

# OBON 2015

*Returning personal items to their families.*  
個人の遺留品をご遺族の元へ



## OBON 2015 is now 501(c)3

OBON 2015 is pleased to announce to our supporters that you can now contribute towards our effort and receive tax deductions. We have been accepted as an affiliate to a fully accredited non-profit foundation which provides 501(c)3 tax benefits towards any financial support.

More information will be forthcoming, or you may write:

[contact@OBON2015.com](mailto:contact@OBON2015.com) for more details

*Thank you for your generous heart*

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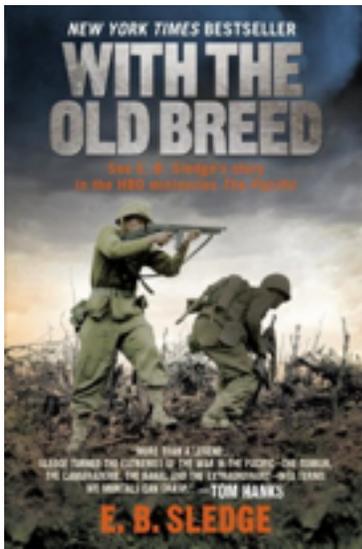
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## “Hopes and Aspirations”

**U.S. Marine Eugene B. Sledge’s highly-regarded book titled “With the Old Breed”** gives a vivid description of the fighting between the Americans and Japanese in the Pacific and questions the value of a war that destroys each country’s best young men.



*“I asked a man nearby if the word were true about Oswald being killed, Sadly he said yes. Oswald had been fatally wounded in the head. A bright young mind that aspired to delve into the mysteries of the human brain to alleviate human suffering had itself been destroyed by a tiny chunk of metal.*

*What a waste, I thought. War is such self-defeating, organized madness the way it destroys a nation’s best.*

*I wondered also about the hopes and aspirations of a dead Japanese we had just dragged out of the water.”*

When we survey the rows of crosses at Arlington, and other military cemeteries, we can only imagine what keen intelligence...what great discoveries...what fine art...cures and breakthroughs were destroyed before it had the time to present itself to the world. A genius is a gift to all of mankind, regardless of nationality, because a true genius benefits everyone.



# JIRO ONO MEETS PRESIDENT OBAMA



When President Obama visited Japan in April of 2014 he was taken to the best sushi restaurant in Japan. This small, humble restaurant is owned and operated by the internationally acclaimed genius-chef Jiro Ono.



Mr. Ono is a former Japanese soldier who fortunately survived the war. He spent two years assembling artillery shells, was then drafted into the Army and sent to Nagoya to dig underground bakeries. He was never deployed overseas and so his young life did not end prematurely.

J. D. Sledge would be pleased to know that, unlike so many others, this *"bright young mind"* survived the war and had time to mature and realize his full potential.



Jiro Ono, photographed with his *Yosegaki Hinomaru* at the age of 19 along with six unidentified women.

Jiro Ono is such a remarkable and compelling artist that in 2011, at the age of 85, a documentary was filmed about his life.

Titled *"Jiro Dreams of Sushi"* this documentary has captivated audiences around the world.

# DEAR SIRS.....

**OBON 2015** receives emails practically everyday from individuals and families who have items they want returned to families in Japan.

Some emails are short and to the point; others tell a story about their father or their own personal story of discovery or feelings towards the people of Japan.

*It is our pleasure to share with you a variety of these communications...*

Hello, I am in possession of a yosegaki hinomaru acquired by my father (an American infantry soldier, now deceased) during World War 2 in the Pacific theater. Several years ago I attempted to return this flag to the family of its owner with the help of the Japanese Consulate here in Bxxxxxx, a process which failed, they were unable to find any descendants of the flag owner.

Can you advise whether your process might be more fruitful? Perhaps you have other resources and channels available than the Consulate.

Many thanks.

Bxxxxx Cxxxxxxx

Gentlemen,

I now have a Yosegaki Hinomaru that was in my father's possession that I found when he passed away in 2013. It is silk.

Based on my father's service record, I believe he may have obtained the flag between September 1945 and December 1945 in the Philippine Islands.

I would like to see if it is possible to locate his family with the express purpose of returning it to them.

Very truly yours,

Axxxx Lxxxx

Hi,

My Uncle died about 1 year ago and my mother was going through his stuff. When she was going through a box that he had from WW II she found this Japanese Flag.

I would like to know how I can return the flag to the family or have your origination return the flag.

Here are some picture that may help you. If you need more please let me know and I will get it done for you.

I truly want to find the family this flag belongs too.

this is great!

Thanks

Txx Sxxxxxx

Hello, my name is Cxxxxxx Wxxxxxx and I'm from Mobile, Alabama. I have a Yosegaki Hinomaru that has come into my possession and I would like to learn about how to send it back to the owners family. Thank you.

# DEAR SIRS.....

Good morning,

I would deeply appreciate any assistance you can provide regarding a Japanese flag that I have from WWII. My intent is to learn the name of the Japanese soldier and return it to his family.

Hopefully you can provide me some redirection to learn the family name.

This is personally very important to me so I may return the flag to his family.

Most Sincerely,

Lxxxxxx Exxxxxx

Hello,

I have WW2 Japanese flag that my father had brought back from the Philippine Islands campaign (see attached picture). My father is since deceased and I may be interested in returning the flag to any family member if they should want it back. After researching the flag I now know that I have it mounted backwards as shown in the picture. Please send me any information that I my need.

Thanks.

Rxxxx Vxxx



I have a Yosegaki Hinomaru taken from the battlefield during WWII probably from either Papua New Guinea or Mindanao (Phillipine Islands). It was in my father's war items. He served with the 163rd Infantry (41st Division) of the US Army.

I will attach a picture of the flag I have. If you can help me with the return of this flag or any information about the owner, I would appreciate it.

Dxxxxxx Hxxxxxx

Hello,

My friend found a Japanese flag with lots of signatures on it that she would like to return to Japan.

Could you please send me some more information about how the process works?

Thank you.

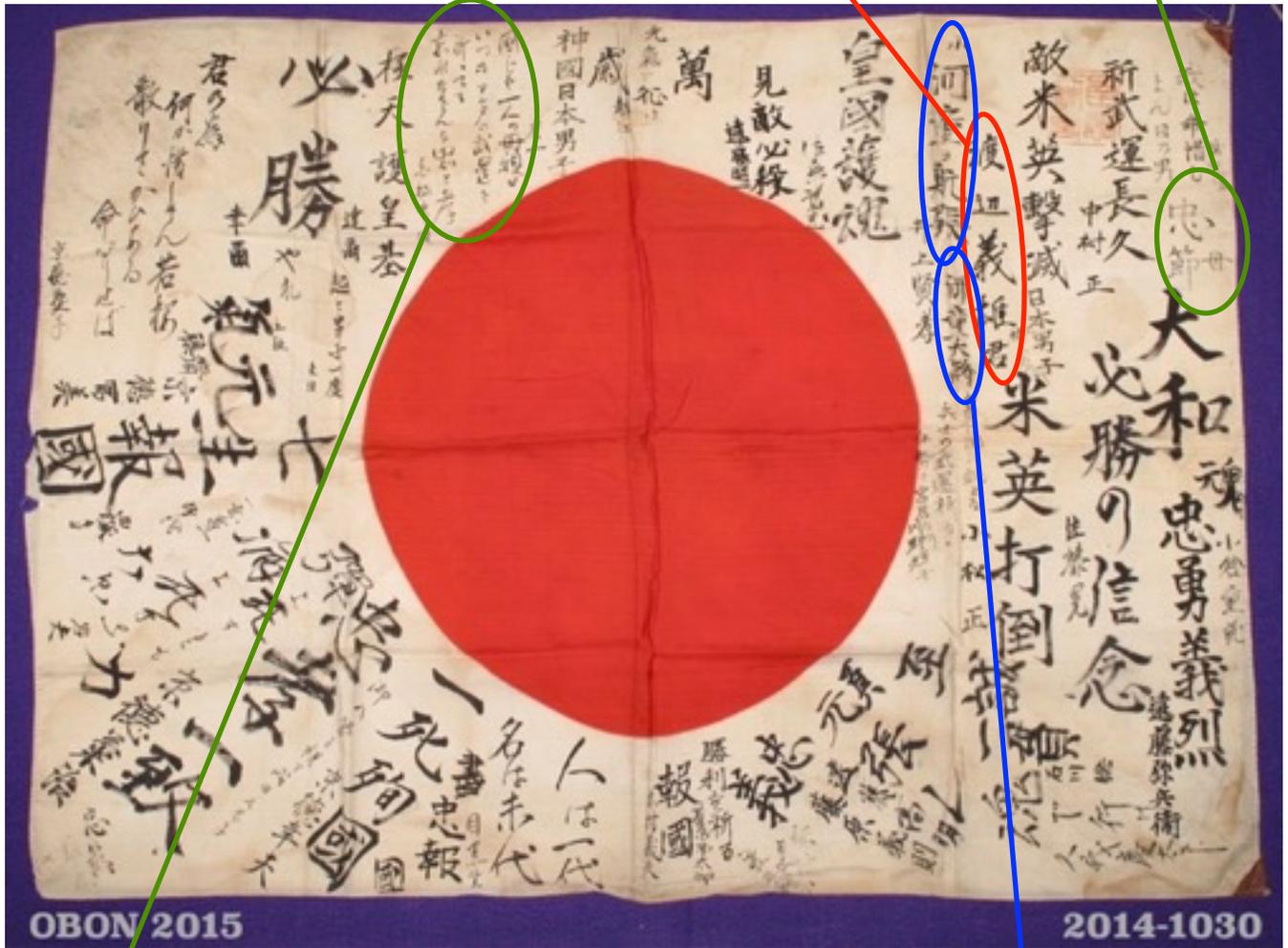
Bxxxx Ixxxxx

# The Scholar's Corner

One flag OBON 2015 received recently was filled with a variety of personal messages that came from people very near and dear to the soldier.

The soldier's name is "Yoshio Watanabe"

A parent encourages their son to be "Loyal" and signs simply "Mother."



*"Always your mother is at home praying for your good-luck in battle. Don't ever forget to be loyal and faithful in duty"*

In Japan's supernatural lore there exists a human/frog/turtle-like creature called "Kappa" which is known to be a superb swimmer. In two places we see "Kappa" written, possibly suggesting this young man's nickname, or maybe he was a fast or excellent swimmer.



# Contact OBON 2015

**OBON 2015's work has been severely restricted  
due to a lack of funding.**

**That situation has now changed!**

**OBON 2015 is pleased to announce they have obtained  
official affiliation with a 501(c)3.**

**Contributions are *now* tax deductible.**

**More information and details about how to contribute  
will be coming soon.**

*Thank you for your generous support.*

**If you have a flag, or know someone who does, please contact OBON 2015. We will gladly answer any questions and fully explain our process. It will give us great pleasure to research the flag in your possession and return it to its proper family.**

**OBON 2015**

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