



HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 December 1943

342.18 J.A. Volunteers

Okumura, 1st Lt. Suyeki

X - Okumura

MEMORANDUM for The Assistant Secretary of War

Subject: 1st Lieutenant Suyeki Okumura,
O-317707

1. Reference is made to memorandum from your office, dated 26 November 1943, subject as above.
2. Lt. Okumura has been approved by the Chief, Civil Affairs Division, and by this office, for civil affairs training at the Civil Affairs Training School, University of Chicago, provided he is eligible physically for overseas service.
3. The Adjutant General (Lt. Col. McMillion) has been requested to issue the necessary orders, provided the Surgeon General determines that Lt. Okumura is physically qualified.

For the Provost Marshal General:

R. McDonald Gray
R. McDonald Gray,
Colonel, CMP,
Executive.

4 Dec 1943

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

26 November 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL GULLION:

Subject: 1st Lieutenant Suyeki Okumura, O-317707.

1. In Mr. McCloy's absence, the attached letter has been received from Congressman Farrington concerning the imminent inactivation of Lieutenant Okumura.

2. I have ascertained that Lieutenant Okumura was being relieved from active duty because his eyesight only qualified him for limited service and there were no opportunities in the Army for Japanese-Americans qualified only for limited service.

3. I have also ascertained that Lieutenant Okumura, before being called for active duty, was a practicing attorney in New York, with a fine educational background. His record as far as loyalty is concerned is said to be excellent.

4. With the idea in mind that you might be able to use this man for military government purposes, I have had orders for his inactivation suspended to determine whether you might want him. Your decision in the matter should be conveyed to Lt. Colonel Willie C. McMillion, extension 78270, who has his file.

John M. Hall
JOHN M. HALL
Captain, F.A.
Assistant Executive

Enc. - Ltr from Cong. Farrington to Mr. McCloy dated
24 November 1943.



End 1

JOSEPH R. FARRINGTON
DELEGATE FROM HAWAII

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

November 24, 1943



Hon. John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

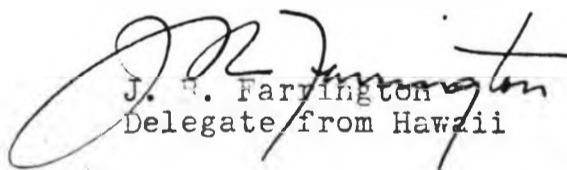
First Lieutenant Suyeki Okumura, 0317707, writes me from Fort Benning, George, where he is on duty with the 8th Company, 1st STR (ISSC) that he has been informed by the Adjutant General's office that he will be released from duty for reasons that are not stated.

He was activated on August 11, 1943, for limited service at his request, and since August 24, 1943, has been in the Basic Class 63 at Fort Benning.

As his father, although an alien Japanese, has been for years one of the leaders in fostering Christianity and loyalty to America among the Japanese of the second generation in Hawaii, he feels, and probably with some justification, that his inactivation without a satisfactory reason will reflect discredit on himself as well as his father.

I am writing to ask therefore if it is possible to state the reasons for his inactivation, and whether or not the circumstances might not warrant a review and reconsideration of his case.

Yours sincerely,


J. R. Farrington
Delegate from Hawaii

JRF:MT

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26 November 1943

Dear Mr. Farrington:

Supplementing my letter of 25 November concerning Lieutenant Okumura, I have ascertained that consideration is being given to returning him to inactive duty because his bad eyesight qualifies him only for limited service. As individuals qualified only for limited service are not eligible for the 442nd Combat Team, it was thought that he could not be employed elsewhere.

I have had his inactivation orders suspended to determine whether or not he cannot be used to advantage somewhere else in the Army.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN M. HALL

JOHN M. HALL
Captain, P.A.
Assistant Executive

Mr. J. B. Farrington
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

OASW:JMH:MGB

J.A. Volunteers
Okumura, Lt.x-hall
x-Farrington

26 Nov 43