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Case No. 3

Mr. and Mrs. Okasaki

Murder - Suicide

Investigator

Jack Shimatsu

Manzanar Police Dept.

Investigator Jack Shimatsu's Report

This case is murder-suicide by following facts:

After questioning Rev. Fujimori his statement was the door was locked from inside and that he had to call the elder daughter to open the door.

I found the table lamp on the floor. The light was on but it was shield with a cardboard box so the light could not be seen from the outside. I checked and found that the suicide note was the handwriting of the deceased.

People next door claim that they, the deceased, argued quite often but did not hear anything the night, September 24 or the morning of September 25, 1942.

Children were inside the room and would have awakened if an intruder had perpetrated the crimes.

No indications of struggle.

Facts obtained by investigational procedure and techniques which proved murder and suicide by the deceased Fred Tetsuzo Okasaki were later collaborated by the translation of diary and letters found along side of the bodies.

Photographs will be attached to original report at a later date.

Jack Shimatsu
Investigator

Sept. 28, 1942.

REPORT BY INVESTIGATOR JACK SHIMATSU

September 25, 1942

Mr. Nishimura reported the murder-suicide case to the station at 7:45 A.M., September 25, 1942. It was reported to Lt. James Oda. Patrol Sgt. Ujie and I went to the scene of the crime.

We arrived at the house, 35-13-1, at 8 A.M. There were 20 to 30 people gathered at the house. I walked into the house. I found Mr. and Mrs. Okasaki lying on the bed. (Two cots were placed together to form one double bed.) The two girls were on the mother's side, the older girl had her arms around her mother's neck, the younger one was sitting by her mother's legs on the bed.

I found 4 letters and a diary laid out on top of a card table which was on the right side of the apartment as I entered. The letters were addressed to the following:

1. Mr. Nakamura
2. Mr. Nagano and friends
3. Mr. and Mrs. Tagami and Kinoshita
P.O. Box 138
Harrington, Washington
4. Masao Masamitsu

I left the letters and the diary on the table and saw to it that nothing was touched until after the Sheriff arrived. After receiving the Sheriff's permission, I opened the letters and found that they were written in Japanese.

Rev. Fujimori and Mr. Sasaki, the blockleader of block 35 were in the house when I entered. I sent Sgt. Ujie back to the station to get Chief Schmidt and Ass't Chief Gilkey. They arrived at 8:05 A.M.

I tried to separate the children from their mother, but they

wouldn't let go. Mrs. Fujimori came in the house and separated them, and the girls started crying.

Dr. Goto was sent for by one of the policemen. Dr. Goto arrived at 8:15 A.M. His report was that they were both dead. Since it was more of a case for the coroner, Lt. Oda left to telephone him. Dr. Goto left for the hospital, leaving word to let him know when the coroner arrived.

Chief Schmidt took pictures of the bodies, and after taking 2 or 3 shots, he sent Lt. Oda after Mr. Bob Brown. Mr. Brown arrived at 8:20 A.M. He began taking pictures of the bodies.

At 8:30 A.M. Mr. Coverley and Mr. Campbell arrived, and left after 5 minutes.

Coroner Cris Carrasco of Inyo County arrived at 9 A.M. with John McMurphy, Deputy District Attorney and Sam Spear, Sheriff of Inyo County. Dr. Goto was summoned, and he arrived at 9:05 A.M.

After the arrival of the coroner, we started investigating the body. We found a bruise on the right side of Mrs. Okasaki's chin. A strip of sheeting was wrapped around her neck three times and then double-tied securely.

Mr. Okasaki had his left wrist cut about an inch and a half. There were 2 stab wounds on the chest close together, about 4 inches apart, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep. There were two cuts on the right side of the neck. A strip of sheeting was wrapped around his neck three times and then single-tied securely. The long end of the strip was tied to the long end of Mrs. Okasaki's strip.

A knife was found underneath the blanket near Mr. Okasaki. The knife was a regular kitchen knife, 12 inches long.

Mr. Okasaki's left hand was hanging down from the bed. His left leg was off the bed, and his foot was touching the floor.

Both bodies were covered by a blanket.

On the bed, by the right side of Mrs. Okasaki's head was a Buddhist shrine.

Mr. Okasaki had pajamas on and he wore socks on his feet.

Mrs. Okasaki was attired in a Japanese night gown (yukata.)

After investigations were made, it was declared evident that Mrs. Okasaki was knocked unconscious by a blow on the chin, and then strangled by the strip of sheeting. Mr. Okasaki cut and stabbed himself and then apparently strangled himself.

The undertaker checked to see if Mrs. Okasaki's neck was broken, but it wasn't. Rigor mortis had already set in both the bodies.

After putting the bodies on a stretcher and putting them in the undertaker's car, I took the letters, the diary, the knife, the life-insurance policy and the wallet, which was in the trouser pocket (which lay on a stool next to the table.) The wallet contained \$100 in money order made out to Mr. Okasaki by Mitchell, and other miscellaneous papers.

Police driver Sato drove me back to the station at 11:30 A.M.

The only persons aside from these already mentioned who entered the house were the policemen who received permission from the Chief.

I had Tomomasa Yamasaki of the Free Press translate the letters.

After the translations were completed, it became evident that it was a murder-suicide case, and that it was contemplated for days by Mr. Okasaki, as stated in his diary.

The medical reports sent in by Dr. Gōt are as follows:

"Fred Tetsuzo Okasaki, died September 25, 1942, at block 35, bldg. 13 apt. 1, time unknown. Cause of death: Asphyxia and stab wound of chest and wrist.

Frances Sakaye Oakasaki, died September 25, 1942, at block 35 bldg. 13 apt. 1, time unknown. Cause of death: Asphyxia and contusion of face."

The children are being taken care of by Rev. and Mrs. Fujimori of 35-12-3. The children's names are Himeko Okasaki, age 6, and Shizuko Okasaki, age 4.

The instructions on the envelope addressed to Mr. Nakamura stated that the funeral is to be a Buddhist ceremony, and that the bodies are to be cremated.

At 8 P.M. I questioned Mr. Harry Yoshio Nakamura, who witnessed to the background of the case. The statements of the interview are on page 4.

It was reported to me that Mrs. Kie Toguchida, 35-6-3 was a go-between in the case. I questioned Mrs. Toguchida at 9:00 P.M. The statements of the questioning are on page 5.

September 26, 1942

At 11:00 A.M., September 26, I called in Mr. Nakamura and Mr. Kenzo Nagano, 35-14-1, and the Buddhist priest, Mr. Nagatomi, 25-4-5. They were shown the letters addressed to them by Okasaki.

Mr. Nagano stated that he had seen Mrs. Toguchida take Mrs. Okasaki out at night, and saw that Mrs. Okasaki and Mr. Masamitsu met each other. Then Mrs. Toguchida would go home.

Mrs. Toguchida always encouraged Mrs. Okasaki to get a

divorce and to marry Masamitsu. She stated that a second husband was always better than the first, Nagano said.

I sent Policewoman Asaka to interview several people in block 35 who knew Mrs. Toguchida to get a compilation of reports as to Mr. Nagano's above statements. Interviews are found on page ____.

For the contents of the letter, refer to the English translation following report.

Investigator Jack Shimatsu

Case # 3
Letter # 1

Letter written to Mr. Nakamura
(Translated by Tom Yamasaki)

Mr. Nakamura:

In many ways I am sorry to have troubled you. And today, having committed such an unexpected act, I do not know how to ask for everyone's pardon. Please do not discuss the good or evil of the thing.

I could not kill the children; I loved them too well. My brother-in-law Shichinosuke Tagami, my wife's brother-in-law (Aizaburo Kinoshita) and sister (Buni) are at the following address. Please make arrangements for them to take the children, and have them come here if that can be arranged.

Harrington, Washington
P.O. Box 138 c/o Royal Cafe.

I have only one hundred dollars. Aside from this sum, I have left my house and automobile in the custody of Mitchell and have a two hundred dollar note from him. I don't care how much you can get for the, two hundred dollars or any amount, please do as you see fit. My wife denied everything, but I was shown the truth when my heart was boiling with my wife's attitude. It was my object to keep the two from coming together. I couldn't think of anything but that snake-like fellow and my wife who insisted on her denial, so that I couldn't stand it. Please make proper and best arrangement for my children. (There are two war bonds worth \$17.50 each). And please don't forget to give my regards to Mr. Mitchell

To Mr. Nakamura

From Oaxasaki

Written on top of the envelope: Please arrange for a Buddhist funeral. The bodies are to be cremated.

Letter written to Nagano and Friends.

To my friends:

I know I have not done a very commendable act. I wish to apologize to everyone for having done this. It is a human mind which made me take the action. I wanted to get the fellow, but I missed the chance. This month I received the greatest shock of my life. My mind is like an empty shell, I may be crazy. I deeply apologize to you, my friends, who know all I feel.

Mr. Nakamura, Mr. Teraji, Mr. Nagano, Mr. Kinoshita, Mr. Ijiri, Mrs. Tanaka, Mrs. Honda, Mrs. Honda, Mrs. Kimura, Mr. Kawanishi; and everybody in the neighborhood. I am sorry that this is going to make such a commotion. Within my dwindling life, I ask your pardon.

You people of No. Nine (kitchen) you may be surprised that a man like me could do such a thing. I just did this as a man. A month and a half ago, only God knew what was going to happen. I ask Mrs. Honda to take care of my children. Although I did this as a man's prerogative, I am sorry for my children.

That evil fellow, my wife, and a certain woman wrecked my home in little over a month's time. But, at present, I feel as serene as a forest. Standing before death, I am relieved of all my worries as to how to solve this thing, and compared with that agony, I feel rather light.

But I must speed ahead. In the future, if it's true that I can meet you in another world, I shall talk to all of you about this world I am leaving.

Please forgive the one who speeds toward death.

To Everyone,

From Okasaki

P.S.

We all make mistakes in this world. But knowing that mistake and still persist in doing the same thing can no longer be considered an error. In that respect I am doing only what a man should do. I was forced to commit this act.

Case # 3
Letter # 3

Letter of Tetsuzo Okasaki addressed to Mr. and Mrs.
Tagami and Kinoshita--P.O. Box 138 Harrington, Washington.
(Translated by Tom Yamazaki, Manzanar.)

I have come to the end of the road. Brother, Sister, and Tagami, Sakaye is treating me like dirt. She is infatuated with a man who has a bad reputation among my friends. She is scheming in every way to leave me after 13 years of marriage and her two children. You may well fear the passion of mature woman in love. I am realizing this after forty years of existence. In one month and a half everything has been swept under me. Once in the past she had fornication with Takeji (in Venice) It was little over a month since I separated from my brother, and having a queer feeling I went out and came back about an hour later and caught the two on the spot. I forgave them when they pleaded with me although I was really mad, since he was my flesh and blood. Since then, we have been going on very well. I did not think she would do anything again, but coming to Manzanar where the Japanese are congregated and where immoral relationship exist all over because there is nothing else to do and where people play with fire (she started in again.) I work quite a distance from my place and when friends warned me, it was too late.

At one time, we settled the whole thing by forbidding (him) to come around the house, but unable to give my wife up, the fellow is trailing my wife around. Things have come to a very serious stage. The man has a woman who is pregnant, but he left her to come to Manzanar. He is notorious fellow in Los Angeles. I have lectured my wife many times, but having made up her mind to leave me, she is like a devil. She is no longer the Sakaye I knew. Leaving Sakaye aside, not having my two beloved children, I will be thrown out alone.

Imagine my mental condition for the past twenty days, I cannot sleep. I try to explain things to her, and although everything is unpleasant we are still living together, thinking about the children and to prevent this from becoming a social problem. Sakaye is desperately trying to get out from the house but she is unable because we are all hemmed in here by the war.

The fellow is said to have threatened a woman with a pistol once before. But Sakaye is crazed with love for him. You would think that she will repent because she has two children but she is taking issue with me. I try to keep her by making her think about the children, but it is no use. Then again, there is a woman who is aiding the fellow.

I have lost out in the fight for life. I know that man must live lonesomely, with anguish and agony, but I feel like dying now. Shall I have it out to death with the fellow. Sakaye will not be happy with the fellow. Since I know this too well, shall I kill Sakaye and the two children, I stay up nights thinking about it.

Sakaye is pestering me coldly to live apart. She says there is no love between us. I know that they are meeting secretly behind my back and when sharp mind sees this, I can hardly stand it. What is more shameful than this for a man to bear? Although I know the true relationship, there is nothing I could do. People are laughing about the matter. I am living in this kind of atmosphere. I wish I could consider this letter other than my last note, but how could I walk along the path of life, forsaken by my loving wife, without the children. That is too pitiful picture of myself. Once the whole thing was settled, but they still keep at it boldly before the public.

As a man, I can no longer bear having my wife speak to me vilely and having the fellow come around my house. I have no feeling of social position, honor, shame or anything else, imagine this kind of life I have been leading for the past month and a half. If this was outside, things will be different, but here, this life is what you call a living shame. I can see through their scheme; if I eliminate one their plan will be broken. I forgave Sakaye, not once, but twice, and if she repents again, for the sake of the children, I may forgive her again, but she will not listen. People make mistakes, but it is no longer a mistake when they keep on after having come to a solution once. In that consideration I have made up my mind. I feel sorry for the children, but I can no longer stand this. I don't know what will happen, but whatever does happen, do not be too surprised. And forget everything.

To everyone at Harrington

From Okasaki

Statement by Mr. Nakamura to Investigator Jack Shimatsu
September 25, 1942 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Okasaki went over to Mr. Nakamura and told his trouble to him. Mr. Okasaki said that Masamitsu comes over to his house while he was out. I told my wife not to see him but she tells me that Masamitsu comes over as a friendly visitor so I can't kick him out of the house.

One day Masamitsu and his three friends and Mr. and Mrs. Okasaki talked this matter over and Masamitsu agreed that he will not go over to Mr. Okasaki's house, but Masamitsu always looks out of the window and as soon as Mr. Okasaki leaves the house, he would go over to see his wife.

Mr. Okasaki asked Mr. Nakamura to talk to his wife and see what he could do about it and Mr. Okasaki left around 7:00 P.M.

Around 8:00 P.M. Mrs. Okasaki came over to Mr. Nakamura's house and after Mr. Nakamura asked her what she knows about what her husband been saying to him and her reply was that there was no truth to it, and that she had nothing to do with Mr. Masamitsu. Mrs. Okasaki said that she is working at 35 kitchen and Mr. Okasaki was working in 9 kitchen, but he quit there and was going to work in 36 kitchen, but he did not like the medical examination so he did not go to her husband and she left for home at 9:00 P.M.

COPY

Case #3

Statement by Mr. Nakamura

September 16, 1942 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Okasaki went over to Mr. Nakamura's house. Mr. Nakamura asked Mr. Okasaki why don't you get a job at the kitchen and let your wife take care of the children. Mr. Nakamura told Mr. Okasaki that his wife told him that he didn't like the medical examination, and Mr. Okasaki said that is not the reason but his wife liked to work there.

Mr. Okasaki told Mr. Nakamura that his wife wanted to separate from him for a month or two and think things over. And if things turned out all right, she would go back to him. Mr. Nakamura said that it might be a good idea to separate for a few months and think things over when you are both so excited, you don't have time to think things over. Mr. Okasaki said it was all right with him but he does not want Mr. Masamitsu to visit his house after they separate and that he have the right to see his children any time. Mr. Okasaki went home around 7:30 P.M.

About September 18 or 19, 1942

Mrs. Okasaki went over to see Mr. Nakamura around 8:00 P.M. Mr. Naamura asked her that her husband told him that she wanted to separate from him for a few months and that her husband agreed to that if it will help the matter any.

Mr. Nakamura told Mrs. Okasaki that the two children belong to his husband just as much as it does to her so she should think of her children's happiness too. Mr. Nakamura asked Mrs. Okasaki if she think that for the happiness for the children, and if she think it is

best to go back to her husband, will you go back to your husband, and her reply was yes. Mr. Nakamura asked Mrs. Okasaki if Mr. Masamitsu persuaded her to separate from her husband and her reply was no. Mr. Nakamura told her if you separate from your husband for few months, Mr. Masamitsu is not to visit her at any time and that her husband has the right to visit the children at any time. Mrs. Okasaki left for home.

9:00 P.M.

Statement by Mr. Nakamura

September 24, 1942 8:30 P.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Okasaki and her two children came over to see Mr. Nakamura. Mrs. Okasaki told her two children to stay with her father and that she will be right back and left. Mr. Okasaki left with the two children to see where she was going. That was the last time Mr. Nakamura saw them. They stayed around five minutes.

Mrs. Kie Toguchida, 35-6-3, questioned by Investigator Jack
Shimatsu

September 25, 1942 9:00 P.M.

Investigator: What do you know about the background of the case?

Mrs. Toguchida: I don't know much. All I know is that I used to
go to the canteen with Mrs. Okasaki occasionally.

Investigator: I hear you were more or less the go-between in this
case, and that you arranged the meetings which took
place between Mrs. Okasaki and Masamitsu.

Mrs. Toguchida: That's a lie, I had nothing to do with it.

Investigator: Did Mrs. Okasaki say anything about her husband going
to kill her or anything along that line?

Mrs. Toguchida: No. All she said was that she and her husband were
not getting along so well together

Investigator: When did you see Mrs. Okasaki last?

Mrs. Toguchida: Around 4 or 5 P.M. September 24. I was expecting
to be called and be questioned by the Police Department because everyone knows that I saw Mrs. Okasaki
occasionally. I mean the people who live around Mrs.
Okasaki's house. I am pretty sure that they saw me go
out with her.

(Mrs. Toguchida was taken home at 10:00 P.M.)

Letter written to Mr. Masao Masamitsu
(Translated by Tomomasa Yamasaki, September 25, 1942)

Due to the fact that this note was written in very excited condition, certain details are unclarified. But we are able to get the meaning in its entirety.

To Satan Masamitsu:

Lately the Satan has got hold of my wife and she is acting like a crazy person. I pity her foolishness. Trying to get close to Masamitsu by telling lies that I can see right through.

Masamitsu you call me a fool, but your present conduct makes you more obvious fool than I am. It is more proper that I should kill you instead of my wife. However, my wife is making a fool of me as much as you, therefore, it's come to a point where it does not make any difference, which one I kill. It is easier to kill my wife because she is closer at hand.

I shall watch over you. My family was easily destroyed by you in two months. But after two months of mental agony, I am determined, my heart is clear and that your strategy of tonight has failed. No matter how longingly you wait in the field for my wife (she would not come.) It is unlucky day for my wife and for you. In doing this, I have revenge. If I did not have children I would catch you two together and jail you. Since I have two children, that would not go so well. From now on you will gradually see why I make revenge and I shall hover behind your back and shall haunt you. I shall be very happy if I can make you the most valuable example to bad men and women who have immoral relationships.

(To his wife) Do not make me a fool by saying that you have had no relationship with Masamitsu. What does your friendly attitude of

other day reveal? Masamitsu is not smart enough to fool me. Man's real value is not in how well or how slick he talks. He has character of snake and has taken hold of my wife. Morning, noon, and night you visited my household and now my wife talks to me like a stranger. She denied everything as long as it could not be seen. Masamitsu told her to do this. I stood it as long as I could for the sake of my children whom I love. The whole society called me a fool. Masamitsu and my wife called me a fool in my face. The society said that I was like a jelly fish.

At last the time has arrived and regret that I could not kill Masamitsu, but he will suffer more from the abuses of society. Both of you are fools to have played with love without fear.

And how do I feel now? I cannot kill innocent children.

Goodbye

Signed Okasaki

NOTES ON MY FEELINGS, September 7th
(Translated by Tomomasa Yamasaki, September 25, 1942)

I, who has come through more than half way on the road of life, and now filled with feeling of desperation, agony because of family trouble. I feel lonely because I have no true friend. But man should not tell other of his trouble until the very last. Every person has his share of wordly woes. I am not the only one.

Men are such fools. My family life up until now has been a picture of happiness. I don't know how I can keep on living the way it is now. I am a loser in the battle of life. Should I restrain myself because of my wife and my children whom I love, or should I take resolute manly action? Which shall I do? I am confused. Also my life and my family, a dream of the past I cannot bear to keep on going feeling the way I do. I have no hope in this life, but I have made up my mind to forebear and wait.

I am entering into the autumn of my troubled life. I will bear and unbear as much as I can and wait. I shall write the truth without fabrication because I am preparing for the day when I shall make up my mind. I do not bear grudge against my wife nor to anyone else. I admit that I did feel pangs of jealousy concerning my wife, but the day before yesterday I quit having feelings of jealousy and I have made up my mind not to sifle my wife's freedom.

It is foolish to chase a wife who is running away. Since I have come from Venice, I have become a narrow and foolish man. But it is no avail to keep on repeating these things. Everything I do is for the wife I love and the children. I am thinking often about death. Death may mean tragedy and loneliness, on otherhand, it may

mean, by thinking rationally, there is nothing so foolish as to die, especially to commit suicide. And this life, one must live no matter how lonesome or troubled one is.

Often I think it is much more happier to die. It may be easier to die by myself without bearing the shame of my wife and children to society. I am writing for first time in three years, because I must bear this heart of mine because I have no friend to tell it to. Therefore, I shall continue to write it.

THOUGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS
(Translation by S. Higashi)

September 8, 1942

If my wife is trying to go her own way, that might cause destruction of a family and bring about a family tragedy. It's all right while I am taking things coolly. I shall try to maintain and preserve my family's welfare without including my selfish feelings toward my wife from any angle. My father-in-law was a very selfish man, but after all, he was a man. My wife is selfish. But she is a woman so I have tried to bring out the qualities of motherhood in her for her children's sake.

Our family hasn't any elderly friends whom we can respect and rely upon. This Manzanar is wild for our family, but I believe that only my family is in the center of whirling trouble. She acts faithful toward me in front of that young man. But when I see my wife's actions toward the young man, she belongs to him physically and mentally.

Because of that reason, I believe she has become obstinate. If it were not for the fact that she compares us, and prefers the other man, she would not be so self-willed. From now on, I am going to watch him and her more carefully. Hence, I will take things more coolly, and watch her action closely by her action and words. I can't deny that there are some things back of her action.

As a man, I absolutely cannot bear the shame which results from my wife comparing me to my rival and does as she pleases. Even though I kill them I will not feel satisfied. But if I keep him away, she might change her mind. I believe and hope some day she

she might return to me, as a human being, with common sense. I'll live only for my beloved children. Man's mind is driven wild when woman or wife puts him to humiliation.

I don't care what happens. If I decide to die...Then I should do so manly.

September 10, 1942

Last night my wife was playing with the children. When I saw this, I was so glad and happy, and I felt I was back with my happy family of the past. I was filled with gladness. After I slept, I realized there is no use in asking her to change her mind. But for the sake of preserving the welfare of the family, and as a man, I will take the humiliation.

September 13, 1942

I wonder why I have become such a weakling like a jelly fish, causing her to dislike me. I do not care to think about anything. My wife went out this evening. I know there is no reason for her to go out and to stay out as late as 9:00 P.M. In case something should happen to her, I went after her after putting the children to sleep. As I started out, I met a couple and a man walking. I felt very lonesome. Then I met my wife. She called out to me. "Papa". I guess she knew I would be coming after her.

Every since the problem, she should tell me where she's going. I think that is a very good plan.

So at the present time, there is no dissatisfaction. Only one problem remains, that.....leaves our family alone as soon as possible. I don't know how to put an end to this problem. This is the

the main issue. Why do they have to make me suffer? Everything should have been settled before. That man is a very incomprehensible man. Therefore, it is a.....

What a shameless guy he is. We shall soon see if I cannot make her change her mind. After all, I'm a human being. Yet, I'm afraid to destroy my family so I am going to be patient until the end.

September 14, 1942

Today she brought his pants again. If I take it as nothing, it is nothing.

Ah! Ah! life comes and goes. I feel badly to make my wife work. I don't want to think about anything.

September 16, 1942

I had a lecture. He is my wife's contrast and always he takes the side of my wife. That young man, what did he tell me in front of my wife? I just wanted to kill him, but I gritted my teeth and thought of my two children and decided to be patient. Wife has a woman friend. One after another she has told of our private affairs. Then that woman tells that man. That man is very talkative. In another words, he is a smooth talker. He knows how to work on woman. Being like a snake, in the hands of a man like that, that's the end of her.

September 20, 1942

This date is a day that I never can forget throughout my life. The place is under a big tree in block 36 where I put an end to my 10 years of married life. Life is very mysterious. Two of my children heard, but they don't know anything.

Till now, I was living with my family but the day is coming along when I will be alone. I cannot bear that lonesomeness. I would not have dreamed of this happening four weeks ago. (My wife may deny this) But it is true. So I cannot help it. As I am 41 years old, I do not have many more years of my life. Even God does not know when this war will be over. Why should my life be involved in it and be destroyed.

This morning as I took both my children to the Buddhist Church, my old memory of my life, in Long Beach, came to me and I recall how every Sunday I travelled along distance to Nishi Hongan Ji (name of Buddhist Church) for the past several years, and memory of the dear Rev. Tukawa and Rev. Washioka.....

As I recalled those memories, I forgot that I was in a Buddhist Church. I felt like kneeling down before Buddha and praying. When I opened my eyes, I thought Buddha came out to talk to me and I felt as if Buddha was welcoming me even in life or death.

Life must be continued even though I feel lonesome, tortured (mentally) and agony. When I feel tortured and if I kneel before Buddha, I may not think that a death is such unhappiness.

When her love faded out, she goes to some other man, but I have always been a father to my two children. It is all right even if her

love is lost to me. I only hope a time will come once again when we four can sit around Buddha and recall our old times.

My family is so unhappy and there is no harmony. And life is monotonous. Therefore, an evil mind will develop but I believe her and will not doubt her. During our ten years of married life that is just the time of boredom. My children are growing older and getting independent, domestic quarrels are natural among couples. This man appeared before her and attracted her attention at this time. The man seems to love my wife, and instead of going away from her, he forced into our home and spoke fierce language out loud in front of my wife. I wanted to kill him but I held my temper for my beloved children. But as I think it over now, I wish I had done it then. It would have been more manly to do so.

If the man was normal there would be no problem, but I do not wish to be the center of gossip with still a promising future for the young man, I do not want my wife to be laughed at by society. I told him to go away for I believe that is right for normal human being. It might be true that it will clarify the relationship between my wife and the man. The public will know which is right. If public wish to laugh ~~me~~ then laugh. If they wish to ridicule me, let them ridicule. I have no pride and no shame now. I know everything but what can I do? There are so many ways to go but there are so numerous and so puzzling. I have determined to go my way.

September 26, 1942

Statement by Mrs. Takamura 35-12-1 to Policewomen Asaka and Tabuchi

"Day before yesterday, Mr. Okasaki came over and told me all his troubles. In the conversation, Mr. Okasaki said that it was unfortunate that his wife and Mrs. Toguchida had become such intimate friends because he felt that Mrs. Toguchida was the cause of all the trouble."

September 26, 1942

Statement by Mrs. Ruby Sakauye 35-5-1

"Mrs. Toguchida drove Mrs. Okasaki into the whole matter. She used to go out with her to meet this man.

The two ladies were very friendly with each other and were always seen together whispering secretly in the laundry room.

"On the day that we found out about the case, while everyone else was gathered around the house, Mrs. Toguchida stayed at a distance, peeking around the barrack to see what was going on."

September 26, 1942

Statement by Mrs. Fujimori 35-12-3

"I feel that Mrs. Toguchida has a great deal to do with Mrs. Okasaki and Mr. Masamitsu's coming so closely together. She was more or less the go-between who "covered up" and saw to it that these secret meetings between Mrs. Okasaki and Mr. Masamitsu took place. Mrs. Toguchida persistently told Mrs. Okasaki to get a divorce from her husband and marry Mr. Masamitsu.

"Previously, the Okasaki children were very attached to Mrs. Toguchida; but when she came to see the girls at my house, they could not be persuaded to even come out to see her."

Information from Social Welfare Department head, Mrs. Margaret D'Ille to Investigator Jack Shimatsu.

Report of the conversation.

Mr. Tetsuzo Okazaki and his two little daughters, Himeko, 6, and Shizuko, 4, came with Reverend Fujimoro on Wednesday, September 23, to talk over the problem of his difficulty with his wife. Mr. Okazaki was very much excited, talked quite rapidly and was pale. He said that he had lost a good deal of weight in the past month.

At first he was too nervous to talk connectedly. (The conversation was in Japanese to avoid his two little daughters of hearing what was being said.) Mr. Okazaki said that although he had been married for about ten years and that although he is 41 and his wife 28, they had always been happy until about a month ago. During this past month, Mr. Okazaki explained that his wife had been going about with a young man named Masao Masamitsu, who lived in the next apartment 35-14-1. This young man is 26 years of age. He is reported to have a mother and some other members of his family living in this camp but it is said that he had wanted to live by himself as a bachelor and so had moved into his present apartment. Mr. Okazaki said that when he went out to the beet fields earlier this year that he lived a rather irregular life.

Mr. Okazaki said that his wife seemed to be completely infatuated with this young man and ever since she began to go about with him she had not wanted to be with the husband at all. He said that there was a woman living near them who had been constantly arranging meetings between his wife and Masao Masamitsu. He was, if anything, more angered by this woman than by the young man. He said

that he had done everything he could to persuade his wife to give up the young man. He also said that his wife always denied that there is anything improper in her relations with Masamitsu, but that all the neighbors felt differently and that he himself had lost faith in his wife.

He mentioned a friend by the name of Mr. Nakamura who had the confidence of Mr. Okazaki and also of his wife. He said that they had been to see him often and that he had tried to bring about a reconciliation.

Mr. Okazaki kept insisting that he wanted to "set a trap" for his wife and Masamitsu so that he could actually have evidence against them. He said that he felt sure that a divorce was inevitable and that he wanted to have evidence so that he himself could bring any action necessary.

He said that he had heard that Masamitsu was to leave camp to go to the beet fields and wished this to be verified. This office called Mr. Miller's office. Verification came through after Mr. Okazaki had left this office. Mr. Miller added the information that he had a report that Masamitsu had been a very satisfactory worker when he went out before and had a good reputation. He said that in fact Koji Ariyoshi had asked for Masamitsu to go out again-- this report was sent to Mr. Fujimoro - (this report was evidently in error. Later Koji Ariyoshi was seen and he reported that Masamitsu's record in the beet fields was not good. He was a good worker but he took part in a strike that could hardly be justified. Also, he gambled, etc. He himself came to Ariyoshi requesting that he be allowed to leave the camp and said that he was in trouble with a

woman and that the husband was threatening him and that he wanted to get away. However, Mr. Ariyoshi reported that after he had this conversation with Masamitsu he saw him with this woman and asked him later why he went out with her if he wished to avoid trouble.) As the conversation with Mr. Okazaki went on, he became quieter. When it was suggested that it was a good idea for Mrs. D'Ille to see his wife and perhaps the young man also, Mr. Okazaki said that he would prefer that neither one was seen for the present and that he would like to leave matters as they were until the young man had left the camp.

He said that although he did not believe that his wife really loved him any longer that he would wait and see if she came to a different feeling after the young man had left.

Toward the end of the conversation he said that perhaps he was too old for his wife and that she had grown tired of him. He also said that it might be true also that he was tired of his wife. When he left the office, he seemed much more rational and seemed able to consider the problem in a fairly objective way. It was understood that this office would work with him on the case after Masamitsu had left.

Later in the day, Mr. Nakamura, the friend to whom Mr. Okazaki had referred came into the office. He said that he wanted to explain that he felt Mr. Okazaki was a little extreme in his point of view and that, having heard both sides of the trouble, that he himself felt that Mr. Okazaki's suspicions of his wife were not well founded. He seemed to be hopeful of reconciliation after Mr. Masamitsu would have left camp.

No further message came to this office regarding the case until the family visitor reported the tragedy about 8:30 Friday morning, September 25.

COPY

--of letter from Masao William Masamitsu, mailed at Rupert, Idaho, October 16, 1942, to Jack Shimatsu, police investigator, at Manzanar. Letter received at Manzanar October 19; original in possession of Shimatsu, evacuee refugee at Death Valley, California, following the riot at Manzanar on December 6.

October 15, 1942
Mobile Camp 5
Rupert, Idaho

Mr. J. Shimazu
Interior Police Force
Manzanar Relocation Center
Manzanar, California

My dear Mr. Shimazu:

I wish to take this opportunity in thanking you for the kind help you had given me and the interest you had taken in my affair just prior to my departure on this furlough. I certainly do appreciate all what you did for me.

Upon my arrival here in camp I have had a long talk with Mr. Take Tagami, a relative of the Okazaki's. He comprehends fully everything and I certainly do feel very much at ease.

Just prior to my departure I read the will written by Mr. Okazaki addressed to me. Though I have read it, I would appreciate it very much if it would be possible for you to send me a copy of this said will so that I could re-read it and comprehend its contents more fully and think it over more carefully. If my request is at all possible, I wish you would send me a copy at your earliest convenience.

Another favor I wish to ask of you is that the Okazaki's did have photographs of the family. If your department have possession of their belongings I wish you would take the trouble of having one such photo released so that I could have it in my possession. If your department is not in custody of such items, I wish you would take the trouble of referring this matter to the proper persons so that I will be able to

have such a photo sent to me.

I hope that you would do your utmost in having my above favors fulfilled. I hope to hear from you in the very near future, I thank you.

Very sincerely yours,

P.S. Please do extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Police Chief Kiyoshi Higashi for his help.