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3 September 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL KIRK:

Here is a dentist who seeks to volunteer for service. He is, you will note, an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, but even so, the record he gives himself looks imposing. Furthermore, he raises a point difficult to answer, that the Army is lacking in dental service and if the voluntary procurement of dentists is not satisfactory, compulsory procurement may be instituted.

I believe the current policy of the Medical Department is not to utilize Japanese American personnel in the Medical Corps and the Dental Service except with the Japanese American Combat Team. This presumably is predicated upon the supposedly natural enmity for the Japanese race. Do you not think that this policy now might be changed, so that deserving, loyal Americans of Japanese extraction would be given the opportunity to serve?

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

JOHN J. McCLOY  
Assistant Secretary of War

Enc.  
Ltr. Aug 31 '43 to Scooby  
fm. Kita

The Surgeon General  
Maritime Building 1024  
1818 H Street, NW  
Wash. D.C.

J.A. VOLUNTEERS - MEDICAL CORPS

Kita, Dr. Harry Y.

A - Surgeon General  
X - Surgeon General  
X - Kita, Dr. Harry Y.

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August 31, 1943  
P.O. Box 469  
Glasgow, Montana

Colonel Wm.P.Scobey  
War Department  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
Pentagon Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Scobey:

When the announcement was made that Japanese Americans were to taken in the army I was overjoyed with the prospect of being accorded the privilege of proving my loyalty to my Country.

I immediately volunteered for a commission in the Dental Corps thru the recruiting team at the Colorado River Relocation Project, knowing that dental officers were secured by voluntary procurement I made a special trip to Phoenix to have myself declared available by the State Chairman for the Assignment and Procurement of Dentists I have also secured availability clearance from the Chairman for Northern California.

Expecting an early call to duty I brought my family to Montana for relocation. I was interviewed at the Salt Lake City Officer Procurement office on April 2nd and was given my physical examination on July 1st at Fort William Henry Harrison, Helena Montana. I have every reason to believe I have successfully passed same and that my papers are in order but to date have had no notification of appointment. My understanding is that the usual procedure of appointments are made within sixty days.

In the mid-monthly bulletin of the American Dental Journal, President J. Ben Robinson of the American Dental Association states that the voluntary procurement of dentists has not been satisfactory and that if the requirements cannot be met by this plan, compulsory procurement may be instituted.

Since I believed that I would be appointed without delay. I did not feel it feasible to conduct a civilian practice and therefore am not now following my profession, and so my induction would help in the above mentioned statement.

If no vacancies exist in the Japanese American combat unit, I feel I could qualify for other units for the following reasons: My business, social and civic connections are thoroughly American. My former practice was composed of over fifty percent Caucasians, my religion is Christian and I own my home at Salinas, California.

2.

I am a member of the following organizations: American Dental Association for the past fifteen years, secretary, treasurer and vice-president of our local district dental society; Board of Directors of Salinas Community YMCA, secretary of the Board for one term and a director for twelve years; member of Advisory Board Selective Service Local Board # 120; Community Council of U.S.O; Board of Directors Tuberculosis Seal Association; University of California Alumni Association, Life member; Area Council Chairman, Boy Scouts of America; University of California Dental Alumni Association; National Skeet Shooting Association; Northern California Skeet Shooting Association; Salinas Rod and Gun Club; Salinas Wildlife and Conservation Club. President of the local chapter of JACL for three terms and chairman of Northern California District Council.

As a patriotic and loyal citizen I believe I should be accorded the privilege and honor of serving my country and that my knowledge and fifteen years of experience in the dental field should be utilized, therefore I am appealing to you to use any influence within your power to hurry my appointment. I am available for duty immediately.

Any help in the above matter will be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Harry Y. Kita D.D.S.

Harry Y. Kita D.D.S.