

Box 48
Folder 1
Item 19
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34218 90 Volunteers
Shimada, Pfc. John
Shimada Pfc
11 Aug 43

11 August 43

Basic Papers
34218 Volunteers
Ammie, Pfc.
Mason

Pfc John Shimada,
Eq. H.Q. Co. Reception Center,
Ft. San Houston, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I write this letter in duplicate to you and Pfc Masao Sudo in reply to your joint letter of July 17, 1943.

Your letter has been carefully considered and it is believed that your attitude and motives are clearly understood. It is essential to realize that you and I, and other American citizens, are not fighting the culture and civilization of Japan; we are fighting to cast those misguided elements which have led Japan into paths of conquest and aggression far beyond her island shores. When our victory is won, we hope that the Japanese people will cling to the moral and spiritual values of the Japanese culture, and that Japan will again live in peace and friendship with her neighbors. When we have won, you will find that you, as an American soldier, will enjoy the admiration and respect of all true Japanese for having loyally performed your duty, and you will have the deep satisfaction of having helped restore Japan to an honorable place among nations.

Your feelings about the placing of persons of Japanese blood in relocation centers also are understood. However, you exaggerate conditions there when you speak of suffering. There are very few people of Japanese extraction in jails or concentration camps. The establishment of relocation camps was a matter of necessity and I am happy to say that there is a steady flow of people out of the centers and into normal civil life.

You can and must make only one decision. You have accepted the rights, protection, and privileges shared by American citizens under the democratic form of government, and you have accepted the duties required of its citizens.

Asst.

Copy for Secretary of War.

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Your duty is plain. You are an American soldier, sworn to defend your country to the utmost of your ability. Only by performing this duty will you live up to your oath and be respected and honored by all Americans, whether native or Japan born. If you fail in your duty you will not only shame your fellow Japanese-Americans, but you will be punished as any other American soldier would be.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOSE J. MCLODY

Assistant Secretary of War.

Dispatched base 11 Aug 43

Cys:

C/S

AC 3 S, 8-2

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OSW 34918 24 July 1943

HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE LANGUAGE SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

SAVAGE, MINNESOTA

24 July 1943

Captain John M. Hall
Assistant Executive
Office of the Assistant Secretary
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Hall:

As Colonel Rasmussen is absent from the school for a few weeks, your letter to him dated 20 July 1943, concerning Pfc. Masao Sumi and Pfc. John Shinseki has been referred to me.

To determine whether their joint letter could possibly have some different shade of meaning, I had one of our instructors give me his version of a correct translation. I am enclosing a copy of same for your information. As you will see, the general meaning is the same as that of the translation you sent us.

Due to the background of the two men and the sentiments they express, it would be unwise to have them assigned to Military Intelligence duty. Moreover, they would probably not be cleared by the FBI and CI. Therefore, this office will not request their assignment to this school.

Thank you for sending us the information.

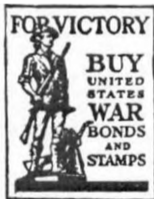
Very truly yours,

A. W. Stuart

A. W. STUART
Lt. Colonel, Infantry
Assistant Commandant



24 Jul 43



Enclosures:
ltr in Japanese
w/translation

elk CC sent 29 Jul 43 to Chief, MIS for rec. action + direct reply to basic letter. JWH Basic ltr sent to...

Shinseki; Pfc. Rasmussen

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20 July 1943

Dear Colonel Rasmussen:

Enclosed is original and translation of letter received from two enlisted men now serving at the Reception Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Pfc Masao Sumi and Pfc John Shinseki. They have been in the Army for 2½ years to show "our gratitude to our country". On the other hand, they are dual citizens and have more than a little sympathy for Japan and things Japanese. Since they are doubtless fluent in Japanese, I thought you might wish to look them over. Their frankness startles me.

Please let me know what, if anything, you decide to do so that a reply may be made.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN M. HALL

JOHN M. HALL
Captain, F.A.
Assistant Executive

Colonel Kai B. Rasmussen, Commandant
Military Intelligence Service Language School
Camp Savage, Minnesota

Enc. ASN 39231136 ASN 39077293
Joint ltr 17 Jul 43 fr Masao Sumi and John Shinseki
and translation.

Note:
Their address is HQ. H.Q. Co. Reception Center, Ft. Sam Houston.

OASW:JMH:MGB