



A Japanese case of the reincarnation type with written records made before verifications: A child claiming to have fought on the battleship *Yamato*

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ABSTRACT

This paper reports a case of the reincarnation type in which a child claims to have past-life memories and exhibits behaviors appropriate to the person he appears to be referring to as his past-life personality. The case has the following three interesting characteristics. First, it is a fairly strong Japanese case in the sense that it has many of the characteristic features of cases of the reincarnation type. Second, the child's statements were recorded and the investigation started before the possible identification of the previous personality was made. Third, in a number of ways, it is comparable to the case of James Leininger, one of the best-known American cases: The child claimed to have fought in the Second World War and have been killed in a battle; had unusual knowledge about a battleship with which he claimed to have been affiliated; and repeated in a play the crucial scene of the battle in which he claimed to have died.

Introduction

The over 50 years of intensive and extensive research conducted by Ian Stevenson and other researchers, such as Erlendur Haraldsson (University of Iceland), Antonia Mills (University of Northern British Columbia, Canada), Satwant Pasricha (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences at Bangalore, India), Jürgen Keil (University of Tasmania, Australia), James G. Matlock (Parapsychology Foundation, the US), and Stevenson's successor Jim B. Tucker (University of Virginia), have collected more than 2,000 cases of children claiming to have past-life memories.² The accumulated data has revealed recurrent features in the cases, which are listed in (1)-(9). For ease of reference, the following abbreviations are used below: PP = past-life personality³; S = present personality (the subject of the investigation).

- (1) Statements: S makes statements about PP.
- (2) Desire to Visit PP's Family: S shows a desire to visit PP's family members.
- (3) Desire to Visit Places Related to PP: S shows a desire to visit a place related to PP.

- (4) Behavior:
 - a Emotions: S shows emotions toward persons related to PP appropriate for the memories S claims to have and behaves accordingly.
 - b Traits: S shows phobias related to PP's death, phobias related to PP, exhibits play that is related to PP's life. For instance, S has a memory of being a soldier in the previous life, likes to play at being soldier, and has unusual skills like performing a dance he claimed to have danced in the past life, but has never learned in the present life, or being able to speak a language claimed to have spoken in the past life but not in the present life (xenoglossy).
- (5) Recognition: S recognizes persons, places, objects, etc., that PP was familiar with or comments on changes since their lifetime.
- (6) Acceptance: PP's family accepts S as PP reborn.
- (7) Prediction: PP predicts that they will be reborn in a particular family.
- (8) Announcing Dreams/Departing Dreams: PP appears in a friend or family member's dream to let them know that PP will be reborn

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² The number of the collected cases far exceeds 2000, but the collection includes cases in which children were judged to have past-life memories based on features other than their statements, such as birthmarks, announcing dreams, and so on. Of the 2248 cases collected in the database the present author consulted, 2023 (90%) were recorded as cases in which children claimed to have past-life memories.

³ Ian Stevenson uses the term "previous personality" rather than "past-life personality" used here.

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(Announcing Dream); PP appears in a friend or family member’s dream to inform them that PP will be reborn in a new family.

- (9) Birthmarks, Birth Defects, Diseases, Pigmentation of the Skin and Hair, Facial Appearance, Physique, Posture, and Gait: S has birthmarks, etc., related to PP.

The case data collected by researchers affiliated with the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia have been coded with more than 200 variables and entered into a database (henceforth, the Division of Perceptual Studies database, or the DOPS database) for various statistical analyses. The figures concerning the recurrent features (1)-(9) obtained by database search conducted in September 2019 are shown in Table 1.⁴

Of these nine features, the case of Takeharu, reported here, has the first five (= (1)-(5)), as described in detail below. These features were recorded in writing before the investigation began, which is important since there are not many cases in which written records were made before the cases started to be investigated: Matlock (2022)⁷ lists 31 such cases. Also, the past-life personality the child claimed to have been was apparently identified. The person in question appears to have no relationship with the S’s family, another noteworthy feature since the majority of Japanese cases that are solved have family relationships¹¹. Another noteworthy feature of the case is that the intermission period of

Table 1
Figures on recurrent features in the DOPS database.

Items	Yes	No	Total
(1) S made statements about PP.	2022 (93.0%)	153 (7.0%)	2175
(2) S showed a desire to visit PP’s family.	912 (75.5%)	296 (24.5%)	1208
(3) S showed a desire to visit a place related to PP.	470 (73.6%)	169 (26.4%)	639
(4a) S showed emotions toward persons related to PP.	See figures in (2)		
(4b) S showed traits related to PP: a phobia	446 (44.0%)	567 (56.0%)	1013
an unusual philia.	364 (53.8%)	312 (46.2%)	676
S exhibited play related to PP.	364 (51.7%)	340 (48.3%)	704
S had skills related to PP.	194 (35.2%)	357 (64.8%)	551
S exhibited xenoglossy.	41 (4.5%)	866 (95.5%)	907
(5) S recognized persons, etc., related to PP.	801 (64.5%)	441 (35.5%)	1242
(6) PP’s family accepted S.	697 (91.1%)	68 (8.9%)	765
(7) PP predicted his/her rebirth.	64 (55.7%)	51 (44.3%)	115
(8) PP appeared in a dream to announce his/her rebirth.	793 (47.3%)	882 (52.7%)	1675
(9) S’s birthmark(s)/birth defect(s) corresponded to PP’s fatal wound(s).	415 (65.6%)	218 (34.4%)	633
S’s birthmark(s)/birth defect(s) corresponded to PP’s nonfatal wound(s).	291 (70%)	121 (29.4%)	412
S had diseases related to PP.	144 (53.7%)	124 (46.3%)	268
S resembled PP in facial appearance.	334 (64.7%)	182 (35.3%)	516
S showed a general resemblance in physique to PP. (“Unknown” excluded)	214 (68.8%)	97 (31.2%)	311

⁴ As a visiting professor of the Division of Perceptual Studies, I was given the privilege of accessing the DOPS database, for which I express my deep appreciation to Drs. Jim B. Tucker and Bruce Greyson.

67 years (1945–2012) is relatively long; the mean and the median are, respectively, 45.8 months (3 years and 8 months) and 13 months (1 year and 1 month) for cases with reliable records in the DOPS database.

Summary of the Case and its Investigation

Takeharu was born on May 12, 2012, as the third son of Keisuke (father) and Yuki (mother) living in Hiroshima, Japan. Keisuke is a dentist and Yuki a high school teacher. The house religion of Keisuke is Shintoism, which does not include belief in reincarnation, and he had never thought about the concept seriously until his son demonstrated unexplainable behaviors and knowledge. The house religion of Yuki is Jodo Shinshu, a school of Pure Land Buddhism. Although she was familiar with the idea of reincarnation, she had never given more than a passing thought to the real possibility of reincarnation. As citizens of Hiroshima, one of the only two cities hit by atomic bombs in history and a base of promoting peace education whose main goal is to foster anti-war values,⁵ Takeharu’s parents had no interest in military affairs. Takeharu’s two elder brothers showed no interest in vehicles, aircraft, or watercraft: the oldest brother loved animals and playing sports; the second oldest brother liked solving puzzles. So, Takeharu’s obsessive interest in the battleship *Yamato* is not explainable by his environments.

Takeharu appeared to have memories of a crew of the Imperial Japanese Navy battleship *Yamato*, which was “the largest and most powerful battleship ever built” and “entered service in the Pacific War at the beginning of 1942” (Skulski, 1988, p. 7)¹³. On April 6, 1945, the *Yamato* and nine other Japanese warships were sent from the main island of Japan to Okinawa, which had been invaded by Allied forces on April 1.⁶ It was a suicide attack and in the evening of the departure day, the crew members were told so and a farewell party was held in which officers and sailors alike enjoyed drinking sake together. On April 7, on the way to Okinawa, they were attacked by U.S. forces and the *Yamato* and five of the nine warships were sunk.⁷ The official detailed battle report dated April 10 records that the *Yamato* was hit by countless bombs and 10 torpedoes, 7 of them on the port side (Ateneshobo, 2000, p. 432)². Of the 3332 crew members aboard the *Yamato*, only 269 survived (Nomura, 1973, p. 122)¹⁰.

Yuki, the mother, who had been looking for researchers working on children with anomalous memories, found me on the web and contacted me on November 4, 2020. She had made some records of her son’s statements and behaviors as part of her diary. There were drawings and a “booklet” made by the child related to his past-life memories. After numerous e-mail exchanges and some telephone conversations with her, I Zoom-interviewed Takeharu and Yuki on November 29. On March 30, 2021, I visited the family and interviewed Takeharu, and his parents, Yuki and Keisuke. During the period between the Zoom meeting and the visit, Yuki videotaped Takeharu’s statements and reactions to the information I provided concerning his memories, and the past-life personality Takeharu had been talking about was apparently identified. A follow-up Zoom-interview with Takeharu was made on April 4, 2021, and later there were a couple of e-mail exchanges with Yuki. On February 5, 2022, I Zoom-interviewed Takeharu’s two brothers to confirm some points.

The Child’s statements and behaviors

The timeline of events related to Takeharu’s past-life memories having taken place before Yuki contacted me is shown in Table 2, which is based on Yuki and Keisuke’s memories, Yuki’s diary, and her memos.

⁵ Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace. Peace Education³.

⁶ The operation was named “Operation Ten-ichi Go.”

⁷ A number of the survivors of the last battle in which the *Yamato* was sunk wrote about their experiences. I consulted with the following works to confirm the facts: ^{9, 10, 18, 23, 24}.

Table 2
Events (E) related to Takeharu's past-life memories.

Age 2	Events
(E-1)	Takeharu refused to take a bath, and the mother had a hard time forcing him to do so. (This can be interpreted as a mild form of aquaphobia, which is related to the mode of death in his past life.)
(E-2)	Takeharu's two brothers recalled that, when they took a bath with Takeharu, he asked to play a battleship war with him. They did so using bath salt bags or other items (as a battleship) and make the "battleship" sink. The younger of the two brothers said: "We did it every day."
(E-3)	During a bath time, he regularly said: "I won't die." As his verbal skills developed, he kept on saying: "I won't die before mom. You cried a lot, didn't you?"
(E-4)	He refused to be called "Takeharu" and asked family members to call him by a different name. Unfortunately, nobody in the family remembers what he actually said.
Age 3	
(E-5)	On the day of his third birthday, he drew a picture shown as Fig. 1. The family members did not understand what he drew, but later understood that Takeharu had drawn the <i>Yamato</i> being attacked by the U.S. airplanes.
(E-6)	Takeharu started to say: "I want to see the <i>Yamato</i> ." The remarks made no sense to family members. He repeated the same "request" over and over again.
Age 4	
(E-7)	Takeharu's second oldest brother recalled that, when they were taken to a swimming school, Takeharu was scared of water and refused to get into the pool.
(E-8)	When he came back from the kindergarten, he was happy and said: "There is <i>Musashi</i> in the same class. (We are) Brothers! Brothers!" ("Musashi" is the name of the sister ship of the <i>Yamato</i> . "Brother" instead of "sister" is used in Japanese to refer to a "sister ship.")
(E-9)	He repeatedly made the following remarks, which led the family to think that Takeharu might have been talking about the battleship <i>Yamato</i> . "There was a very strong battleship." "Nobody knew about the ship." (The design and construction of the <i>Yamato</i> were top secret and carefully guarded against recognition: Skulski, 1988, p. 8) ¹³ . "They got us on the left side." "It exploded." "We went to help, but they got us, and I died." "I drowned." "I made my mom cry." "I won't make my mom cry this time."
(E-10)	When taking a bath, Takeharu started to sing a song "Getsu-Getsu-Ka-Sui-Moku-Kin-Kin" ("Monday-Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday-Friday.") Yuki, the mother, thought that it was a song for kids for memorizing weekdays and that Takeharu had learned it at kindergarten. It turned out that it was a <i>gunka</i> "military song" which describes hard-working navy men, who had no Saturday or Sunday breaks ¹⁴ .
(E-11)	January 2017 (at 4 years and 8 months old), Takeharu made a 6-page booklet titled "The Battleship is actually alive," which is shown in Fig. 2. Written in a child's handwriting, it is not easy to read, but the following sentences are legible. "Guns bang, bang! Everyone wanted to get on the <i>Yamato</i> ." "Let's talk about the strong battleship <i>Yamato</i> ." "The <i>Yamato</i> exploded, but three of us worked hard." (According to Takeharu's parents, he often mentioned "three of us.")
(E-12)	(April 29, 2017) In response to Takeharu's repeated begging that he wanted to see the <i>Yamato</i> , the parents took him to the Kure Maritime Museum, the so-called Yamato Museum, about a 30-minute drive from their house. The museum exhibits a "one-tenth scale model of the battleship <i>Yamato</i> measuring 26.3 meters in length." They expected Takeharu to be happy to see the model. Contrary to their expectation, he got angry and cried: "It's a fake! The <i>Yamato</i> was much much bigger!" Takeharu's 2nd oldest brother also remembered that unexpected reaction of Takeharu. The museum has exhibits of the <i>Yamato</i> and this occasion was Takeharu's first exposure to the information concerning the <i>Yamato</i> . Various figures and plastic models of the <i>Yamato</i> were sold at the museum. Takeharu first asked the parents to buy a fairly expensive complete painted figure, which they were unable to afford. Then, Takeharu begged to buy the biggest plastic model (a 1/600 scale model), which they bought and which, upon returning home, Takeharu assembled. From that time on, for about two years, Takeharu brought the plastic model to the bathtub and played with it in a way the <i>Yamato</i> was attacked and sunk ¹⁵ .
Age 5	
(E-13)	On August 6 (the day when A-bombs were dropped in Hiroshima in 1945), 2017, Takeharu went to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in the city with a brother. He said he liked the place because the exhibits are from the World War II period. (He first went there when he was three years old on the same day. After that he asked the family to take him there on August 6.) ¹⁶
(E-14)	On August 7, 2017, Yuki took Takeharu to the "Hiroshima and A-Bomb Exhibition," which was held at the Gojinsha Wendy Hito-Machi Plaza in the city. He begged Yuki to buy a booklet titled <i>Genbaku to Taisen no Shinjitsu (The Truth of the A-Bombings and World War II)</i> , which contains many pictures of the period, some of which show very tragic scenes. He said: "These pictures remind me of the old days (in my past life)."
(E-15)	On February 16, 2018, Takeharu talked about the story of the <i>Yamato</i> , saying that: "Americans got me, and I died."
(E-16)	On February 20, 2018, Takeharu said: "I was on the invincible battleship <i>Yamato</i> . But on the way to Okinawa, we were attacked and killed. The left (port) side was attacked over and over again. Inside the ship, I calculated using an abacus." (He is learning abacus but appears to be unusually skilled.)
Age 6	
(E-17)	On April 23, 2019, Takeharu said: "I died, but why am I alive?"
(E-18)	On April 30, 2019, Takeharu repeated his story of the <i>Yamato</i> . On May 1, 2019, the day when the new era of Reiwa (in the Japanese Calendar system) started, as he was watching TV, he said: "I died at the age of 19. The first year of Reiwa started. I understand what this means because 'wa' in 'Reiwa' is the same as 'wa' in 'Showa.' ¹⁷ I was born in the first year of Showa.' I think it was a cold day, maybe Christmas." Takeharu was born in the Heisei era (1989–2019), but was unable to tell which year of the era he was born ¹⁸ .
Age 7	
(E-19)	"Americans were not fair. They kept on attacking the same side. Torpedoes hit the left (port) side and the <i>Yamato</i> listed. They put water from the right (starboard) side, but it was no use. Because of the heavy bombings, people got injured and the deck was red with blood. We couldn't fire because it was cloudy and couldn't see Americans. Phreatic eruptions occurred. It was scary. It hurt. Nobody helped me. I called mom. Because of the whirlpools, I couldn't swim and sunk with the battleship."
Age 8	
(E-20)	On September 2, 2020, Takeharu created another plastic model ship and airplanes and played with them, this time not in the bath, making the airplanes attack the ship and making the ship sink. For a while, he repeated the same play every day.
(E-21)	On October 9, 2020, Takeharu said: "I want to see the <i>Yamato</i> again."
(E-22)	"I was drowned in the place with a lot of water, probably it was the sea. Nobody noticed and I sank. It was long time ago, but I still remember." (Takeharu had never swum in the sea.)
Age not specified	
(E-23)	Probably when he was 4, before Takeharu went to the Kure Maritime Museum (the Yamato Museum), he told his father that the <i>Yamato</i> had 6 big guns in the front and three in the back, and that it had aircraft. Keisuke hadn't thought that the battleship could hold aircraft, so he was surprised when he found that what Takeharu had told him was true. ¹⁹
(E-24)	Probably when Takeharu was 2, Yuki put two glasses of sake on the table, one for her and one for Keisuke. She was away for a while and when she came back, the glasses were empty. She asked Takeharu if he had drunk the sake. Takeharu at first denied having done this, but when Yuki smelled sake coming from his breath and pointed this out, he admitted that he had drunk it, with red face and singing merrily. Due to this incident, the parents try not to drink sake in front of Takeharu. When he was a kindergartener, Yuki asked Takeharu why he wanted to drink sake. He replied: "I used to drink sake and I loved it."

¹⁴ See ¹² for the description of the song.

¹⁵ See, Yamato Museum²².

¹⁶ ⁴: <https://hpmuseum.jp/?lang=eng>.

¹⁷ The Showa era ran from 1926 to 1989. “Wa” in “Reiwa” and “Showa” means “harmony.”

¹⁸ He was born in the 24th year, that is 2012 in the Christian era.

¹⁹ The *Yamato* was designed to carry seven floatplanes of the F1M2 ‘Pete’ and E13A1 ‘Jake’ types (Skulski, 1988, p. 21)¹³.

The information provided by Takeharu’s brothers is also given with the reference. Note that Yuki has been a busy mother with a full-time work as a high school teacher having three boys, so up until recently she hadn’t had enough time to fully write about Takeharu’s remarks and behaviors in her diary. Also note that the table lists remarks and behaviors Takeharu repeatedly demonstrated, but exactly at what age he did was not specified as well.

The statements (S) Takeharu made in the interview on March 30, 2021, are given in Table 3 below, which shows that Takeharu at the age of 8 still had keen interest in the battleship. He showed emotions which would be appropriate to a crew member of the battleship: the pride of being a crew of the largest battleship; the resentment towards Americans. He had a strong desire to see his mother in his past life, and expressed feelings many of children with past-life memories have: their past-life memories are fading and would like to meet past-life families before they are completely gone.

As these statements show, it appears that, although his memories were fading, he still vividly remembered the battle scenes, was proud of having been a *Yamato* crew member, had resentments towards Americans, and had strong desire to see his past-life mother.

In the Zoom interview on November 29, Takeharu at first was shy, but gradually started to talk about his memories. They were mostly those

Table 3
Takeharu’s statements made on March 30th, 2021.

(S-1)	“I had graduated from a school shortly before I got on the <i>Yamato</i> .”
(S-2)	“When we boarded the <i>Yamato</i> , we went there on a small boat.” ²⁰
(S-3)	“When I was told that the operation was a suicide attack, I thought I would never be able to go back, I have to die, but at the same time, I felt I will fight Americans and make it!”
(S-4)	“I don’t like Americans very much.”
(S-5)	“I loved to drink sake and I remember I drank a lot at the farewell party on the night before the final battle.”
(S-6)	“Before the battle, rice balls were served and I ate them quickly.” ²¹
(S-7)	“It was cloudy, and we couldn’t see airplanes till they came very close.” ²²
(S-8)	“During the battle, I don’t remember why, but I got hurt.”
(S-9)	“During the battle, the deck was filled with blood and bodies of crew members.”
(S-10)	“I was in charge of guns. I don’t remember which one, but it was not the main ones (45 Caliber Type 94 naval guns).”
(S-11)	“I want to have the <i>Yamato</i> back in shape.”
(S-12)	“My memory is fading and before it is gone, I want to meet my (former) mother. If I can, I want to tell her: ‘Don’t worry. I’m doing fine.’”
(S-13)	(To the author’s question: “Which life do you prefer, the past life or the present life?”): “I like the past. Because I was a crew member of the <i>Yamato</i> and knew how to use guns and other things.” ²³
(S-14)	(Also, using plastic models of the <i>Yamato</i> and airplanes, Takeharu vividly described how the battle went on, saying:) “Lots of airplanes were coming, they kept on coming, attacking the port side. Lots of bombs and torpedoes hit the <i>Yamato</i> . The <i>Yamato</i> listed to the left (port) side, but it was put back, ²⁴ but torpedoes hit again and again on the left side, and it eventually sank.”

²⁰ The *Yamato* was designed to carry 16 boats but usually carried 14 (Skulski, 1988, p. 21)¹³.

²¹ This statement, which is not recorded in the statement in Table 2, is a true description of the fact.

²² Another statement not recorded in Table 2 but describes the event correctly.

²³ Being a crew member of the *Yamato* was a source of pride and honor. Furthermore, if the person Takeharu was referring to was a graduate of the Naval Academy, it was likely that he also had great pride for that since they were regarded as elites in the elite. (Taiheiyo Senso Kenkyukai, ed., 2002, pp. 251–259)¹⁷.

²⁴ To keep the *Yamato* from capsizing, counter-flooding was commenced.

described above, but Takeharu said that he was in charge of guns (not the main ones) somewhere in the back of the *Yamato*, but that he was not sure what role he had played (see S-10 above).

Up until he went to the *Yamato* Museum at the age of 4 years and 11 months old, as far as his parents can tell, he had not been exposed to any information concerning the *Yamato*. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that his earlier knowledge, behaviors, and emotions related the past-life personality can be attributed to the information he obtained from normal means. After contacting with the author, however, Yuki obtained a copy of the movie pamphlet of the film *Otokotachi no Yamato (The Men’s Yamato)*, and asked Takeharu questions about the *Yamato*, using it as a reference.⁸

The possible identification of the past-life personality

After being contacted by Yuki, exchanging a couple of e-mail messages, and a Zoom meeting with Takeharu, I started trying to identify the person he was talking about.⁹ The names and the rank of the crew members are readily available in a book published by the *Yamato* Executive Officer, Nomura Jiro¹⁰. The nature of further investigations differ significantly depending on whether the person you are looking for is an officer or a sailor. For sailors, very little information is available, and further research is nearly hopeless. For officers, there are membership lists of the alumni association of the school from which they graduated. Judging from Takeharu’s statement that he had graduated from school shortly before he became a *Yamato* crew member, I thought he might have graduated from one of the three representative naval schools, the Naval Academy, the Naval Engineering College, or the Naval Paymasters’ School. I obtained audio files of the school songs of each, and asked Yuki to have Takeharu listen to them. As she did so on December 14, 2020, Yuki videotaped Takeharu’s reaction. The order was the songs of the Naval Paymasters’ School, the Naval Engineering College, and the Naval Academy. Takeharu showed no reaction to the first two, but when he listened to the third, he became happy and began to hum along, saying he used to sing the song.

Then, I obtained two different versions of an alumni association directory of the Naval Academy. One of them⁵ had pictures of the members. 73rd graduates were the youngest graduates of the Naval Academy whose members participated in the operation. Eight of them lost their lives in the operation, so I picked up their pictures.¹⁰ I asked Yuki to show Takeharu the 8 pictures one by one and ask whether they looked familiar to him. Of the 8 people, 5 of them were crew members of the *Yamato*. Two of them were those of the light cruiser *Yahagi*, and the remaining one was that of the destroyer *Asashio*. *Yahagi* and *Asashio* were 2 of the 5 ships sunk with the *Yamato*.

On December 20, 2020, Yuki showed the pictures to Takeharu using a PC. Again, she videotaped the process. In the first and second rounds, Takeharu didn’t make noticeable reactions to any of the pictures. His eldest brother, who happened to be in the same room, suggested that Yuki enlarge the pictures because they were too small. Yuki followed his advice and showed the enlarged pictures one by one. Takeharu picked

⁸ Yuki didn’t show the film because of the graphic battle scenes.

⁹ For potential concerns related to privacy, the names of the people concerning Takeharu’s memory are not given here. The author is ready to provide the information for serious researchers who are familiar with the Imperial Japanese Navy and who might be able to advance the search.

¹⁰ It turned out that the same pictures were available on the web.

up one of them and told her that the person in the picture was him.¹¹
 On December 21, 2020, Takeharu proudly said to Yuki: “Just as I have been saying, the ‘old me’ did exist.” However, neither on the previous day or on that day, was Takeharu able to recall the name of the person.

Having heard the results from Yuki and having watched the video clips of the identification scene, I gave the names of the people in the 8 pictures without telling her which name corresponds to which picture.¹² However, Takeharu did not show any noticeable reaction to any of the names.

Then, I obtained the school songs of four old-system junior high schools, one of which the apparent past-life personality Takeharu claimed to have graduated from, and asked Yuki to have Takeharu listen to them. She did so on January 4, 2021, but Takeharu was unable to recognize the melody of any of them. However, he said he remembered an episode concerning a word in one of the songs, which was the song of the school the person in question graduated from. The word was “kenji,” an old-fashioned word meaning “brave child.” Takeharu said: “I remember it was in the lyrics of the school song and that I asked a teacher what it means.”

On the same day, Takeharu picked up another picture and said: “I know this person. I’m wondering why.” On January 9, he said: “The person catching my attention might be one of the three members who were good friends (see E-11). I think he was on the cruiser *Yahagi*. The ship was attacked first, so I was worrying, but then the *Yamato* listed, and was unable to get the information about him.” It turned out that the person he talked about was indeed one of the 2 crew members of *Yahagi*, who died in the battle.

Since more than 75 years have passed since the destruction of the *Yamato*, the information given in the directory is scarce, especially for non-survivors. Many of the official documents appear to have been either intentionally discarded or simply destroyed, so the available information concerning the person Takeharu identified is very limited. The only other information I was able to obtain was in the book written by a 73rd graduates of the Naval Academy, who was a Navy pilot. Ac-



Fig. 1. A Picture of the *Yamato* Takeharu Drew on His Third Birthday.

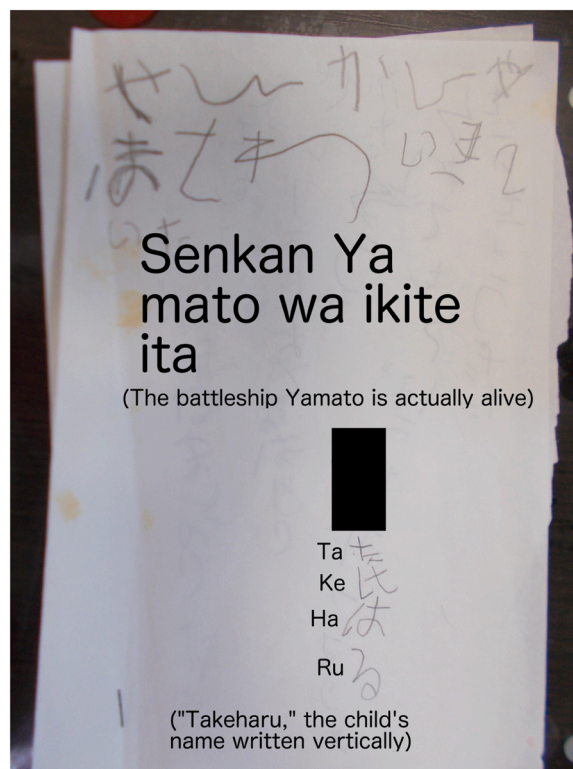


Fig. 2. A Book Takeharu Made (The Roman Letters Added by the Author).



Fig. 3. A Picture Takeharu Drew on April 9, 2021.

ording to the book, the person in question was in charge of the Secondary armament and in the Secondary armament transmitting station at the time of the sinking of the *Yamato* (Abe, 2015, p. 50)¹.

On January 25, 2021, I disclosed to Yuki that: (i) the person Takeharu picked up was one of the five crew members who were on the *Yamato*, (ii) he was in charge of the secondary armament in the armament transmitting station, (iii) the school song was that of the school the person graduated from, and (iv) the person Takeharu claimed to have been one of his friends aboard *Yahagi* was indeed on the light cruiser and was sunk in the battle shortly before the *Yamato*. These matches seem to be unaccounted for by any normal means.

After the disclosure to Yuki, who also conveyed the information to Takeharu, on April 9, 2021, Takeharu drew the picture in Fig. 3, saying that he had been using the trumpet-like pipe to send the captain’s message to the crew members directly in charge of the guns.

It seems he referred to the voice tube, which was likely to be used by

¹¹ An unexplainable thing happened at that time. In the third round, somehow only one picture repeatedly appeared, and the other pictures did not show up for a while. After all the pictures were shown, Takeharu picked up the picture repeatedly shown as that of his past-life personality. So, we cannot deny the possibility that the repeated appearance of the picture might have influenced his decision

¹² I wrongly added one name of a person who died in a different battle.

Table 4

Figures on the recurrent features observed in the case of Takeharu.

Items	Yes or No
(1) S made statements about PP.	YES
(2) S showed a desire to visit PP's family.	YES
(3) S showed a desire to visit a place related to PP. (He repeatedly said that he wanted to see the <i>Yamato</i> .)	YES
(4a) S showed emotions toward persons related to PP. (Affection towards his past-life mother and resentment against Americans)	YES
(4b) S showed a phobia related to PP. (mild aquaphobia)	YES
S showed an unusual philia. (He liked sake.)	YES
S exhibited play related to PP.	YES
S had skills related to PP. (possible connections between his present skill in using an abacus and his experiences in his past life)	YES
S exhibited xenoglossy.	NO
(5) S recognized persons, etc., related to PP.	YES

the person Takeharu identified himself as having been (Abe, 2015, p. 50)¹.

The evidential value of the picture is somewhat diminished by the fact that it was drawn after Takeharu was given the information that the person in question was a kind of messenger. However, the use of the voice tube is hardly common knowledge: Yuki, for instance, did not know what Takeharu drew when she saw the picture; nor had I had knowledge about how commands were transmitted on the battleship *Yamato* (or in any battleships). Therefore, we can argue that the picture is another demonstration of Takeharu's paranormal knowledge related to the *Yamato*.

There are two possible discrepancies, however, between Takeharu's statements and the facts concerning the person in question. First, in December 2020, Takeharu said he wore a sailor suit, but later denied this, saying that the uniform he wore was different from a sailor suit. Sailor suits were for sailors and not for officers. He might have been simply confused, but I just take a note here. Second, most of the 73rd graduates of the Naval Academy were reported to be 20 or 21 years old when they boarded the *Yamato*. Since the date of birth of the person in question is not recorded, we cannot exclude the possibility that he was unusually young when he graduated, but this might be another discrepancy.

Table 4 summarizes the case of Takeharu as to whether the recurrent features of cases of the reincarnation type are observed.

Takeharu and James Leininger

The case of Takeharu shares a number of interesting features with the case of James Leininger, one of the most compelling American cases^{19, 20, 13}. First, both Takeharu and James Leininger had memories of people who fought in the Second World War. Second, Takeharu had detailed knowledge related to the *Yamato* just as James Leininger knew a great deal about aircrafts during the Second World War. Third, both Takeharu and James Leininger repeatedly showed the last scene of their past lives in their play. Furthermore, Takeharu showed animosities towards Americans, which are understandable feelings during the Second World War. Although James Leininger is not reported to show animosities towards Japanese, he might have had the similar feelings when he played war "shooting Japs" with his cousin. The embarrassed mother stopped and told him that the war had ended, and Americans had won the war. He broke out and danced in circles chirping: "We won the war; we won

the war!" (Leininger, 2021, p. 13)⁶. Additionally, both cases involve relatively long intermission periods: 67 years in Takeharu's case and 53 years (1945–1998) in Leininger's case.

Discussion and conclusion

The case of Takeharu appears to be another example which is unlikely to be accounted for by normal means such as fraud, fantasy, and knowledge acquired through normal means. Takeharu's unusual knowledge, behaviors, and emotional traits were limited to the particular person, and he showed no psychic abilities. Although the identification of the past-life personality is not conclusive, the present case has an advantage that the investigation was not started by any of the family members. Therefore, possible contamination of the data as suggested by Sudduth¹⁵ in the case of James Leininger is unlikely to be involved.

I hope this paper has presented another strong case which is most likely to be accounted for by the notion of reincarnation.¹⁴

Takeharu, although sad that he was unable to meet his past-life family members, especially, the mother, he said he was satisfied to have been able to identify who he had been.

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¹³ Sudduth¹⁵ made a critical review of the case, calling into question its paranormal features. For defense, see Matlock⁸, and Tucker²¹. For Sudduth's reply to Tucker²¹, see Sudduth¹⁶.

¹⁴ For philosophical criticism of such an interpretation, see Sudduth¹⁴.

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