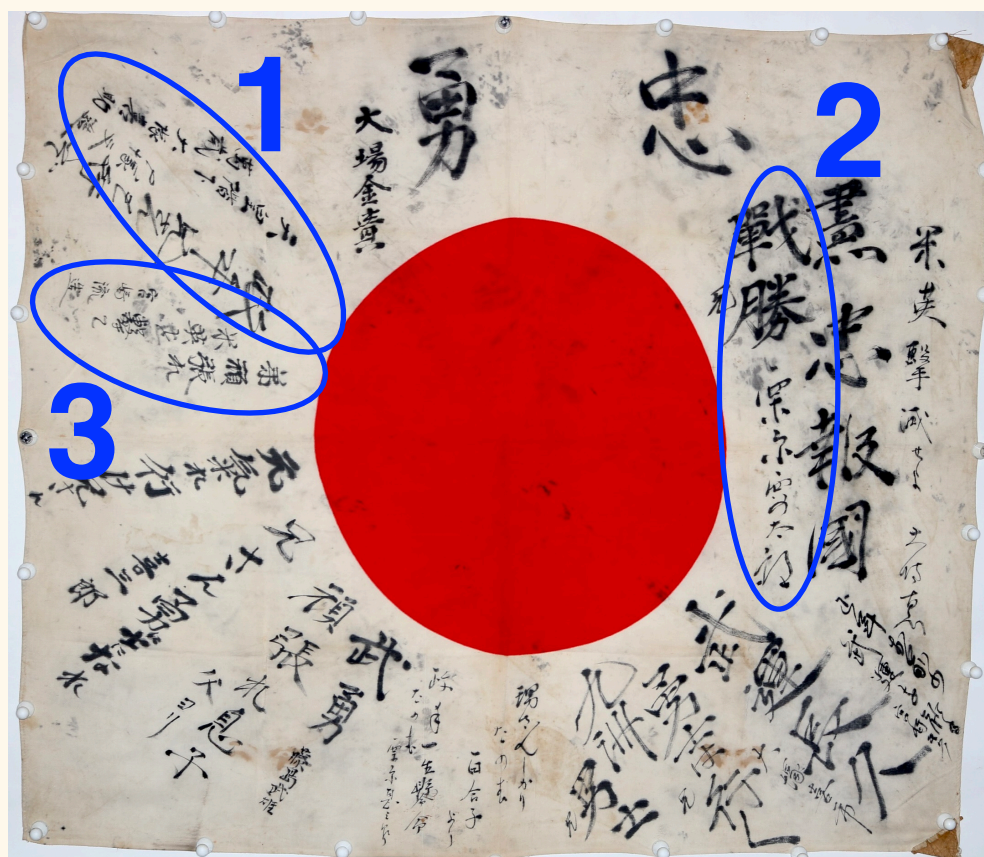
Flag Number Three

Upon giving the flags a close examination we saw many details we expected to see. There were the signatures and messages that is common among most *Yosegaki Hinomaru*.

However, **Flag Number One** presented us with a very complicated problem.

OBON SOCIETY has never revealed the 'behind the scenes' analysis our scholars perform, but in this particular situation we felt it was appropriate to give our readers a glimpse of the research, analysis and creative thought, sometimes required.

When we first saw Flag Number One we were disappointed. We looked for the name of the serviceman who carried it, but none appeared. Having the name of the person is essential to finding the correct family. However, we were confident our scholars would find clues somewhere in the flag and we noticed three areas that gave us some hope. We marked these three areas below **#1**, **#2** and **#3**.



1

In area **#1** our scholars saw a great clue.

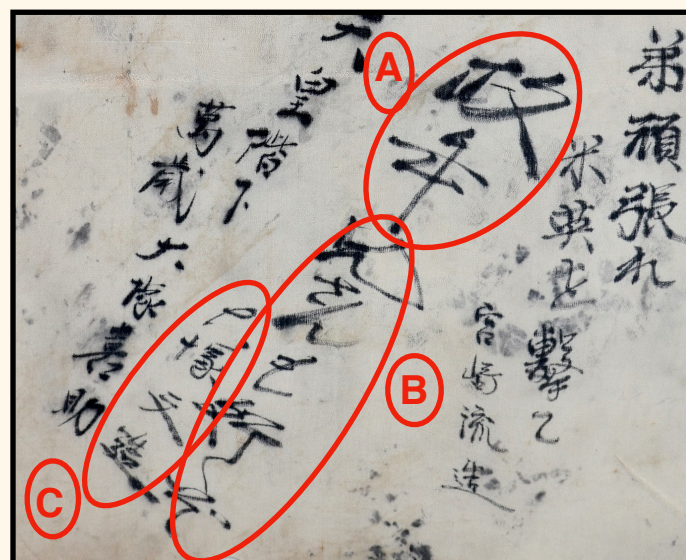
Someone wrote the following:

(A) "Masatoshi"

(B) "Your big brother will follow you"

(C) "Bunzo Otsuka"

We interpreted this as an older brother telling his younger brother that he too will join the army to defend Japan. Fortunately, this older brother signed his first and last name....and he called the younger brother by *his* first name....."**Masatoshi**."



Finally we had a clue!

From this our scholars concluded the name of the flag's owner.

He was **Mr. Masatoshi Otsuka**.

At least, that is what we thought, until the next clue contradicted what we had just discovered.

2

In section #2 our researchers saw the following message.

(A) "Victory".

And then that same person wrote

(B) "Your Big Brother."

And they signed their name

(C) "Yotaro Kurihara."

Now we had a big problem.

Two different people with **two different last names**, both referring to the serviceman as their younger brother. How could this be?

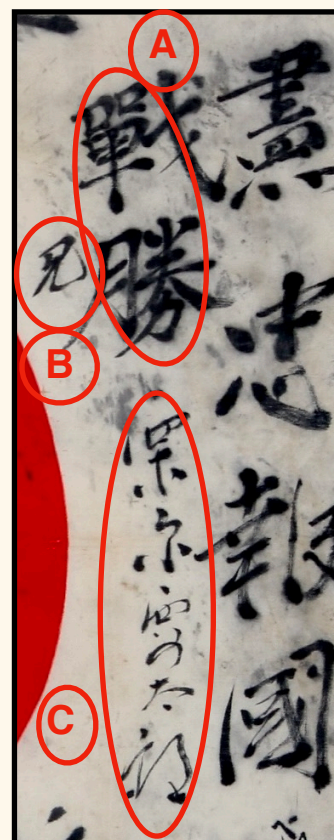
Was it a step brother?

Did an older sister marry...and this was her husband affectionately referring to his brother-in-law?

Was it a neighbor who felt a close connection since childhood?

The only thing that could make this more confusing would be the discovery of one more family name.

And that is exactly what happened!



3

In section #3 we read the message: To my

(A) Younger Brother

(B) Go for it!

(C) Ryuzo Miyazaki

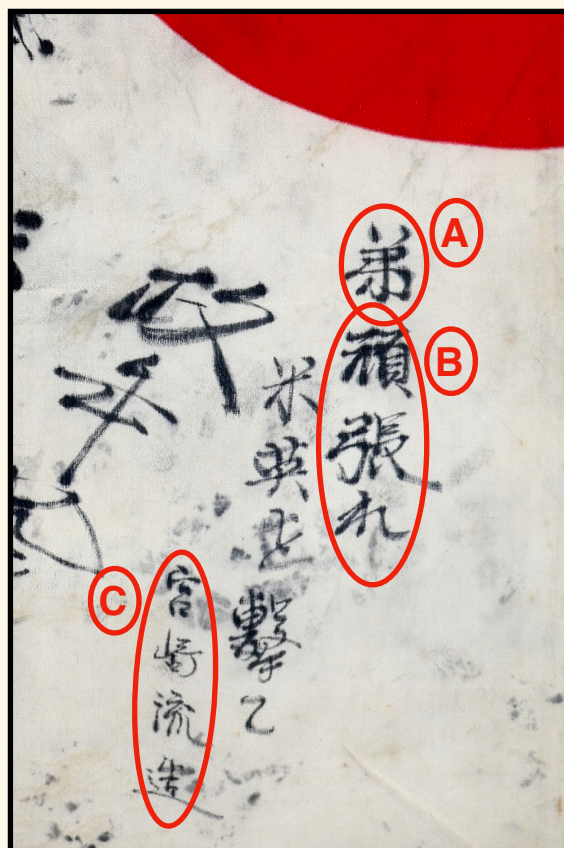
Now our scholars had three different people claiming to be an older brother, but all with different last names. Who are we looking for?

Are we looking for Masatoshi **Otsuka**?

Or are we looking for Masatoshi **Kurihara**?

Or, is the owner of the flag Masatoshi **Miyazaki**?

OBON SOCIETY must now research each family group and try to discover which is the correct family that matches this flag. This is going to be very complicated and challenging. Watch for updates!



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Our work is made possible by generous contributions from people like you.