

Box 48
Folder 1
Item 27 p. 1

12 February 1944

342.18 J. A. Volunteers

Suzuki, Roy F.

Mr. Roy F. Suzuki
519 West 123rd Street
New York, 27, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Suzuki:

This is with reference to your letter of January 21, 1944, requesting a waiver for subnormal vision. The Surgeon General has just informed me that your vision (20/400 bilateral without glasses) qualified you only for limited military duty.

The Military Personnel Division, Army Service Forces, are at the present time accepting citizens of Japanese extraction only for general military duty. They further advise that if in the future there is a need for limited military service men in this group, the call will be issued.

In view of the above, a waiver for defective vision has not been granted by the Surgeon General.

Sincerely,

X-Gerhardt
X-Suzuki

HARRISON A. GERHARDT
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

CUSW:MAH:mv

12 Feb 44

IN REPLY REFER TO SPMCD SP:DP 095 Suzuki, Roy T.

gem

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WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
WASHINGTON

10 February 1944



MEMORANDUM for The Assistant Secretary, War Department,
Washington, D. C. (Attention: Lt. Colonel
Harrison A. Gerhardt, GSC, Executive to
Assistant Secretary of War)

Subject: Waiver for induction of Mr. Roy T. Suzuki.

1. A copy of DSS Form No. 221 on Roy T. Suzuki has been obtained and reviewed by this office and, because of this selectee's vision which is 20/400 bilateral without glasses, he is qualified only for limited military duty. Mr. Suzuki has, therefore, received an administrative rejection because of insufficient vision.

2. The Military Personnel Division, Army Service Forces, advises that, up to the present time, they have accepted individuals of Japanese extraction only for general military duty, there having been no call for men of this race for limited military duty. They further advise that, if in the future there is a need for limited military service men in this group, the call will be issued.

3. In view of the above, a waiver for defective vision in order that Mr. Suzuki may be inducted into the Army of the United States, is not recommended.

For The Surgeon General:

GEORGE E. McCABE
Major, Medical Corps
Assistant

Incl. - 2
Form DSS 221
Letter 21 Jan 44



21, 1944
 January 27, 1944
 Box 48
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 New York 27, N.Y.
 Draft Bd. 38
 583 Riverside Dr.
 New York City.



To Whom it may concern
 Asst. Sec. of War J. J. McLaughlin
 Colonel W. P. Scobey,

Dear Sir,

I would like to ask a big favor of you.

I volunteered for the Japanese-American Combat Unit last July and took my physicals Jan. 17. I passed everything except the eye test. I tested 20/20 perfectly with my contact lenses (different from glasses I cannot be broken or lost easily) and the Major in charge of the eye unit at Grand Central Palace stated that if I could obtain a waiver from you he would pass me. I told him the eye requirements for the J. A. unit was slightly lowered but he said I had to have a waiver.

I know the great work you did in forming this combat unit and I only ask you to accept me. I have dreamed and wished for the day I would become a soldier. I have heard of many instances the War Dept. has waived the rules. As you know us fellows have more reason than most persons to want to serve, so please give me a special break. I am sincere and determine to go immediately, so please approve the waiver. I will be down soon. Thank you,
 Kenji Suzuki

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Item 27 p. 4HAWAII Nisei with Disability
Demanded Chance to Enlist

HONOLULU, T. H. — The Honolulu Advertiser reported here this week that Hawaii-born Japanese soldiers of the U. S. army's new combat team have reached the main island and the story of Raymond Shiroma, 23, of Kaula "can now be told."

The Advertiser said that Shiroma, who had volunteered for military service, had refused to be left behind when it was found after physical examination that he had 75 per cent disability of the right forearm due to an accident several years ago.

When told he need not go to war because of the disability, that there were several others who were willing to take his place, he said to the military examiner, "There's nothing wrong with my thumb and forefinger. I can shoot a gun and I want to go." That settled it, the Advertiser said, and Shiroma was accepted.

"He will probably make a darn fine soldier," the Honolulu newspaper commented.

"It was the boy's spirit, his determination that impressed me," the medical officer commented.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Assistant Secretary
INTRAOFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: 26 Jan 44

Time: 7:20

For: Col. Gerhardt

..... Maj. McCabe SGO

..... Telephoned Please telephone

..... Called to see you Will telephone again

..... Is in Reception Room Will be back

..... Left no message

Remarks:

Re

The Japanese American, Roy F. Suzuki, who wrote in several days ago and said he passed his physical except for eyes. He wears contract lenses and his eyes test 20/20 with them. However, he needs a waiver in order to get in.

Maj. McCabe said it depended upon how bad his eyes were whether a waiver could be granted and inasmuch as Suzuki didn't state what his vision is without glasses, they would have to get this information from 2nd Service Command, if you want it handled that way. Please call him.

1:30

Col. Gerhardt phoned McCabe's office and said to go ahead with getting vision test and proceed with obtaining a waiver for M Suzuki.

24-40328ABCD

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J.A. Volunteers
Suzuki, Roy F.

26 Jan 44

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842.18 J. A. Volunteers

Suzuki, Roy T.

24 January 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

Subject: Waiver for Induction of Mr. Roy T. Suzuki.

The attached letter from Mr. Suzuki requests a waiver for a disqualifying eye condition. Can a waiver in this case be granted?

1512-401

HARRISON A. GERHARDT
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

X- Gerhardt
X- Surg. Gen.

Enc.

Ltr. JAN 21 '44 fm. Suzuki to OASW

24 Jan 44

OASW:HAG:maw

Surgeon General
Maritime Building, Rm. 1024
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D. C.