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JA Questionnaires (ASW 342.18)  
Classif. No. ASW 342.18 J. A. Volunteers, Kasamatsu, Terno

14 June 1943

Dear Mr. Myer:

Enclosed is a copy of letter I have received from Mr. Terno Kasamatsu, an evacuee at Poston, together with a copy of my reply.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEE  
Colonel, General Staff  
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Room 822, Barr Building  
Washington, D. C.

Encs.

Cy ltr 10 Jun 1943 Teruo Kasamatsu to Col. Scobey

Cy ltr 14 Jun 1943 Col. Scobey to Mr. Kasamatsu.

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YUnit #2, 221-4-0  
Poston, Arizona  
June 10, 1943

Colonel William P. Scobey  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I am writing this letter of appeal to you because I believe you were in charge of the recent Military Registration of the Americans of Japanese ancestry in the Relocation Centers.

I am one of those unfortunate individuals, who at the time of the registration was bewildered and consequently misunderstood the gravity of those two questions. At that time I answered in the negative, not because I was disloyal, but because I was deeply depressed ever since evacuation and merely wanted to protest the treatment that I received. I am sure you are fully aware of the tremendous sacrifices which we have undergone.

In 1940 I endeavored to join the United States Army Air Corps but was rejected because of my Japanese ancestry. Indeed it was very embarrassing as well as humiliating not to be able to serve my own country.

Now that the War Department is organizing the Combat Unit composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry, I know that they have faith in us. Also the efforts of the War Relocation Authority to relocate us uphold the fact America has faith in us Americans.

Today, I realize what a terrible thing I did upon answering in the negative to the military questionnaires. I would appreciate it greatly if you would consider my plea to reinstate myself, because I do not belong to the disloyal category. The negative answer I gave must be changed to the affirmative.

Since it is impossible to relocate with a negative answer, I am confronted with a gigantic and embarrassing problem. I desire to relocate and help in the war effort in any way possible. The local project director is doing his utmost to help me.

It is indeed heartening to read that you are constantly defending the rights of us Americans, who because of the race only are despised by some groups.

Hoping you will clear me as soon as possible, I remain

Very truly yours,

/s/ Teruo Kasamatsu

Teruo Kasamatsu