

24 February 2015

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for purchasing Silent Histories.

Here I would like to explain about the book as I received many questions about the empty pages of the section **Mr. Morinaga, Mr. Komiyama and Ms. Yoshida**. The question was, "Did you forget to insert something to those empty pages? Because there is a photo corner but nothing is inserted." I should explain why I put a photo corner on those pages and why I didn't put anything on it.

Basically I made photo corner for putting a disability certificate. Therefore, there are some replica of certificates on pages Ms. Anno, Ms. Kobayashi, Mr. Hamada, Ms. Fujiwara. Those who were injured by aerial bombing and became disable. Although these certificates prove their disability, the certificates doesn't explain the reasons to be injured. (Atomic bomb victims and disabled veterans were compensated by the government and they have a certificate which proves the reason why they are handicapped.) This disability certificate proves that they are handicapped persons. Meanwhile, they don't have the certificate to improve the reason to be victims.



Furthermore, victims who were not injured don't have anything to prove that they are victims of pacific war. Those two empty pages implicate that victims who are not injured like Mr. Morinaga and Ms. Yoshida (orphan) cannot prove their damage. Mr. Komiyama's disable certificate was missing after his death.

Japan is not like many European countries that the government decided to compensate the victims of WW2, not only soldiers but also citizens. Japanese government still denies the obligation to help victims. This is the one of the biggest problems for the victims. I would like to express these circumstances on those empty pages.

Additionally, the certificate is covering text on Ms. Fujiwara's page, this is the idea to express that victims' stories are invisible.

I hope this clarify everything. Thank you for reading.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kazuma Obara".

Kazuma Obara