

Box 47
Folder 7
Item 2
Page 1

May 29, 1945

Dear Colonel Wilson:

You will recall that you let me have the letter written by Sergeant Iwate from Fort Jackson, S.C., about his transfer from the 442nd Infantry. Investigation of this matter discloses that a number of Japanese were transferred from this unit because they had spent some time in Japan. This action was in strict accordance with regulations providing for the selection of cadre personnel for the regiment. However, it seems that the policy was ill-advised because there undoubtedly must have been some good men who had spent some time in Japan.

As a result of this investigation action is now being taken to transfer back to the 442nd Infantry a number of soldiers who were transferred out because of the policy above stated. I thought you might like to have this information so that, should the matter arise at any time, you might be able to explain it fully.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM F. SCOBEE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive

Colonel E. M. Wilson
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building, Room 819
910 17th Street, NW
Washington, D. C.

cc:sw:vp:mav

342.18 J.A. Infantry
J.C.
J. Keating
Z. Johnson
342.18 J.A. Infantry
353.8 J.C. Iwate, Takumi
342.18 J.A. Infantry
4/29/45

Box 47
Folder 7
Item 2 p. 2

HQ., 442ND INFANTRY COMBAT TEAM
CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI

May 27, 1943.

Col. William P. Scobey,
Executive, Office of Assistant Secretary,
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Scobey:

Colonel Pence has requested me to answer, while he is on a short leave of absence, your letter of inquiry May 22, 1943, relative to the transfer of Sergeant Tatsumi Iwate from this Command to Fort Jackson, S. C.

Sergeant Iwate was transferred originally to the 442nd Infantry as a cadreman pursuant to Activation Letter of Jan. 22, 1943, circulated to two Service Commands requesting transfers of soldiers of Japanese ancestry to our cadre. This Activation Letter specified that transfers were not to include soldiers of Japanese ancestry who at one time or another had returned to Japan.

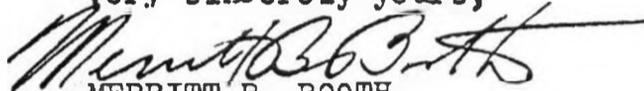
On March 12, after a checkup of cadreman, we furnished Third Army Headquarters a report listing cadreman who were found to have resided in Japan in contravention of Paragraph 3 of aforementioned Letter. Our report stated: "While there is no evidence, to date, that any of these men are disloyal, it is believed that those who have resided in Japan for any considerable period of time are of questionable desirability for service in this unit." Included in this listing was Sergeant Iwate who was in Japan for about eight years, up to 1933.

On April 19, pursuant to a War Department letter AG 220.31 (4-6-43) PE-A-B, dated April 9, 1943, the Fourth Service Command ordered transfer of a group of cadreman, including Sergeant Iwate, to Fort Jackson. It was specified by the Intelligence Division of the Fourth Service Command that there was no adverse information concerning the men, other than the fact that they had resided in Japan at one time or another.

However, by this time we had had opportunity to determine the desirability of many of the men concerned,

and we informally notified the MIS, WD, of this situation. Subsequently, on May 19, 20 and 21, a representative of CIG, MIS, WD, visited this Headquarters. As a result of informal conversations with this officer, Capt. Claude C. Pierce, Jr., it was agreed that those of the cadremen whom we desired to be returned from Fort Jackson, including Sergeant Iwate, would be made available for reassignment to the 442nd Infantry, with the final decision on each individual resting with CIG, MIS. It is believed that as a result of this agreement, Sergeant Iwate will be returned to the 442nd Infantry in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,



MERRITT B. BOOTH,
LT. COL., 442nd Inf.,
Executive Officer.

Box 47
Folder 7
Item 2
page 4

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR

May 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Transfer of Japanese-American
Troops who have been to Japan.

1. In apparent compliance with the directive which provided that the cadre for the Japanese-American Combat Team should be composed of persons of Japanese ancestry who had never been outside the United States, Colonel Pence transferred some 37 Japanese-Americans to Camp Jackson. After submitting a list of 67 to G-2, War Department, Captain Pierce determined on a recent visit that there were an additional 45 that have been outside the United States. Decision has been made to leave the 45 where they are and to return approximately 32 of the 37 transferred, to Camp Shelby.

Hall
Hall

ASur
34218
Staff Jackson

5-29-43

5-25-43

Box 47
Folder 7
Item 2
Page 5

ASW 34 2.18
P. A. Ingham
1st Postcom

May 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL E. M. WILSON:

Thanks for letting me have the attached letter. I am looking into the situation. Incidentally, I have information that some 40 or more Japanese American soldiers are in this Station Complement Separate Unit Number 1497, and there are definite indications that at least some of these are pro-Japanese, which probably accounts for them being there.

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEEY
Colonel, General Staff
Executive

(Station Complement Separate Unit)

W. P. Scobee
E. M. Wilson
Sgt. Iwate, Sgt. Tatsumi

3538 P. A. Ingham

Enc.
Ltr. 5-2-43 fm. Sgt. Tatsumi Iwate to another Jap-Am.

oasw;wps;maw

Colonel E. M. Wilson
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building, Room 819
910 17th Street, NW
Washington, D. C.

5-24-43

SCSU 1497
Ft. Jackson, S.C.
May 2, 1943

Dear Gang:

First of all, let me thank you fellows for giving me such a swell sendoff. That was worth for OCS or Overseas. Altho, I knew what was in store for us "hand-picked", I didn't give a goddamn over those cups of beer I sipped with you.

We hit Ft. Jackson on the night of 29th. We hit it in such a way that nobody bothered to get up for welcome. It was only a 24 hour trip but I was just as tired as a guy who went thru bayonet practice after a 20 mile hike. Our new outfit Station Complement Separate Unit 1497, located within the North Camp looks like a salvage dump for useless servicemen. But before we go inside, lets look around the area. As far as the rudments are concerned, you are in 4F while ours look a little healthier. In place for those flaps around the hut, we have several large windows and unlike you boys in Shelby, we need not fight for oxygen since no more than 8 or 9 dogfaces live in one hut. You can adjust the shower temperature to your own liking here while in Shelby you hang on to the "operating chain" and cuss the hell out of the Shower Orderly who always tries to make the water hot but isn't. Chow here is average G.I. just so that fellows can go on functioning. You boys are lucky because Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. has the best cooking staff composed of S/Sgt. Matsuno, Sgt. Tanaka, and Cpl. Nakata. PX is about two blocks up and just about as well equipped as yours. But we are able to buy a carton of Camels or a box of candy bars without any trouble that is as long as we've got the dough. Less customers is why. Theater, and S/Sgt. Takata please note, is only a black away. So you see our living condition isn't so bad.

I've said that SCSU is a salvage dump. Personnel of this outfit is made up of both Yabos and Whites who regardless of their loyalty to Uncle Sam, are put together in this peculiar unit to experience the bitter side of Democracy. Names of those whites sadly indicate their origin and ancestry as do ours. Majority of them, I've found out were thrown out of the Air Corps. Also there are several real old timers with years of service records to back them up.

And what do we do? Our military duties, if I can still call this a part of the Army are limited to Guard duty, fatigue and of course K.P. I pulled Cpl. of the Guard, their relief from 12 to 4 a.m. and from 12 to 4 p.m. 17 posts spread all over the North Camp, in addition to the shortage of our personnel hardly give the boys any decent rest. Most of them are on duty day after day. In case one goes off duty, that's no good luck either, for he probably will be on KP the next day. So far none of us 30 odds AJs has pulled KP but we might better be prepared for the craziest thing to happen.

I can't help wondering about the future of ourselves in this Fort within a Fort. I regard this action taken by the Army to be one of the most cowardly and shameful, without mentioning wasteful. We all swore true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, as we came into the Army and that's still good as far as I'm concerned. I swore to help destroy our enemy were it Nazi or Japanese. That still holds true. And let me say that if the Army had as much faith in us as we have in the USA, there wasn't any need to create SCSU or prison for American soldiers of unAmerican ancestry.

^a
It's/funny world all right. While the Army is crying for more help from the WAACs in order to release able men for active duty, it is releasing the able bodied fellows from active duty to put them into SCSU. One of our fellows cracked: "We are to replace the WAACS so they can go on active duty."

I was the happiest guy in the world when they picked me out as one of the cadres who have laid the framework of the 442nd Infantry. At last, I found a real opportunity to do my part and there was my future. I've done within my power my humble best for the new born 442nd and I was going to watch this baby of ours grow into a fully developed manhood with character excellent. The future of the 442nd was, in short my own future. I know I sound kind of fatheaded to you fellows, talking as if the 442nd were my own creation. But I also know that you'd understand. I had THAT MUCH interest in the outfit.

Now they've taken me away from the 442nd and whether they realize it or not, they've taken my future away from me. I have lost myself.

Box 47
Folder 1
Item 2
Page 8

But here is a promise. You see I'm not the kind that cracks easily, and somehow, someday, I'm going to find my way back to the 442nd to rejoin you Gang.

This SCSU is not for a guy like me. I have too much red blood in me to be satisfied here. This place is not for anyone who is a real American by heart. I hope none of you will come to join me while I'm here. This is a prison for soldiers who once visited our enemy countries. I visited our enemy nation when I was 7 years old. My parents took me there to see my grandfather who was ill. If that has anything to do with my loyalty to my country, Hitler is a Democrat.

As I've said, I'll try my darndest to rejoin 442nd Infantry in Shelby. However, if I should fail, it'd be of some comfort to realize that I'd actually taken part in laying foundation of our beloved 442nd and that my former fellow non-coms of Hq.Co.3rd Bn. will be keep pitching until that outfit comes out on top.

I've just opened the envelope you boys gave to me on that beer night and discovered just a little too many green bucks in it. Go for Broke is okay for Regimental motto but you don't have to go nakes on account of that. I'll be remembering each one of you like my own ASN.

Take care of your men, You ncos of 3rd Bn. Hq. Co. and be especially good to those who used to be mine.

Please give my best regard to our Old Man and Lt. Sipe.

Always

Signed - Sgt. Tatsumi Iwate

Memo to S/Sgt. Tabata and Sgt. Oye -

Don't let those 37s rust while
I'm away

T.I.