

41. War and the people of Fussa

41.1 People who partook in the Sino-Japanese War

In 1894 (Meiji 27), the Sino-Japanese War broke out, Japan's first war against a foreign country. MACHIDA Masakichi, resident of Fussa Village, fought in this war. He kept a private war service diary, "Seishin-techo", during his service in the Sino-Japanese War. When the Sino-Japanese War broke out, Machida was called up and was sent to Taiwan in March, the following year. By then Japan's army had already gained ascendancy in the Liaodong Peninsula and was attacking Weihaiwei in the Shandong Peninsula while starting peace talks with the Qing dynasty. The purpose in dispatching troops to Taiwan was to pressure the Qing and to gain advantage in peace negotiations. It is now accepted as a demand upon the Qing for Taiwan's secession.

Machida was assigned paramedic duties, including physique and medical examinations of soldiers and treatment of battlefield injuries and sicknesses. His duty was important because soldiers would spread illness as well as causing injury to their enemy. Japan committed a 50,000 strong force to the Taiwan zone. War dead numbered 4,498, including 3,971 dead from illness. Severe measures against illness were requested.



Fig.260 Medical orderlies sent to the Sino-Japanese War included a soldier from Fussa . MACHIDA Masakichi appears at front left. This picture was taken in Hiroshima, February 1895 (Meiji 28). He was born in Fussa Village in 1865 (Keio 1). He passed the Ko type physical examination for conscription in 1875(Meiji 18) at age 20. He was appointed to paramedic duties by the Department of War in 1886 (Meiji 19). He retired to the silk-reeling industry in Hachioji in 1889 (Meiji 22), marrying in September 1893 (Meiji 26) and gaining a daughter the next year. That year he was called back into service to help fill vacancies.

MACHIDA belonged to corps dispatched to Penghu in the Taiwan Strait. After fighting calmed down, he walked around the island to medically check the island inhabitants and conferred with them on agriculture by means of writing. On August 9, 1895 (Meiji 28), he returned to Fussa from the Sino-Japanese War to receive a hero's welcome at Higashitama Shogakko.

41.2 People mobilized to the Russo-Japanese War

The Russo-Japanese War widened from a battle at Lüshun Port, China between Japanese and Russian fleets in 1904 (Meiji 37), and ended in the September 1905 signing of the Roosevelt-recommended Portsmouth Treaty by Japan and Russia. Japan's war expenditure for the Russo-Japanese War was about 1.7 billion yen, eight times that of the Sino-Japanese War and seven times Japan's 1903 (Meiji 36) national budget. The estimated number of dead from injuries and diseases contracted at the front is about 100 thousand. Fussa Village citizens numbering 55 went to the front in the Russo-Japanese War. 4 soldiers were killed or died of diseases contracted at the front. Kumagawa Village citizens numbering 23 went to the front in the Russo-Japanese War. 5 soldiers were killed or died of diseases contracted at the front. A comparison of soldier numbers, 11 from Fussa Village and 1 from Kumagawa Village in the Sino-Japanese War, shows a great increase in mobilized citizenry for the Russo-Japanese War.

The Nishitama-gun Conscription Reward Association supported soldiers' service in the Sino-Japanese War. During the Russo-Japanese War, similar associations cropped up around Fussa. *Seinenkai* (Youth association) activities were an important way for young people to



Fig.261 Fussa Village Hyochuhi (Faithfulness stone monument) erection ceremony (Fussashinmeisha Shrine precincts, February 1919 (Taisho 8)). All the names of Fussa Village's Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese war serving soldiers are engraved on the monument.

personally meet soldiers, see them off or support their families.

41.3 The Pacific War's effect on children in Fussa

The Santama page of the Yomiuri Newspaper, October 19, 1935 (Showa 10) reports the Kumagawa Village school students dressing in national defense colored uniforms for the first time. The national defense color, khaki, reflected the army uniform's hue. Subsequently this colored school uniform spread nationwide.

School students numbering 370 and all teachers of Kumagawa Village School wore clothes of the national color. The cost was 1 yen 50 sen for each all-season outfit. All in uniform, they made a spectacle at morning assemblies.

In 1937 (Showa 12), the Nogi Boy Scouts sprang up in Kumagawa Village School. Boy Scout members undertook voluntary night patrol duties during a five-month winter interval. In conjunction, the Aikoku Girl Scouts, initiated by a school principal, numbered 120, ten years old to high school age.

Kumagawa Village School had all students above Jinjo grade 5 absented from school to support farmers, and students under grade 4 attending shortened classes during the busy farming season from June 6 to 15, 1939 (Showa 14). Due to work force shortages, unskilled child labor became a precious resource in wartime. Summer vacation volunteer service was planned for Koto grade and Jinjo grades 5 and 6 students then run at Tachikawa Military Branch Kumagawa Storehouse.

In 1941 (Showa 16), the Livelihood Affairs Supervisor of the *Taisei-Yokusankai* (Nationally administered support association) called



Fig.262 Children playing soldiers (Kumagawa riverside, 1940 (Showa 15)). Upper school students played officers, grade 5 and 6 students played wooden-sword-wielding common soldiers.



Fig.263 Day nursery during the busy farming season (Fussa Youth Association Club, 1930s (Showa 10s)).

for a child and student farm mobilization project. The students above grade 4 level were called to cease classroom studies to fully devote themselves to farm work for an extended period. To justify this urgent measure, the need to ensure the wartime food supply was stressed. This demand on students was the part of an overarching project to increase farm production and reduce rice consumption. The farm work schedule included barley reaping in June, rice planting, mulberry leaf picking, mowing, weeding, spring silkworm work, sweet potato digging (mid October to mid November), rice harvesting, cultivating, compost making, farm harvest and compost transportation and other unskilled work.

To motivate children for such labor, their teachers were required to toil in front of them. This was considered the key to this movement's success and the teachers' willingness to engage, a fundamental requirement. On-farm child labor was generally known as *Nogyo-hokokuteishin-tai*. Fussa Daini Kokumin Gakko's 1942 (Showa 17) program of school absence and a shortened school schedule during the busy farming season applied to grades 5 and 6 of *Shoto-ka* (Elementary class) and grades 1 and 2 of *Koto-ka* (High class). They were organized into volunteer work groups to aid war serving families. If their labor exceeded the demands of war serving families, they were required to work toward increased general production in addition. Children of farmers between grades 1 and 4 were required to work on their own family farms while those of non-farmers undertook volunteer work.



Fig.264 Volunteer labor service for a war serving family (Harvesting rice crop, Minamid'en, November 1941 (Showa 16)). During the busy farming season, organized volunteer labor service was zealously encouraged.

41.4 Air raids

HAMANAKA Yuichi, Fussa Daiichi Kokumin Gakko principal, wrote down daily records on air raid defense from November 1, 1944 (Showa 19) to August 15, 1945 (Showa 20). Over two months, 50 yellow and 22 red alerts are reported (a monthly average of 25 yellow and 11 red alerts). In 1945, 332 yellow and 73 red alerts were issued over eight and a half months (averaging 41 yellow and 9 red alerts). Red alerts decreased in number from the previous year, however yellow alerts quadrupled. At most, six yellow alerts were issued in a day. On some days a continuous state of alert lasted beyond ten hours. With each alert issuance, the principal was to convey the Goshin'ei (Emperor's photograph) from the Hoanden (Imperial photograph display building) to a safer place. A principal's duty was to protect the Goshin'ei. A similar duty fell on all other teachers who should immediately rush to the school whenever an alert was issued.

In 1945 (Showa 20), there were frequent air raids on cities of Japan. Air raids took place as follows: January 27 a stretch of villages from Motohachioji to Ongata (Hachioji City), February 17 Yugi (Hachioji City) and Sunagawa villages (Tachikawa City), March 5 Sunagawa Village (attacked again) then air raids closed in on Fussa. On April 4, a fierce, widespread air raid befell the Santama region including: the Nakajima Aircraft Company (Mitaka City), Tachikawa City, Kawaguchi Village (Hachioji City) and Kasumi Village (Hachioji City). The first death of a Fussa citizen through air raids was recorded.



*Fig.265 Women on the home front
Fire drill against air raids(
Nabegayato, Kumagawa, 1942
(Showa 17)).*

Air raid ferocity gradually escalated. Countless bombs and other air ordinance fell on all areas whether military or civilian, urban or rural. Hachioji City received an air raid at about 30 past midnight on August 1. The western sky glowed red from incendiary bombing to the north of Fussa Station that night, causing little damage due to the bombs falling on fields. However scattered incendiary bombing affected an area north of Kumagawa Station within four to five minutes. Violent bursting sounds rang out and pillars of fire shot up signifying the fiery destruction of several farm residences. Prior to this air raid the USAF had dispersed air raid-alert fliers at Hachioji. Fifty fire engines had been prepared for air raids with little effect. In all 1,600 tons of ordinance (8,000 bombs), mainly incendiary types, and three flare bombs fell from one hundred and sixty-nine B29 bombers.



Fig.266 Air defense watch personnel posted on Fussa Town Hall's rooftop (Fussa Town Hall, 1930s (Showa 10s)).



Fig.267 Fragments of a 50 kg bomb dropped on Kumagawa , April 4, 1945 (Showa 20). A P51 Mustang fighter dropped this bomb which pierced pillars of a private residence in Kumagawa.



Canteen (Used by nonofficial, Showa 10s).



Mess tin (Used by nonofficial, Showa 10s).



Puttees (Used by nonofficial, Showa 10s).



Steel helmet (Used by nonofficial, Showa 10s).



Plates commemorating the Army Air Service School's opening. The plates were presented to participants upon the Army Air Service School's opening at Tama Air Field, 1940 (Showa 15).



Military boots (Issued by the Japanese Army).