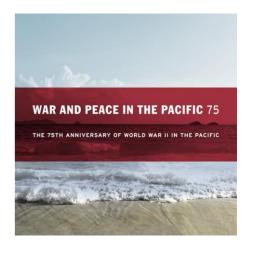


FEATURE STORY



The Unknown Grief of people in the Homefront

By Saya and Miwako Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School, Japan

During the World War II, many people suffered. The soldiers that went to war, and the families that lost them. The soldiers were respected and recognized by the people of the country, and the families got the support from others. But people who had served at the home front did not get the recognition they deserved. They worked at factories and built the things they needed for the war. Their jobs were difficult and dangerous. They were the ones who helped out the country during the war.

Our project is to let people know about what had happened in the past, and learn more about the people from the home front. By doing so, we can acknowledge those people, and make sure that those terrible things won't ever happen again.



A certificate for people who served at the home front to thank them for their duty to Japan

1. Internment camps in America

During World War Two, Japanese that lived in America were sent to Internment camps. It was for three reasons. To prevent resident from assisting America's enemies, to appease public opinion, and to house overseas internees sent to America for the duration of the war. It was to isolate the Japanese people so they do not spill any information about the government. These are the same reasons to why Australia also had the Internment camps. But in reality, the Japanese did not have any top-secret information about both governments. All that they could do was to hope for the best because there was nothing else they could do.

2. Propaganda in Australia

In Australia during the World War II, there were many advertisements about the war. Most of which made the war sound good. They were encouraged to fight for their country by putting themselves at risk. Some of the advertisement said that they were looking for new soldiers who would be doing a huge favor to the country, and others said that they were looking for volunteers at factories to build all the things they needed for the war. If there was anyone who would oppose, would get arrested. Instead of encouraging the war, what they should have done was to stop it.

3. Propaganda in America

America was similar to Australia, and the civilians were told to fight for their country. Anyone who opposed would get arrested. There were many posters and advertisements about the war which encouraged people to join the war. There were books and comics written about the war, and all the good it could do. Not to forget about the radio, which was widely used for propaganda. Since the radio was usually on live, they were restricted on what information they could tell the civilians and what they couldn't, which meant that they were not getting all of the truth and the information they needed.

4. Miwako's experience in Australia

I had lived in Australia for 7 years during primary school. Since I had spent most of my childhood there I did not learn about the war in Japan, but I had learned it in a history class in Australia. After every



history class, my teacher would call me to tell me that this is nothing personal, and that it happened a long time ago. I was moved by how people there handle things now. Back in primary school, I only had one side of the story, but now I have two. There were mistakes that both counties made. The only thing important now, is to not repeat it.

5. Saya's experience in the US

When I was a child, I lived in America for 5 years. We hadn't learned much about the war back then, but my parents took me to the Smithsonian museum. Before that, I couldn't understand what the war



was like, and how something so terrible had happened. I remember trying to digest all of that tragedy in. Seeing the exhibits full of guns and bullets, I knew that the war caused a lot of people a great deal of pain. At that time, I felt ashamed for all of the things that the Japanese did, but that was because I only knew Americas part of the story. No one should feel ashamed of where they come from because of the war. That is a past that we need to move on from to build a better future.