Translation of the article by Mayuri Ito published in the Asahi newspaper 13 December 2022.

https://www.asahi.com/articles/ASQDF4DFHQCHUDCB010.html

Surpassing both enemies and allies, the names of ex-soldiers line up Air logbooks of my late father traveling the world

Mayuri Ito December 13, 2022 18:00

There is an old flight logbook.

More than 200 people from about 20 countries, including Japan, wrote their names in the notebook, which describes their daily flights and training.

They are recruited by a man of the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia. IHe came to Japan for the first time in November and met a man from

Hiroshima City who signed the first petition.

The man collecting signatures is Nicholas Deveaux, 53. When he was 12 years old, he stumbled upon a wartime flight log left by his father at home.

It wasn't until he read that he learned about his father's experience. His father, Cyril, joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 while the country was a British colony and was a pilot trained in Canada.

"My father didn't say anything about the war, and I was surprised to learn that he had been trained in danger of his life."

Moved by a scene I saw on the news -

The journal and the signature were first linked in 2016.

The diary travelled about 400,000 kilometres around the world, equivalent to circling the earth 10 times, and had 200 signatures from about 20 countries. I was filled with thoughts.

When U.S. President Barack Obama visited Hiroshima, Nicholas saw on the news a scene where he hugged Shigeaki Mori, 85, an atomic bomb survivor in Hiroshima City. Mori had been researching American POWs who died in the atomic bombing for many years, donating their remains to the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims in Hiroshima City, and installing plaques for their memorials at his own expense.

Nicholas was impressed by Mori's dedication. He sent Mr. Mori a journal with about half a blank page, so he asked Mr. Mori to sign it.

The journal was returned shortly. And the moment he saw Mori's signature quietly written on the last page, he had the epiphany to get signatures from veterans around the world.

Relying on articles about the war, they send journals or bring their journals to visit directly. Regardless of wartime friend or foe, he continued to ask veterans from various countries.

The journal travelled about 400,000 kilometres around the world, equivalent to circling the globe 10 times, and the number of signatures exceeded 200 people from about 20 countries. Most of the blank pages of the journal were filled with signatures. Signatures of those who

boarded fighters and warships during the war and shot down and those who survived being shot down are also lined up.

Lawrence Kirby, a 98-year-old American who signed the 18-year petition, confronted and killed Japan soldiers in Guam. Thinking that if it had not been for the war, he would have taken the life of a young man who could have become a friend, so after the war, he kept a photograph of him that the Japan soldier had.

Kirby said, "I signed it because I thought there was something I could do to remember the young people who fought in the war."

There are also signatures from people who have experienced harsh experiences in the former Japan military. An Australian ex-soldier was forced to spend a harsh prisoner of war in Japan after being mobilized to build the Thailand-Burma railway between Thailand and Burma (now Myanmar), which resulted in many deaths.

In November, Nicholas visited Japan for the first time and visited Hiroshima and Tokyo.

On the 10th of the same month, he met Mr. Mori, who was the catalyst for collecting signatures, for the first time in Hiroshima City. Mori's wife, 80-year-old Kayoko, an A-bomb survivor, held the journal in her hands for the first time in six years and was amazed, saying, "It was a beautiful book, but it became a style that made me realize that I had travelled to many places."

Mori explained that embracing Obama "means reconciliation between former enemies and allies." Nicholas said that listening to Mr. and Mrs. Mori's experience this time made him deeply aware that A-bomb survivors are still suffering from the aftereffects 77 years after the bombing.

"How could you be so aggressive and terrible?" -

Mr. Kazuo Odachi (96) = Suginami Ward, Tokyo = who received a new signature is a former kamikaze pilot. He made seven sorties and miraculously survived, but two of his close friends who were kamikaze pilots died. Regarding what he wants to leave behind by signing this time, "I really lived in a foolish era. I am always thinking that I lived in a peaceful era after the war." said. Nicholas wrote down the conversation in a notebook.

Hiroyuki Okada (94), director of the Wadatsumi no Koe Memorial Hall (Tokyo), which introduces the trajectory of students who died in war, and Ishiro Kiyosumi (94), a former crew member of the former Japanese submarine "I-58". , listened to war experiences.

During his visit to Japan, Nicholas learned about the war from the perspective of the Japanese. However, he said, "I learned that Japanese people and Japanese culture are very graceful and kind. I am struggling to understand how they were able to do such aggressive and terrible things in the past."

Collecting signatures that there was no particular purpose at first. Now, he says, ``Through the activity of collecting signatures, I learned about the damage caused by the war and the scale of what was lost.'' I think it is important to tell each person's war experiences and leave their own messages.

From now on, he wants to write down his diary trips in a book. I will also pass on messages from people I met in Japan. Nicholas' homepage (<u>https://thelogbookproject.com/</u>) to read the experiences of those who have signed. (Mayuri Ito)

People who signed the flight logbook-

- A former US soldier who miraculously survived the attack on Pearl Harbor while on board the US battleship Arizona in 1941.
- Former American soldier who boarded the bomber that carried out the first air raid on the Japanese mainland in 1942, the "Doolittle Raid"
- Former US military black woman who helped deliver mail to soldiers on the front lines in Europe
- A former crew member of the US cruiser Indianapolis that transported atomic bomb parts to Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands in 1945.
- Former crew member of the former Japanese submarine "I-58" that sank Indianapolis
- \circ $\;$ Former kamikaze soldier of the former Japanese army
- o A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima
- In September 1945, a former US soldier who boarded the US Navy battleship Missouri and witnessed the surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay.
- Former Australian soldier who was forced to live as a prisoner of war by the former Japanese army, such as being forced to build the Thai-Burma Railway connecting Thailand and Burma (now Myanmar).
- Former German and British pilot



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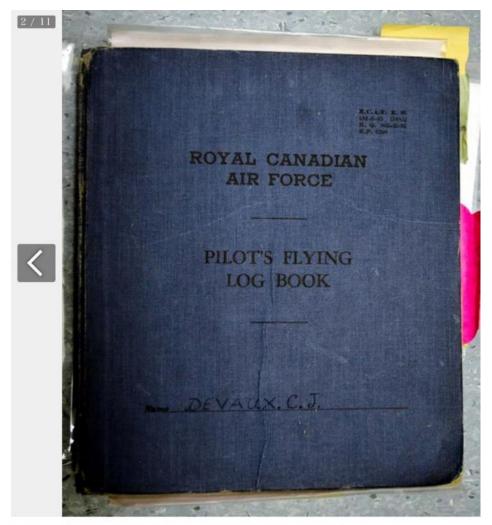
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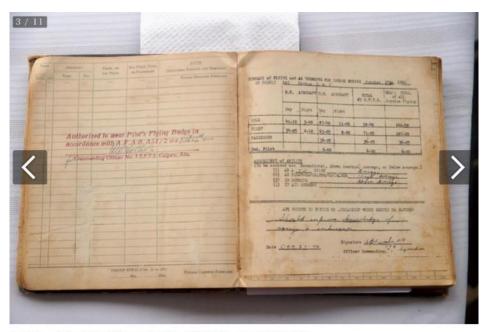


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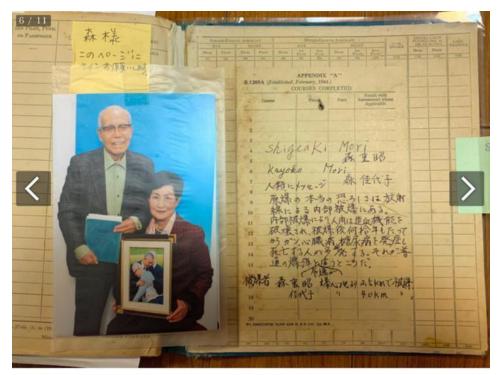
THE LOG BOOK



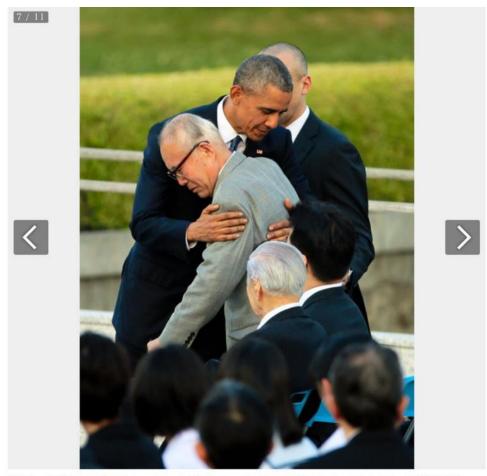
ニコラス・デボーさん(右)の父親の航空日誌を持つ森重昭さん(左)=2022年11月10日午後4時7分、広島市 西区、伊藤繭莉撮影



ニコラス・デボーさんと話をする森重昭さん(右から2人目)=2022年11月10日午後2時21分、広島市西区、伊藤蘭莉撮影

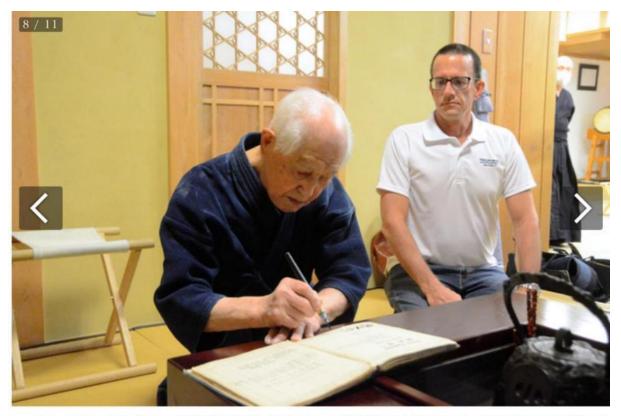


広島の被爆者、森重昭さんの署名。森さんが最初に署名した時はローマ字で名前を記しただけだったが、後日メ ッセージを加筆した=ニコラス・デボーさん提供



被爆者の森重昭さんを抱き寄せるオバマ米大統領=2016年5月27日午後6時8分、広島市中区、高橋雄大撮影

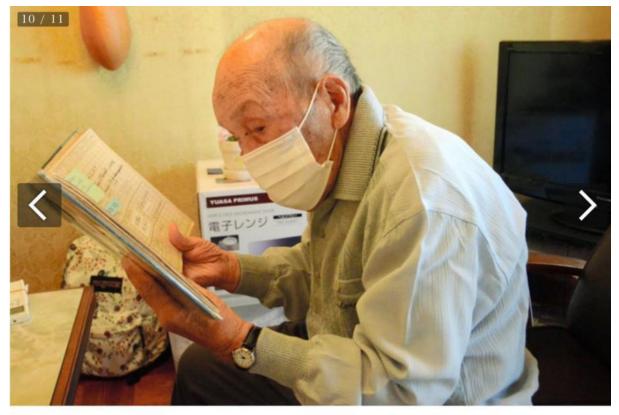
THE LOG BOOK



ニコラス・デボーさん(右)の父親の航空日誌に署名する、元特攻隊員の大舘和夫さん=2022年11月3日午後1時 27分、東京都杉並区、伊藤繭莉撮影

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航空日誌に書いた元特攻隊員の大舘和夫さんの署名(左下)=2022年11月3日午後1時34分、東京都杉並区、伊藤繭莉撮影



ニコラス・デボーさんの父親の航空日誌を見る、旧日本軍の潜水艦「伊58」の元乗組員、清積勲四郎さん=2022 年11月11日午後2時26分、愛媛県松前町、伊藤蘭莉撮影



航空日誌には、旧日本軍の潜水艦「伊58」の元乗組員、清積勲四郎さんの署名と、伊58が撃沈した米国の巡洋艦 インディアナポリスの元乗組員の署名が同じページに書かれている

THE LOG BOOK