

Request for Investigation of Lost Articles

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is responsible for investigating the identity of the original owner of artifacts left behind by former members of the Japanese armed forces. If a person identified as the original owner of the item matches records held by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, we will contact the original owner (or their family members) and ask if they remember the item and would like the article returned. If the original owner (or their family) would like the article returned, we will contact the party currently in possession of the article and continue the process of returning the article to Japan.

We would like to add that our services are available only for inquiries requested by third parties with good intentions, not involving any reward, monetary or otherwise. In the event that an article has been sent to this office, but no original owner can be identified, we will return the artifact to the sender.

Parties requesting the repatriation of an article must fill out and return the attached questionnaire, together with a photo of the article. Please be advised that the investigation may require a considerable amount of time to complete. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding in this manner.

※ If the original owner (or their family) is located, the requester will be asked to send the article(s) to Consulate-General of Japan in Houston (if you reside in 【Texas and Oklahoma】) so they can return the article(s) through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

If you reside outside the DC, MD, or VA area, you will be asked to send the article(s) to your local Japanese Consulate instead.

We regret that the requester may not return the article(s) directly to the original owner, except in the conditions mentioned below.

According to the Firearms and Sword Control Law, the returning of a sword (katana, saber, etc.) must be authorized by the Board of Education and Public Safety Commission in the Prefecture where the original owner (or their family) resides. Filing for this authorization must be conducted by the original owner. In these cases the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is not involved and therefore the requester must send the article back to the original owner directly.

1. Date of Request

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

2. Name of person making request ("The Requester")

Full Name _____

Current Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____

3. Lost Articles (include number of items)

Please note the Lost Article(s) below

4. The circumstances in which the article(s) was/were obtained

Person who obtained the article(s) (_____)

Relationship to yourself (_____)

Date it was obtained (_____) • unknown

Place it was obtained (_____) • unknown

How was it obtained Received from survivor

Obtained from person who died in war

I just found it

Unknown

Other (_____)

Please provide any further information that might be helpful in this investigation. Please include as many details as possible.

5. In case the original owner is found (please circle yes or no):
- a. Do you intend to return the article(s) without payment or compensation, if and when the original owner (or their family) decides to accept the articles?
 - i. Yes, I intend to do so.
 - ii. No, I do not intend to do so.

 - b. Do you intend to return the article(s) even if the original owner (or their family) does not wish to share their personal address with you (the requester)?
 - i. Yes, I intend to do so.
 - ii. No, I do not intend to do so.

※If you answered – “No, I do not intend to do so” to question 5a or 5b, we regret that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will not be able to proceed with the investigation.

6. Do we have permission to give your address to other parties for the purpose of improving the process of investigation? (Please respond for each organization or group)
- a. Providing your address to relevant prefectural government offices:
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
 - b. Providing your address to the original owner (or their family):
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No

7. The person who is currently in possession of the lost article(s):
(Please list only if different than "The Requester")

Full Name _____

Current Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____

8. The person to contact with the results of the investigation:
(Please list only if different than "The Requester")

Full Name _____

Current Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____