

311 East Howard
 Biloxi, Mississippi
 28 June 1944



Mr. John J. Mc Cloy
 The Assistant Secretary of War
 War Department
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

You have been suggested as a person who has a sympathetic understanding of the problems confronting Nisei, for this reason I am bringing my problem to you. This letter is necessitated by a long time desire to be a member of the Army Air Forces (AAF). I am now connected with the AAF through my position of civilian instructor in aircraft mechanics, AAF Technical School, Keesler Field, Miss.

Before the war I had twice passed physical examinations for aviation and communications cadet only to have the applications pigeon-holed. I have also completed the college CAA civilian pilot training which normally channelizes one into the Navy or Army air forces. I have been instructor at Chanute Field, Illinois, and was suspended after the outbreak of the war; I have been returned to duty after clearance by the Provost Marshal. This was welcome, but I am most anxious to be enlisted in the AAF.

It appears that the one obstacle to my being enlisted in the AAF is the method of enlisting Nisei in the enlisted reserve corps and channelizing them to certain infantry replacement centers. It is understood that this policy is based on military considerations of screening to preclude Pacific assignment except for language technicians.

If I am to be assigned to the AAF a suitable solution to the screening problem must be found. In my talks with AAF officers I have been told that technicians with my qualifications are assigned INDIVIDUALLY AND THERE WOULD NOT BE THE PROBLEM OF BEING PULLED OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE BECAUSE OF SHIPMENT TO THE PACIFIC THEATRE. So I believe this should answer any objections since I would automatically be screened just as in the case of Nisei language technicians. FURTHERMORE, THE AAF TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMAND HAS TOLD ME THAT THEY WILL REQUEST MY RETURN TO THE AAF WHEN I AM CALLED BY MY LOCAL BOARD.

Because of the present method of enlisting Nisei, there is a possibility that I may encounter unnecessary difficulty in being assigned to the AAF in spite of the request of the Technical Training Command. So for this reason your advice concerning the way I may avoid this difficulty is desired. You can rest assured that my desire to be in the AAF is of long standing; my old friends are now officers in the Navy or Army air forces and it has always been a bitter disappointment that I have been left behind.

Yours very truly,

Sachio Saito

Enclosed: Air stamps

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SUMMARY SHEET

(FOR ACTIONS BY OFFICE, CHIEF OF STAFF OR OFFICE, SECRETARY OF WAR)

FOLD OVER PAPERS AND CLIP

TO →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ex to AS	/W	G-4	FOR →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	FROM	OFFICE SYMBOL
	G-1		OPD			SIGNATURE		APPNR-2
	G-2		CHIEF OF STAFF					GRADE-SURNAME-PHONE
	G-3		SECRETARY OF WAR					Major Morgan 71373
FILE NO.	SUBJECT Mr. Sachio Saito						DATE 5 July 44	

SUMMARY

1. Letter to Mr. John J. McCloy, dated 28 June 1944, from Mr. Sachio Saito, civilian instructor, relative to his desire to become a member of the Army Air Forces.
2. Draft of reply to Mr. Saito for signature of the Executive to Ass't Secretary of War, states that current War Department policies and directives preclude Arms and Services from requesting assignments thereto, by name, upon induction. Also states, however, that action may be initiated by Air Forces' organizations looking toward assignment thereto of key civilian personnel under 26 years of age, upon induction.

COORDINATION

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES:



T. A. FITZPATRICK
Colonel, G.S.C.
Secretary of Air Staff

1 Incl
Ltr to Mr. Saito for
sig.



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ASW 342.18 J.A. Volunteers

AFPM-2-JYM/lak/71578
Written 4 July 44

JUL 6 1944

Saito, Sachio

Mr. Sachio Saito
511 East Howard
Biloxi, Mississippi

My dear Mr. Saito:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter to Mr. McCloy dated June 28, 1944, relating to your desire to serve with the Army Air Forces.

Currently, War Department policies and directives preclude Arms and Services of the military establishment from requesting assignments thereto of enlisted men, by name, upon induction. However, under the provisions of recent instructions, action may be initiated by Air Forces organizations looking toward the assignment thereto, upon their induction, of key civilian personnel employed by such organizations who are under 26 years of age. Doubtless, it was with these instructions in mind that the representatives of the Air Forces Training Command told you that they would request your return to the Air Forces, when you are called to report for induction.

In this connection, however, it should be borne in mind that if you are processed under the provisions of these instructions, you will be returned, upon induction, to the facility or installation at which you are then serving for continuation, in military status, of the key services which you may then be performing.

Sincerely,

HARRISON A. GERHARDT
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War
CY FOR OFFICE OF SIG.

X-Gerhardt
X-Saito
342.18 J.A. Volunteers
Branch of Serv- Air Forces
(Saito)

6 Jul 44

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