

The Example of Accessing News during the Wartime from the Scrapbook of Newspaper: Exemplifying the Materials from Yawatahama City in Ehime Prefecture

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The 36 scrapbooks containing newspaper articles from wartime were discovered. Articles about war situations and international affairs during the 15 years, from just after the Mukuden Incident and the Pacific war, were scrapped almost every day. In this paper, I will clarify how the readers who lived in wartime tried to access the news by examining their choices in the scrapbook. Those days, news media published articles that accused the Japanese invasion of China without making them serialized. A person who made the scrapbook tended to pick up the article that stressed the view only from Japan. Also, a person seemed eager to restore the articles that stated the glory of the Japanese Imperial Army; he ignored the articles that showed the anxiety about Japan being isolated in international affairs or the domestic movement that vocalized the importance of democratization. It is often pointed out that back then, the newspaper press, both voluntarily or not, accepted the order from the government to support their military policy; my paper will illustrate that even civilian was following voluntarily the news that intentionally emphasized the Japanese glory in the war situation.