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342.18

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Volunteers -

Assistant Army, Rank 1st Lt

342.18

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SA - Prop Service

Public & Relations

4-21-43

April 21, 1943

Dear Mr. Hosokawa:

The Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. John J. McCloy, asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 19 and reply thereto.

I am informed that when you registered at Minidoka you did not volunteer for induction, but stated you desired a commission. I am informed that your present age is twenty-five years, and should this be true you will not be eligible for commission direct from civil life unless you graduated from a recognized R.O.T.C. unit and was designated eligible for commission at the time of your graduation. Even under this condition I do not believe it can be assured you will receive a commission. This policy is the general War Department policy and applicable under all conditions and to all personnel. The only exceptions made to commissioning individuals under thirty-five years of age direct from civil life are those cases of special professional categories such as medical doctors, dentists, chaplains, and a few highly specialized categories in the engineers corps.

Although you may not be commissioned direct from civil life there is every reason to believe that you would have little difficulty in being designated for officer candidate school should you elect to be inducted voluntarily as an enlisted man. Your educational qualifications certainly would warrant the conclusion that you would have little difficulty on this phase of selection. Of course, your physical qualifications must also meet the general service standards.

The Assistant Secretary asked me to express his commendations for your patriotic desire to serve and on behalf of the War Department, I wish to add that it is the policy of the War Department, regardless of statements purportedly made by certain army officers, to accord to all loyal Japanese American citizens volunteers the privileges that every other soldier is entitled to.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive

OASW:WPS:MDH

Mr. Robert Hosokawa
Inter-City Press, Inc.
Box 7718, Fairmount Station
Kansas City, Missouri

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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April 21, 1943

Dear Mr. Hosokawa:

The Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. John J. McCloy, asked me to acknowledge your letter of April 19 and reply thereto. Your letter did not give full information as to how far your induction had progressed. If you have already taken the physical examination, then it will probably be only a matter of a few days until you are called, under which conditions you receive early orders for your transfer to the Japanese-American Combat Team, Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

At the present time there is no opportunity for you to be commissioned directly from civil life. However, following completion of your basic training at Camp Shelby, you will have an equal opportunity with all other enlisted men to attend the officers training school. I feel sure with the educational background that you have given in your letter, you will have little difficulty in qualifying, assuming, of course, that you also are physically qualified.

The Assistant Secretary asks me to express his commendations for your patriotic desire to serve and on behalf of the War Department, I wish to add that it is the policy of the War Department to accord to all loyal Japanese-American citizens, the privileges that go with that citizenship, regardless of the expressed statements purportingly made by certain Army officers.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM P. SCOBIE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive

Mr. Robert Hosokawa
Inter-City Press, Inc.
Box 7718, Fairmount Station
Kansas City, Missouri

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TELEPHONE
CLIFTON 4000

BOX 7718 • FAIRMOUNT STATION
KANSAS CITY • MISSOURI

April 19, 1943



Assistant Secty. of War McCloy
War Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

When the U.S. Army recruiting team was taking enlistments at Minidoka War Relocation project in February, I made application for a commission in the army public relations department. Since then I have been resettled, leaving early in March to accept a position as News Editor of the Inter-City News, an eight page weekly in Kansas City.

I hope that I am found eligible for a commission. It is my wish to serve as soon as possible with the nisei unit which is now preparing for its training. I know that I can help the nisei prove that we are good Americans who are vitally concerned with preserving this Democratic way of life.

My previous experience includes work as supervisor of Public Relations for Whitman college, Walla Walla, Wn. There the dispatches, personal and straight news, was printed in all the major papers and many weeklies of the Northwest. In addition I have worked on the English section papers in Seattle. I believe this experience has prepared me to work in the press relations department of the Nisei unit.

I am a 1940 graduate of Whitman college, Walla Walla. I majored in English and journalism and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa scholastic honorary.

As a supplementary reference I wish to list Col. Charles R. Stark, jr. of the Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Wash.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Robert Hosokawa
Robert Hosokawa