

1410

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN  
JAPANESE SECTION

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: TAIRA Domo  
HOME ADDRESS: ~~217 East Ave. Vancouver B. C.~~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Lake Stillwater B. C.  
REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04887 SEX: Male AGE: 49  
OCCUPATION: Logger in Shingle Camp

(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: Robert Mc Hair Shingle Co. Stillwater B. C.

MARRIED? Yes

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: San TAIRA

ADDRESS OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: 251 Powell St. Vancouver B. C.

NAMES OF ANY LIVING CHILDREN: Maru-15 (Girl)

ADDRESS OF CHILDREN: 251 Powell St. Vancouver B. C.

AGE OF CHILDREN: As above

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

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: None

2. BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS: None

3. INSURANCE (Give particulars; state where policies are) None

4. TAXES (Amount and where payable) None

5. ENCUMBRANCES (Including any unregistered claims or deposit of title deed) None

6. OCCUPANCY AND LEASES (If vacant so state) None

*See statement  
of Real Property supplied*

7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS: None
8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST: None
9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN None

**STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED**

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: None Stillwater (Shack)  
~~erected on property of Hirasaki Co. at Stillwater B. C. office 337 Powell St. Vanc.~~
2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Hirasaki Co. 337 Powell St. Vancouver B. C.
3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID:  
~~erected by declarant and abandoned~~
4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE: None
5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid)  
None

6. IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN:  
None

**STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:**

1. GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND STATE LOCATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, STOCK IN TRADE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:  
~~logging equipment as per the attached list.~~ In the house at Stillwater B. C.  
and in the Bush.
2. HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS, POULTRY AND PETS  
None
3. GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY None

4. INSURANCE CARRIED ON ABOVE PROPERTY: none

5. MORTGAGES, LIENS AND OTHER CLAIMS ON PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF OTHERS: none

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

as per attached list.

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

none

8. BANK ACCOUNTS: Canada-Japan Savings Co. Powell St. Vancouver approx. \$45.00

9. LIFE INSURANCE: Bank of Montreal Main and Hastings Vancouver B. C. approx. \$400.

10. INTEREST IN ANY ESTATES OR TRUSTS: none

11. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX: none

**LIABILITIES:**

1. PERSONAL DEBTS: none

2. TRADE DEBTS: as per list attached.

Declarant intimates that his liabilities have been taken over by the Mitsui Co. 557 Powell St. Vancouver B. C. in consideration of the moneys owing to him by this Company being used for the purpose.

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

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 10th day of March 1942.

(Signature) Bunzo Taira

Dorothy M. Chope.  
Witness

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION FROM R.C.M.P.

DATE June 15/43

Our File No. 1410

Full Name TAIRA, Bunzo  
(Surname in Block Letters)

Registration No. 04587

Male -  Female  
(Check)

Age Jan. 24/1894

Former Address 207 Gore Ave., City 251 Powell St., City  
609 East Hastings St., City

Date Evacuated 28/5/42

Naturalized - Canadian-Born - National  
(Check)

Present Address Bridge River, B.C.

*Kimantan, B.C. 11/7/47*

Married -  Single  
(Check)

Name of Wife UJIHARA, Sue *#05109*

Name of Husband \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mother TAIRA, Kanako (Dec'd) Name of Father Ukich1 (Dec'd)

Names of Children under 16 \_\_\_\_\_

*Haru #16047 (daughter of Sue)*

Requested by E.C.T.

Registered with Custodian \_\_\_\_\_

(Yes or No)

Additional Information Logger

*x Common Law Wife (R.C.M.P. 11/7/47)*

August 19, 1947

TAIRA signed a declaration to the Commission on March 19, 1942 and was evacuated on May 28, 1942.

He declared that he lived in a shack at Stillwater on property of M. EBISUZAKI Co. "erected by declarant and abandoned".

CHATELS: This file reveals that TAIRA declared chattels at Stillwater, that he stored chattels at Bowman's Storage and that some goods were sold by Auction and credited to his account. These last items were from the Canada Mio building, 245 Powell Street. There are three summaries immediately behind this summary each dealing with one of these groups of chattels.

The overall picture is that the chattels left at Stillwater have disappeared, the chattels at Bowman's Storage have been shipped for the most part; a few of the goods stored there have been sold at the request of the Japanese and a gas range is all that now remains. The chattels from the Canada Mio credited to this file amount to \$19.56. Their ownership is not certain and we are writing to TAIRA regarding this. (In view of present situation we are not writing to TAIRA and leave it up to him or to Mrs. UJIMARA to claim -25/8/47)

MONEYS OWING:

He declared moneys owing as per attached list. This list is not on file. As will be seen from the Chattel Summary "Stillwater", a copy of J. P. form was sent to Nat McNair at Stillwater and he does not seem to have returned it. Possibly the list was attached to this copy. However, Mr. Logan who visited Stillwater in June 1942 made a pencilled note as follows: "Money owing from Mc Ness Shingle Co., Province Building, Vancouver, B.C. 150 Cords Shingle Bolts at \$3.50 per cord, Total \$525.00." Evidently he meant the Mc Nair Shingle Co. whose office are in the Province Building. On May 10, 1943, he wrote us asking what we had done regarding his claim against Ebisuzaki Co. in the amount of \$1,500.00 and also against Mc Nair Shingle Co. for five months wages. We wrote to Mc Nair Shingle asking for a complete statement of their account especially as they had filed a claim against TAIRA for \$169.94 and unstated damages for non-fulfilment of contract. They replied on May 17, 1943, as follows: "Replying to your letter of the 17th. re the above. Your file should disclose the full story in regard to this matter. If you do not have the full information, believe Mr. Held of P. S. Ross & Sons will be able to give it to you, as they have made a full investigation.

"Mr. B. Taira did originally have a contract with us to cut and chute bolts and deliver same into Third Gordon Pasha Lake. His contract however, was taken over by M. Ebisuzaki Co. who undertook to reimburse him for certain improvements, buildings, and so forth, and for several months prior to the evacuation our understanding was that Mr. Taira was working for M. Ebisuzaki Company on a wage basis. Therefore, any claims

.....

August 19, 1947.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SUMMARY

Cont'd.

MONEYSOWING:

that Mr. Taira has for wages unpaid would be against M. Ebisuzaki Co., which firm we understand is in liquidation."

Following this letter we wrote to P. S. Ross & Sons on May 20, 1943 and again on June 26, 1943 but cannot trace a reply either on this file or File Enemy 170 - M. Ebisuzaki Co.

When making a remittance to TAIRA we advised him that we could not release \$169.94 until the Mc Nair claim was settled, and suggested that he contact them direct. He replied on 16th. July 1944 that he would contact them direct and let us know. Nothing has been heard of him since.

On July 12, 1946, P. S. Ross & Sons remitted to us \$821.78 to be distributed to TAIRA and his employees at the Taira Camp. The amount credited to TAIRA was in payment of 150 cords at \$2.70 - \$405.00, less Board -\$37.65 making a net balance of \$367.35. The balance of the funds are being held in TAIRA's account until they are distributed to the owners. No doubt this accounts for the shingle bolts mentioned by Mr. Logan.

TAIRA claimed 5 months wages from McNair Shingle Co. P. S. Ross refer to this money above as "wages". It would seem possible that the shingle bolts owed to TAIRA and the 5 months wages are the same thing. However, Mc Nair in their letter quoted above, say that TAIRA was working for EBISUZAKI on a wage basis. Neither this file nor that of EBISUZAKI Co, Enemy 170, make this point clear and the fact remains that there may still be 5 months wages owed to TAIRA either by EBISUZAKI Co. or McNair Co.

Turning to his claim against EBISUZAKI Co. in the amount of \$1,500.00, dividends on this claim have been received from P. S. Ross & Sons as follows:

25/6/43	- 20%	-	\$300.00	
27/9/43	- 30%	-	\$450.00	
3/8/46	- 5%	-	\$75.00	
7/5/47	- 3%	-	\$45.00	(this amount is not noted on the file but appears in the ledger) On f.b. 25/9/47
		58%	\$870.00	

BANK

ACCOUNT: This man declared an account with the Japan & Canada Trust Savings Co. of approximately \$48.00. This does not appear on the list of accounts on file 13806, Japan & Canada Trust Co. We presume that TARA I withdrew the balance before his evacuation.

He also declared an account with the Bank of Montreal, Main & Hastings, Vancouver, B.C. \$400.00. This was not brought under the control of the Custodian.

This file reveals no other property of any kind.

This summary is certified to be in accordance with the information on file.

C. G. Gandy

August 18, 1947.

CHATTEL SUMMARYRe: TAIRA, Bunso - Reg. No. 04587Chattels at Stillwater and in the Bush.

He declared that he lived in a shack at Stillwater on property of M. EBISUZAKI Co. "erected by declarant and abandoned".

He declared logging equipment as per the attached list, in the house at Stillwater and in the Bush. There is one list on the files which TAIRA heads "Camp Property", 3rd. Lake Lang.:

Camp No. 13	Chute	\$700.00
" No. 14	"	\$700.00
" No. 16	"	\$700.00
" No. 17	"	\$400.00
Gasoline Engine for Small Boat	6H.P.	\$65.00
Total:		\$2,565.00

It does not seem to be the list referred to by TAIRA as he stated that the logging equipment was in the house. Chutes obviously could not be in a house and a Gasoline Engine for a boat could not be called logging equipment. From File A/76 - McNair, Robert Shingle Co. - it is noted that on March 27, 1942 we forwarded to Nat McNair at Stillwater, TAIRA's J. P. form. McNair does not seem to have reported on this case specifically and does not seem to have returned the J. P. Form.

In May 1942, a list of the items declared by all the Japanese at Stillwater was sent to Mr. R. Gibbons, first-aid man at the camp who had been asked by the Japanese to see to the scaling of their logs. This list was possibly not complete but included all the known chattels at Stillwater. Mr. Gibbons had left the district.

We later, May 22, 1942 asked Nat McNair to move all the tools he could find and store them in one central place. On file A/76 appears a report from Mr. Logan, of the Custodian's office, who visited Stillwater in June 1942. He made an inventory of the tools at Taira's Camp but these were evidently not labelled. He also mentions a few things stored with Nat McNair among which we note an outboard motor, possibly the one declared above. Logan's report is embodied in Mr. Green's memorandum of April 30, 1943, attached.

On May 13, 1943 the McNair Co. reported that snow had broken down some houses and inflicted further loss and that soon the Kitchen utensils and tools would be a total loss.

Mr. Green suggested on May 18, 1943 that representatives of the Japanese concerned be brought back in an effort to settle the question of



the chattels. This was never realized as it would have entailed the cost of an R. C. M. P. escort.

Mr. Green on November 5, 1943 writes as follows:

" After considering the various discussions and communications with the Security Commission on the question of the return of Japanese to Stillwater for the purpose of identifying their effects I am of the opinion that no useful purpose would now be served by arranging this.

" We must just face the fact that the evacuation was carried out at very short notice, that the location is an isolated one and that some loss was therefore bound to result. Any action that might be taken now would do very little if anything to reduce or satisfy claims that may be expected for the loss and deterioration of equipment.

I, therefore propose that nothing further be done in this matter."

On examining Ebisuzaki N. & Co. file, Enemy 170, it is noted that on November 10, 1944, a former bookkeeper of the McWair Shingle Co., Mr. Henry called at the office. He stated that most of the equipment, which he valued at between \$8,000.00 and 10,000.00 had disappeared, some being sold by unauthorized persons, and some being used by the McWair Shingle Co. He mentioned two outboard motors and said one of them was being used by the McWair Co. He further stated that he could supply us with a list of the articles stolen and removed giving us the names of the persons who took them, and that Mr. R. Gala of Lang Bay could verify his statements. The file reveals that a copy of this was sent to Mr. Field of P. S. Ross & Sons, who were controllers of EBISUZAKI Co. The file does not reveal whether any steps were taken or whether a list of items stolen was obtained from Mr. Henry. Possibly P. S. Ross have this. (a copy of Mr. Henry's interview is attached)

In July 1946, P. S. Ross forwarded funds from wages due to TAIRA and his employees. They make a statement referring to the wages which could probably also apply to the question of the chattels: " It has not been possible to arrive at any satisfactory settlement with the Robert McWair Shingle Company, and we don't feel it will be without threatening legal action. The evidence to be given would be of doubtful value and, while we are satisfied they have taken advantage of the situation existing, do not recommend legal action"

Mr. Logan added in pencil to the list mentioned in the first page of this memorandum as Camp property, 150 cords shingle bolts at \$3.50 per cord. This is dealt with under Moneys owing on the Property Summary.

The question of the Stillwater chattels is not yet settled. No doubt there will be large claims. Any further information will be found on A/76 and Enemy 170.

This summary is certified to be in accordance with the information on file.

*C. Grant*  
August 18, 1947.

COPY OF MR. GREEN'S MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM

File No:

April 30th, 1943

To: Stillwater Files

From: Mr. Green

There is very little that can be done in the way of protection of Japanese property at Stillwater.

Mr. Logan visited this place in June 1942 and reports on A/76 as follows:

"The two camps, Taira and Suzuki, are reached from Stillwater as follows:

4 Miles by car  
9 Miles by boat  
3/4 Miles on foot  
4 1/2 miles by boat  
4 miles on foot.

**TOTAL - 22 1/4 Miles**

"No one can get in without Mr. McHair knowing, as his craft must be used to cross the lakes.

"Mr. Logan checked all the equipment to be found in the two camp bunk houses and lists are given herewith. It was quite impossible to decide which tools belonged to which man. Additionally, there are also some tools left in the bush which can only be located by the Japanese themselves.

"In short, such equipment as has been left behind, is perfectly safe as it could not be removed without Mr. Nat McHair knowing about it. However, for the most part, it cannot be identified and we shall therefore have to advise the Japanese concerned that we can only assume that the tools they have declared to the Custodian are actually there. It would cost more than the value of these tools to take them away."

Unfortunately, it appears that this report is a little optimistic as thefts of the McHair Company's equipment have since taken place. There is nothing however, that can be economically done as appears from Mr. Nat McHair's letter of July 21st. on File 2676 written in answer to a request of Mrs. Hideo MIYAMOTO for shipment of some of her effects. This is quoted below for the benefit of other Stillwater files.

"I cannot ship you any of the enclosed articles as they are away back in the woods. And as the camp is shut down there is no way to take this stuff out only by packing it on your back. And it is impossible to get anybody to do that. Especially these times."

HFG:IF

NAME TAIRA, Dumso

REGISTRATION NO. 04587

FILE NO. 1410

The following chattels were sold by public  
auction at 771 East Hastings, Vancouver, B.C. on June 22, 1946

37 Lacquer bowls	0.50
1 Bottle	0.30
Hot berry dishes	0.40
1 Dish	0.25
1 Dinner & 2 Soap plates	0.30
6 Berry dishes	1.40
2 Glass bowls	1.75
1 Bowl	1.00
1 Bowl	1.00
9 Glass glassware	0.75
2 Glass bowls	0.30
2 Trays	0.30
6 Bowls	0.60
9 Bowls	0.90
1 Dish	0.10
Tea pot	0.40
Tea pot	0.25
Tea pot	0.25
Tea pot	0.25
Tea pot	0.30
1 Bowl	0.25
Tea pot	0.85
Lacquer box	0.75
Tea pot	0.25
Wash	0.30
22 Dishes	0.10
Dishes	0.40
Bell	0.40
Bell	0.25
	0.30
Total	<u>\$15.90</u>
Less expenses:	<u>0</u>
Net proceeds realized:	<u>0</u>

~~Number of customers still present.~~

~~Amount of cash received from auction.~~

~~Remarks.~~

NAME TAIRA, Bunso

REGISTRATION NO. 04587

FILE NO. 1410

The following chattels were sold by public  
auction at 771 East Hastings, Vancouver, B.C. on June 22, 1946

	Brought forward:	
6 Crackle ware		\$ 10.50
6 Crackle ware		0.40
3 Green dishes		0.40
6 Dishes		0.30
6 Dishes		0.85
12 Small bowls		0.85
22 dishes		1.10
3 Vases		0.30
3 Bowls		1.30
Lamp shades		0.50
One plate		0.25
3 Glass dishes		0.25
7 cups		0.35
8 cups		0.45
Ash tray & pictures		0.45
1 Knife		0.35
1 Decanter & 20 glasses		0.65
2 Knives		2.00
2 Screens		0.35
		0.05

Total		\$ 24.65
Less Expenses:	(Auctioneer's Fee: \$3.08	
	(Advertising: 0.51	\$ 5.09
	(Moving: 1.50	
Net Proceeds Credited:		19.56

Members of Custodian Staff Present. Mr. Wills  
Extracted from Auctioneering List No. Vancouver 65.  
Remarks. Chattels found at 245 Powell Street.

File No. 1410

Re: Personal Property

Extract from letter dated March 29, 1949, received from Bowman Storage Limited:

"With regard to the Japanese whose goods we now have in storage, I am attaching a list of such persons, approximate idea of what is in storage, and amount due against each, with any other details I have."

"B. Taira Serial 04587

Minto, B.C.

1 gas range, in very poor shape.

Mr. Taira asked us to dispose of this, but we were unable to get a buyer. Should be sold for scrap.

Charges approximately 25.00"

Note: No claim filed.

WJJ/ja

*W. J. Johnston.*

August 19, 1947.

LIABILITY SUMMARYRe: TAIRA, Susa - Reg. No. 04587

Re declared trade debts as "per attached list". There is no trace of this list on file. As will be seen from the Chattel Summary "Willmaker", a copy of J. P. Form was sent to Nat McFair at Stillwater and he did not seem to have returned it. In the J. P. Form TAIRA intimates that his liabilities have been taken over by the HIRSHMAN Co., 117 South 1st, Worcester, Mass. in consideration of the moneys owing to his estate moneys being used for the purpose.

On December 14, 1943 the Robert McFair Shingle Co. Ltd. filed a claim against TAIRA, Susa in the amount of \$169.94 (also unstated damages for non-fulfillment of contract). On May 10, 1944 TAIRA wrote asking what we had done about his claim of 3 months wages against Robert McFair Shingle Co. We wrote to McFair Shingle and they replied on May 17, 1944 that their contract with TAIRA had been taken over by HIRSHMAN Co. and that "any claims that Mr. TAIRA has for wages unpaid would be against H. HIRSHMAN Co. which firm we understand is in liquidation". Their letter is quoted in full in the Personal Property Summary - Susa's Copy.

Since then, as outlined in the Property Summary we have contacted J. H. Ross & Sons, controllers of H. HIRSHMAN Co. but received no reply from them. In July 1944 we advised TAIRA to contact McFair himself and let us know. He replied that he would do so but nothing more has been heard from him.

If this claim was incurred after TAIRA's contract was taken over by HIRSHMAN Co. then possibly the claim would be against them. However, the file does not give any date as to when TAIRA became indebted to Robert McFair Shingle Co. As in the case of the moneys owing and other Stillwater matters, the situation seems very confused and far from being settled.

This summary is certified to be in accordance with the information on file.

*P. G. Givens*  
August 19, 1947.

File No. 1410

CLAIMS DEPARTMENT

May 17th, 1943.

Mr. Bunzo TAIRA - Reg. No. 04587

CREDITORS

1. Robert McHair Shingle Co. Ltd. \$169.94 (Also unstated damages for non-fulfilment of contract)
- (Total 777 Man Denby Direct on 167 bh)*

DEBTORS

1. M. Ebisuzaki Co. Ltd. \$1500.00 <sup>750<sup>00</sup></sup> <sup>16-12-43</sup>
2. McHair Shingle Co. *(out of stock)* 5 months' wages. *(See above)*

AMCL:ND

10. 84587  
Bunzo Taira Camps Property Stillwater B.C.

3rd Lake Lang

Camp no	13	chute	\$ 700.—
"	14	"	700.—
"	16	"	700.—
"	17	"	400.—

Gasoline engine for Small Boat 6 H.P.  
65.—

Total \$ 2665.—

Money owing from Mc Ness Shingle Co.  
Provincial Bldg. Vancouver B.C.  
150 cords Shingle bolts at \$3.50 per cord  
Total \$525.—

Logan

Registered by  
Mrs. Chapel