12893

EVACUATION SECTION
Rec'd FEB 23 1943
File No.
Ans. B.M.C.
Refer to
PERSONAL

FILE No. 12893.

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

JAPANESE SECTION

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

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: ROGER OBATA.

HOME ADDRESS: 89 PRINCE ARTHUR AVE TORONTO, ONT.

REGISTRATION NUMBER 14973 SEX: MALE AGE: 28.

OCCUPATION: ELECTRICAL ENGINEER.

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

EMPLOYER: CANSFIELD ELECTRICAL WORKS LTD.

MARRIED? NO.

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND:

ADDRESS OF WIFE OR HUSBAND:

NAMES OF ANY LIVING CHILDREN:

ADDRESS OF CHILDREN:

AGE OF CHILDREN:

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

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

2. BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS:

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

4. TAXES (Amount and where payable)

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

6. OCCUPANCY AND LEASES (If vacant so state)

7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS:

8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST:

9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN

STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID:

4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE:

5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid)

6. IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN:

STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:

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

1- TABLE MODEL COMBINATION RADIO & GRAMAPHONE
R.C.A. VICTOR. MODEL 1939. 6 TUBE.

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

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

FORM "J"

FILE No. 12893

4. INSURANCE CARRIED ON ABOVE PROPERTY: _____

5. MORTGAGES, LIENS AND OTHER CLAIMS ON PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF OTHERS: _____

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

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

8. BANK ACCOUNTS: _____

9. LIFE INSURANCE: _____

10. INTEREST IN ANY ESTATES OR TRUSTS: _____

11. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX: _____

LIABILITIES:

1. PERSONAL DEBTS: _____

2. TRADE DEBTS: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily turn over to the Custodian all my property in the protected area as set out above, excepting fishing vessels, deposits of money, shares of stock, debentures, bonds or other securities, if any.

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

Dated this 18 day of FEBRUARY 1943.

(Signature) Roger Obata

Witness

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE

INFORMATION FROM R.C.M.P.

DATE Nov. 17/43

Our File No. 12893

Full Name OBATA, Roger
(Surname in Block Letters)

Registration No. 14973 Male ✓ - Female (Check) Age April 20, 1915

Former Address 340 Brunswick Ave., Toronto, Ont.

Date Evacuated Outside Restricted Area Naturalized - Canadian-Born ✓ - National (Check)

Present Address ~~340 Brunswick Ave., Toronto, Ont.~~ See Memo - Mar 6/46. 89 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, Ont.

Married - Single ✓ (Check)

Name of Wife

Name of Husband

Name of Mother nee ISHIWATA, Mary Name of Father Clarence (Dec'd)

Names of Children under 16 # 10487

Requested by E.C.T. Registered with Custodian (Yes or No)

Additional Information Electrical Engineer

Research Section,
Camp Ritchie, Md.
April 15, 1946.

EVACUATION SECTION
Rec'd APR 20 1946
File No. 12893
Ans.
Referred Bell

Office of the Custodian,
Japanese Evacuation Section,
506 Royal Bank Bldg., Vancouver, B.C.

re-File#1354.

Attention Mr. R.G. Bell

Dear Sir:

Your letter of March 19th. re-accounts of above file has been received.

As on previous occasions, in the past, your method of conducting business continues to be outrageous. During the seven months that I was stationed in Vancouver, when I had every opportunity of discussing various matters with you regarding my mother's account, you made no mention of this newly "conceived" expenditure of $220 dating back two years. As a matter of fact, you made a definite statement to me to the effect that the ONLY outstanding item against her account was the $5.24 claimed by H.K. Yamamura. Do you not remember that? Now, at this late date, you conjure up an additional $220 to be deducted from the balance of the account, and this is the first we've heard of it.

It appears to me that the longer my mother leaves her account in your hands the smaller it becomes with hundreds of dollars being deducted at random, on the spur of the moment. Consequently, it is her wish that the account be transferred in full to her bank in Toronto, as soon as possible.

I have also been instructed by my mother to write to you for itemized bills covering this disbursement of $220. Your immediate attention on this matter will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Roger Obata

1354

January 4, 1951.

Re Case files
1071 for
Mr Wright Keller

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

Dear Sir: Re: R. Obata.

I have for acknowledgment your letter of December 29th in which you enclose copy of R. Obata's letter to the Minister of Justice and their reply.

This concerns Case 1071 and the property was included in our catalogue under No. 723. Evidence was given in Toronto before Mr. Justice Henry Bird, and Roger Obata appeared on behalf of his mother, claiming the market value of the property to be $12,500.00. The evidence indicates that an Agreement for Sale was entered into in 1928 for the purchase of this property for $9,000.00 by Obata's father. Obata was unable to make payments and only with difficulty paid taxes. The property would have reverted to the City of Prince Rupert except that no tax sale was held for several years. The Vendors were persuaded to reduce the price to $5500.00, this amount being more in line with what was considered to be the market value, and purchase of the property on this basis was completed by 1939.

Amounts which were stated by Obata to have been spent in improvements were in fact, merely necessary repairs. The condition of the property in 1942 is indicated by evidence which shows that the fire marshal and the Health Dept. gave notices that this building would be closed if necessary repairs to electrical wiring etc. were not made. There were also many leaks in the roof and water was ruining goods in this store and the rooming house portion of the building. This was the condition existing at the time the property was offered for sale by the Custodian.

It is true that H.G. Balgarnie wrote to Mr. Obata in May, 1944 stating that the property should bring around $9,000.00 (with equipment). Our appraisal by Shortridge (including equipment) was also around this amount, namely $8,450.00. Tenders were received in June 1944 and offers of $5000.00 and $4000.00 received. Later, offers were received for $5500.00 and $6000.00. These offers were referred to our appraiser, Mr. Shortridge who stated that in view of various circumstances such as the reversion to the City of nearby blocks, and a price at which an adjoining property had been sold, and the fact that the military situation was showing a reduction in personnel, that in his opinion, if $6500.00 could be obtained, he would recommend this as a justifiable price at which to dispose of the property. An offer of this amount was received and the property sold as at 5th February, 1945.

The above may be sufficient for your purpose at the present time. It should perhaps be noted that correspondence from Obata on several occasions has been particularly aggressive in tone. A part of his letter of April 9, 1948 reads:

> "After receiving your communication of March 16th, I checked my records carefully and was shocked to see how your office has cheated innocent people so unscrupulously because of the evacuation. Even the paltry sums which the evacuees received for their life-long struggle and toil in owning a home has been withheld from them, without interest. Some day, the people of Canada will learn of the terrible injustice that has been inflicted upon one minority group for no justifiable reason whatsoever. When that time comes, the people who were responsible for this shameful act will bow their heads in disgrace for boasting of their grand democracy."

The award given on the sale of this property was based on the formula adopted by the Commissioner for properties outside of Greater Vancouver, allowing 10% on the sale price, and the reversal of charges and a percentage allowance in regard to chattels not fully accounted for. The award was -

Real Property	$762.50
Chattels	276.94
	$1039.44

Yours very truly,

F.G. Shears,
Director.

FGS/GH

CANADIAN
EVACUATION SECTION
JUN 18 1945
File No. 12893
Ans.
Bell

Pte. R. Obata - B-128165
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
#17 Platoon B Coy.
#20 C.I.(B) T.C.
Brantford, Ont.
June 13/45.

Office of the Custodian
Japanese Evacuation Section
506 Royal Bank Bldg.
Vancouver, B.C.

Attn. Mr K. H. Bell.

Dear Sir: Re- File #1354.

I have before me a copy of a letter which my Mother, Mrs. Tomi Obata, instructed her lawyer to send to you on April 9th. 1945. According to this letter, an immediate reply was necessary and here it is 2 months later, and there has been no reply whatsoever. What is the reason for this?

It is obvious from the letter that it was a matter of utmost

The letter dated April 9th dealt with very pertinent facts regarding our property in Prince Rupert. Kindly see that all the points raised are comprehensively explained in your reply.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to my Mother's lawyer who is at present out of Toronto on an important case, and thus unable to attend to her affairs.

The address given in the letter of April 9th was 346 Merton St. our present residence. The reply is to be addressed to Mrs. Tomi Obata at that address.

Yours very truly,
Roger Obata.

urgency, and involved a considerable amount of money. The least courtesy one could expect would be an acknowledgment.

As one would naturally expect my Mother is greatly disturbed about the whole thing. Furthermore, if the property on Third Ave. in Prince Rupert has been sold, she has instructed me to inform you that she wants the full amount of the money derived therefrom, left in your custody, and a statement sent to her showing the transaction in detail. She does not want any of it remitted monthly as in the past.

If her personal belongings that were in her home have been sold, a statement covering them should have been remitted also. Some information on this matter is expected in your reply to this letter, and that of April 9th.

1354
12893

March 6th, 1944

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

Dear Sirs:-

Re: Mrs. Tami OHATA--Reg. No. 10487
Mr. Roger OHATA--Reg. No. 14973

Thank you for yours of March 3rd. We have no credit in the account of Mr. Ohata, but are posting this charge from the account of his mother as the radios were originally stored in her name. We have a credit in her account and both mother and son are resident in Toronto.

Yours truly,

H. F. Green
Protection Department

HFG:IF

File

~~1354~~ 12893

July 3, 1943.

Mrs. Tani OBATA,
Registration No. 10487,
89 Prince Arthur Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Madam:

Attached hereto is the receipt for your radios: one table model R.C.A. Victor Serial 127 and one cabinet model Victor C445.

This receipt has been sent to this office by Mr. R. B. Green, of Prince Rupert, B. C.

Should you desire these radios shipped to you, kindly communicate with the British Columbia Security Commission.

Yours very truly,

F. Matheson,
Specified Articles Department.

Enclosure

12893
1354

May 17th, 1943

Mr. Roger OBATA,
Registration No. 14973,
89 Prince Arthur Ave.,
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your letter of April 27th from which we see that you are disturbed with the delay in the receipt of your radio. This has been largely due to the fact that some uncertainty has prevailed as to the question of shipment to Japanese owners of their radios. This office now understands that the R. C. M. P. are willing to release them and arrange shipment, but application will have to be made through the Security Commission.

We remind you that you were yourself exceedingly dilatory in answering our requests for information about your and your mother's belongings and had you written to us more promptly we could probably have closed this matter to your satisfaction some time ago.

We now repeat as mentioned above, that a request should be made to the B. C. Security Commission on the lines of our form letter #107 enclosed herewith. We cannot ourselves attend to this matter since we are not aware what arrangements the Security Commission have with the R. C. M. P. Our records, however, show that these radios are stored in your mother's name with the R. C. M. P. at Prince Rupert and we think, therefore, shipment to you will be facilitated if, when you apply to the Security Commission, you enclose a letter from your mother asking for shipment and the receipt, if any, handed to her by the police at Prince Rupert.

Yours truly,

H. F. Green
Protection Department

Enc.
HFG:IF

89 Prince Arthur Ave.
Toronto, Ont.
April 27/43.

Dept. of Secy. of State
Office of the Custodian
Japanese Evacuation

EVACUATION SECTION
Rec'd MAY 7 1943
File No. 12593
Ans.
Referred Green

Attention:- Mr. H. J. Green

Dear Sir:-

Your last letter dated Dec. 28/42 assured us that our radio sets would be located soon. Four full months have passed, and we have not heard a word of them.

Just what is taking so long? Surely in four months, some attention could be given to requests from people claiming their own property. How much longer must we wait? Radios are difficult to buy these days, and a great deal of sentimental value is placed on them as well. All we are asking is that the small table model R.C.A. Victor combination be sent to us. The large console model combination may be sold at a fair price or stored.

In reading your letter of the 28th. you enquire about the registration of my Mother's personal property left behind. That has been done since then. As for me, I left in the fall of 1938 and have nothing to register.

Your immediate attention will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,
Roger Obata.

12893.

February 5, 1943.

Mr. Roger OBATA,
89. Prince Arthur Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing herewith three copies of the "JP" declaration form, and should be glad if you would kindly complete the forms and return them to us by return mail. If the radios, about which there has been some correspondence, are your property, please enter them under the heading "Personal Property" on the second page of the form.

Will you also please send us a list of the property belonging to your Mother which still remains at Prince Rupert, and if the radios are the property of your Mother, please add them to the list. We shall then have a complete list of your Mother's property still remaining in the Protected Area.

If you have no property remaining in the Protected Area, please fill up the first part of the "JP" form, sign it and return two copies to us so that we shall have a record of the fact that you have no property in the Protected Area. Your prompt attention to this matter will be much appreciated.

Administration Department.

Yours truly,

D. M. Chope.

89 Prince Arthur Ave.
Toronto, Ont.
Dec. 15/42.

VACUATION SECTION
Rec'd DEC 23 1942
File No. 12893+18496
Ans. 28/12
Referred Green

Custodian of Japanese Property
506 Royal Bank Bldg.
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sirs,

We have been negotiating for months with Mr. Green of Prince Rupert (Box 583) trying to locate our radios, and in the last letter he stated that all the radios owned by Japanese in Prince Rupert had been sent to Vancouver on instructions from the Custodian. We had left our two radios one a large combination (R.C.A. Victor) of the console model (1930) and a small table model combination radio and gramaphone (1938-9 model) with Mr. Green, our very good friend. Somehow he was compelled to turn them over to the Custodian and now they are, as I understand, in Vancouver.

We would like to have them for our new home here in Toronto, but since the large model is too old now, the small table model which is also an R.C.A. Victor set, is the one most urgently needed.

Kindly send the set to us collect express carefully packed. Should this be impossible

a refund in cash of the value of the set is requested. Then we will be able to purchase a set here. However, if at all possible we would appreciate your sending us our own machine.

Yours truly
Roger Obata.

P.S Our home address in Prince Rupert was 719- 3rd Ave W. in case the sets were tagged or identified as such.