

(Translation)

My Father, Koben Mori's Personal History

Date of Birth : October 15, the 2nd year of Meiji (1869)
 Date of Death : August 23, the 20th year of Showa (1945)
 Permanent Address: Niida, Sanri-mura, Nagaoka-gun, Kochi-ken, Japan.

He was the 2nd son of Yoshizo Mori (died in the 13th year of Meiji) who was a judge of the Court of First Instance for Minor Offenses in Nara, and was the 5th class in the Imperial court rank. He moved to Tokyo for his study in the 22nd year of Meiji (1889). During his Tokyo time, he received assistance from Mr. Taku Ooe and Count Shojiro Got. In Tokyo, he studied political science at Waseda College. However, upon learning of Mr. Ooe's an acquaintance, Mr. Toshiharu Komita founded Nanto Shokai, he left the college to join the company.

In May, the 24th year of Meiji (1891), he joined the company, and in January, the 25th year of Meiji, (1892), he was on board a sailing vessel, Tenyu-maru (120* ton, schooner) for leaving Yokohama. After visiting Ponape, he came to Truk in February in the same year to live there. After having numerous troubles and change of circumstances, he finally married a native woman of the island, named Isabella (our mother, 86 years old this year, well in her health) and had 6 sons and 5 daughters. He worked for the company until the company (changed the name as Ichiya Shokai) was liquidated in the 28th year of Meiji (1895) (the day and month are not available). Since then he carried his own business as an independent entrepreneur.

The 30th year of Meiji (1897), he joined Nanyo Boeki Hiki Company the predecessor of the present NBK as a chief of its Truk branch. He worked for the company until February, the 32nd year of Meiji (1899).

October, the 32nd year of Meiji, he entered into a contract with Jaluit Company, and had dealings with the company until the company was prohibited its business on March 30, the 4th year of Taisho (1915).

Since he made a contract with Nanyo Boeki Kaisha in April, the 4th year of Taisho, he carried business as an independent enterpriser.

As soon as the Japanese Imperial Navy occupied the Truk Islands in October, the 3rd year of Taisho (1914), he was appointed by the Headquarters of Provisional South Sea Islands Defence Force, as a political advisor. During the term of appointment, he informed of circumstances of islands and customs of islanders to the navy in detail for supporting the naval administration over the islands. Furthermore, he did not only conveyed the orders and guidances of the administration to the people, particularly to the native islanders, but also, he worked hard for people to be stick to the orders and guidances. For these his effort, he was given a 8th class order of the sacred treasure, and a war service medal.

He had the honor of receiving a census commemoration medal by the Imperial Ordinance No. 272, in July, the 10th year of Taisho (1921), and also receiving an enthronement commemoration medal by the Imperial ordinance No. 188, in the 3rd year of Showa (1928).

Further, as a result of donating the skull of Truk islander in the Eastern Caroline Islands, and other things to Tokyo Imperial University of Science for its academic reference materials, a set of wooden cups are given to him by the governor of Kochi-ken.

by Saburo** Mori
 May 16, the 42nd year of Showa (1967).

*Tsunenori (Keikun) Suzuki who was on board also Tenyu-maru in 1890, described the tonnage of the schooner as 91.37 in his book entitled Nanto Junko-ki published in 1893.

**Saburo Mori is the 3rd son of Koben Mori.

Note: Each year number in parentheses were put by Hiroshi Nakajima who made the translation of this description.

E.H. Bryan, Jr., Life in the Marshall Islands, Pacific Scientific Information Center, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, 1972

W.P. Morrell, Britain in the Pacific Islands, Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1960

John L. Fischer with the assistance of Ann M. Fischer, The Eastern Carolines, Human Relation Area Files Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1970

David L. Hanlon, From Mesenieng to Kolonia: An Archaeological Survey of Historic Kolonia, Office of the High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, 1981

(本文中に書名を省略した参考文献)

〔後記〕 本稿には北川次郎氏から貴重な資料を拝借しただけでなく、かつて再三、トラックで森小舟に会った同氏から、ご本人の人物や、当時のトラックの様子などを伺うことができた。ここに深甚なる感謝の意を表す次第である。

※『小年倶楽部』に、昭和8年6月から14年7月まで連載されたストーリー・マンガ。当時は、田河水泡の「のらくろ」と並んで、大いに少年の人気を集めた。