

## Three Old Swords

As it happens, I have three old swords. A Japanese katana, a European saber and a relatively recent era Japanese military saber. I have owned them for roughly 40 years ... too long for me to remember much about how I got them.

## WW2 Japanese Katana

This sword has seen use ... maybe a lot of use. The protective leather covering over the shellacked cloth-over-wood scabbard is well worn where it would have dragged against bushes and brambles, while on-the-march ... yet is in much better condition in the region near the hilt, where it would have been protected by a sash-belt. This pattern of wear and tear on the scabbard covering could never have occurred in storage.

There are five separate engravings carved into the metal of the tang.

The pictures below show engravings on the sword tang. A friend with contacts in the Japanese sword community was kind enough to get these inscriptions translated. Here is what they say:

The name of the swordsmith who made it is: "Hiromitsu."

The date of forging is: Showa 16 nen 10 gatsu ... which means October 1941. A patriotic engraving on the tang translates to: "Seven Lives for my country."

Apparently, Hiromitsu was a WW2 Seki smith. Seki City is one of the most well-known and highly regarded blade-producing areas in the world. The blade was made in an arsenal workshop.

The sword condition is: Ok-and-interesting

## WW2 Japanese Katana

For general interest, there is a huge amount of information about Japanese swords at this link:

<http://www.japaneseswordindex.com/nihonto.htm>

By-the-way, Hiromitsu may be kind of "stage name" for a WW2 swordsmith. As it happens, there was a very highly regarded swordsmith working in the 1300's with the name Hiromitsu. Here is a link to information about this swordsmith:

<http://www.nihonto-museum.com/blog/soshu-hiromitsu>



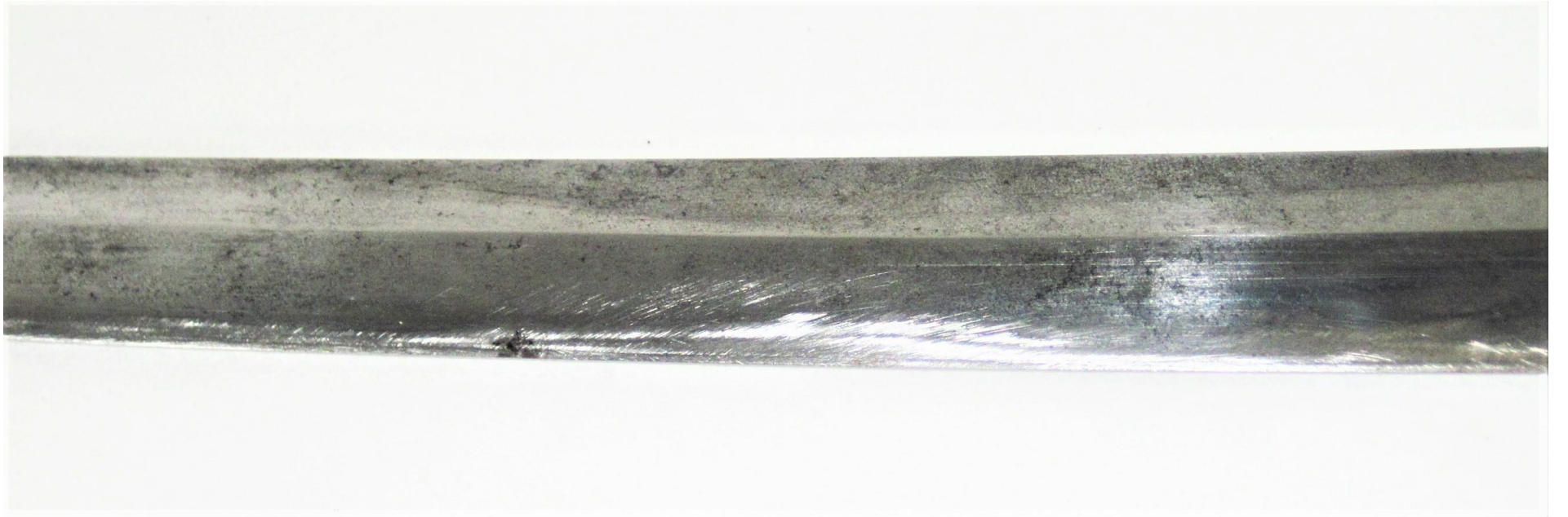
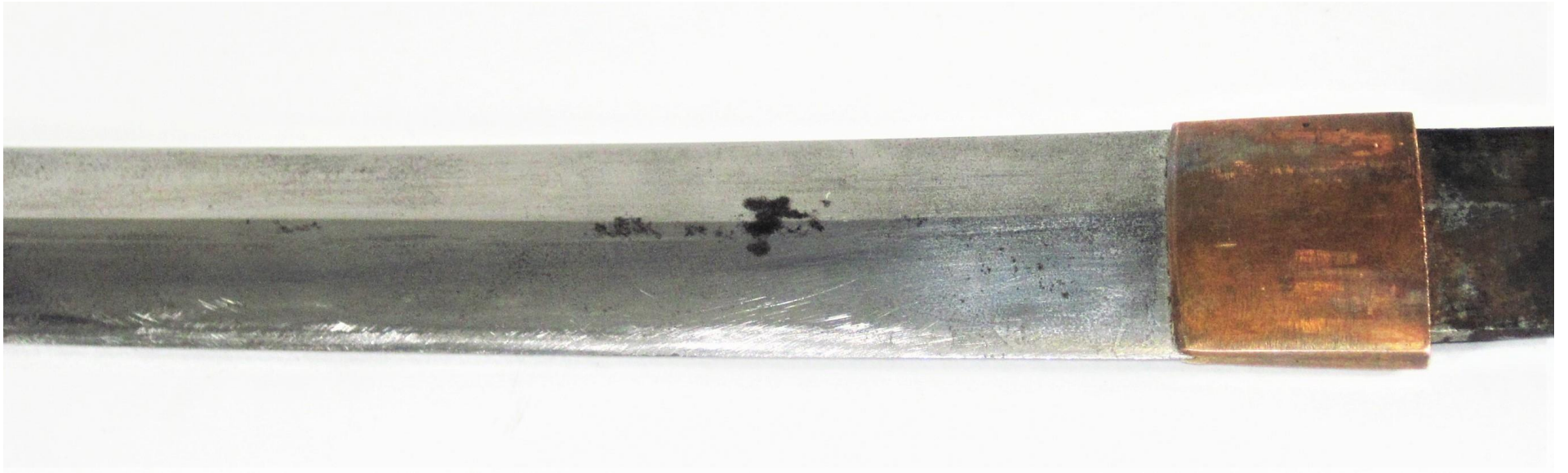
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# Japanese Katana



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Left Side of Tang



Engraving 1



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Right Side of Tang



Engraving 2



Engraving 3



Engraving 4



Engraving 5

## Japanese Military Saber

This sword came to me with heavy grease coating the blade. It is in like new condition ... sharp ... and ... based on overall condition, was apparently never issued. The leather components and scabbard show no sign of wear through use or storage.

I tested the blade by bending it over my knee and learned that the blade is of high-quality high carbon steel. After substantial deflection, the blade immediately sprang back to absolutely straight-true.

The only identification marking anywhere is the number 631652, hand scribed, in English characters.

The condition is: Like-new-never-issued



## Japanese Military Saber



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Engraving: 631652

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## Hungarian Saber

This sword has a poorly stamped marking which seems to indicate it was made in Budapest, Hungary.

The blade edge is rounded-dull and appears to have never been sharpened.

There are some unusual scratch-marks on the left side of the blade near the hilt. This row of parallel indentations are deep enough that normal wearing or storage was probably not the cause. However, they are right where indentations would occur if the sword has been used to parry an opponent's sword cut, while used in training. There are no similar indentations on the right side of the blade.

The blade is deeply stamped with the number 97 on the right side and the scabbard is poorly stamped with "H9."

The condition is: Good

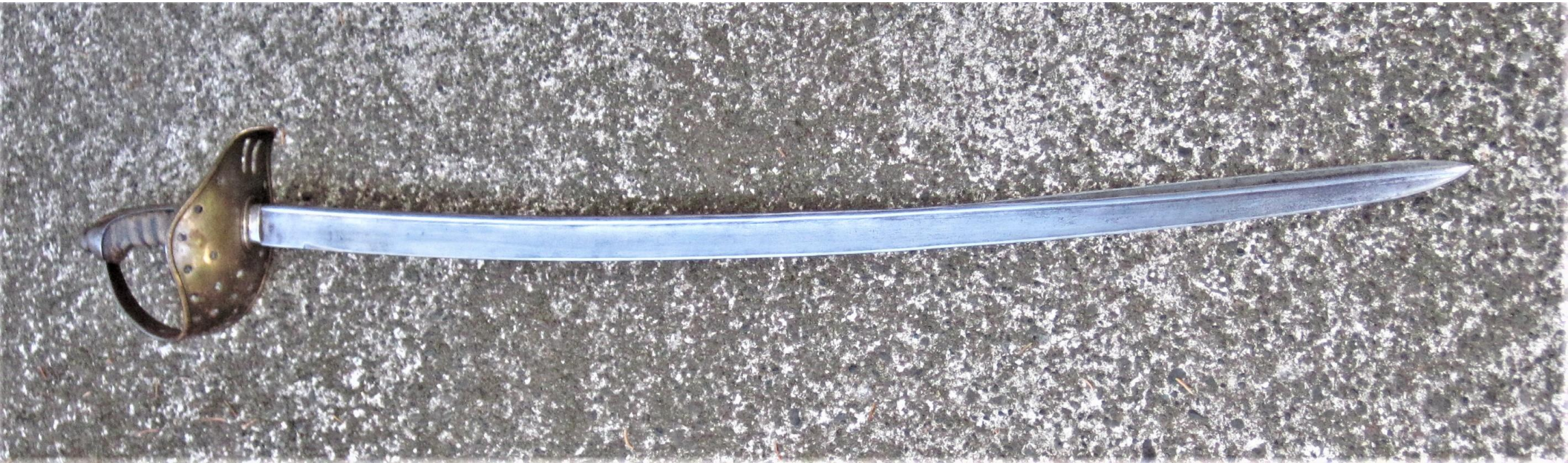


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