

12118

SUEOKA, TETSUJI JOHN

1948-1960

78/177
C

om
To Mr. Wayne M. Collins

ACTIVE LIST

The undersigned TETSUJI SUEOKA wishes
to be included in the mass suit to restore my United
States citizenship.

ACTIVE LIST

Tetsuji Sueoka
Signature

Name TETSUJI SUEOKA

Present Address YAMAGUCHI KEN, IWAKUNI SHI

KAWASHIMO, NAKAZU TAKE 37

Date of Birth OCTOBER 27, 1922

Place of citizenship renouncement Tule Lake, CALIFORNIA

NOTE : State whether or not received a letter
of approval on citizenship renunciation from the
Attorney General.

Received approval of citizenship renunciation
from the Attorney General.

8/17/45

CROSS-REFERENCE

FILE OF: SUEOKA, TETSUJI

LIST: ACTIVE LIST

BORN: Sacramento, Calif.

DATE: Oct. 27, 1922

REFER TO FILE: SPECIAL GROUP FILE

LIST: _____

CROSS-REFERENCE

FILE OF: SUEOKA, TETSUJI

LIST: ACTIVE LIST

(REFER TO FILE: SUEOKA, YOSHIKO

(LIST: JUDGMENT LIST

cm
5

YAMAGUCHI KEN, IWAKUNI SHI
KAWASHIMO, NAKAZU TAKE 37

2nd June, 1948


Mr. WAYNE M. COLLINS
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Sir:

Respectfully submitted herewith are our applications to be included in the mass suit to restore our United States citizenship.

We appreciate very much all that you are doing for us, and you, Mr. Collins, is the only way of hope that we, the renounees in Japan, have to cling to.

Respectfully yours,

 *Yoshiko Sueoka*

Yoshiko Sueoka

JUDGMENT
LIST

TETSUJI SUEOKA

ACTIVE LIST

SADAO

JUDGMENT
LIST

SUMIKO

ACTIVE LIST

August 16, 1954

Mr. Wayne Collins
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Collins:

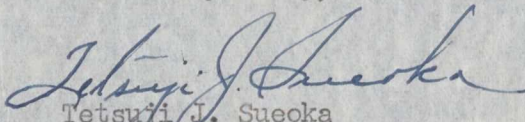
I am enclosing 3 copies of Affidavit forms (Enclosure #1), a statement by my father (Enclosure #2), and ~~a copy of a previous application for my U.S. citizenship (Enclosure #3).~~

My previous application was rejected, however, at that time I was not able to obtain statements from the people who had forced me to comply with so many things against my wishes. As a result, in my first application, my answers reflected to a certain extent that my renunciation was largely my own self-decision.

Since that time, however, my father has changed considerably. He recently agreed to write a statement certifying to the methods he used to force me to comply with his desires. I am now able to state more fully my reasons for my actions and have them substantiated by my father's statement. I feel that this new evidence, in addition to the statements made in the affidavit, give a clear picture of what caused me to renounce my citizenship.

I sincerely want my U.S. citizenship very much and will appreciate anything you can do to help me regain it.

Yours very truly,


Tetsuji J. Sueoka

Encls

April 7, 1955

Mr. Tetsuji John Sueoka
#77, Miyamura-cho
Azabu, Minato-ku
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Sueoka:

You have been successful in the administrative remedy pursued in your case. The Justice Department has reached the conclusion that you personally renounced citizenship because of fear, coercion and duress. Therefore, it is willing to withdraw the offer of proof it made against you in the mass class equity suits whereupon a judgment can be entered in your favor in the U.S. District Court cancelling your renunciation on the ground of duress and declaring you to be a citizen of the United States.

As soon as a large enough number of persons have been cleared administratively such a judgment will be entered for you. When the judgment is entered I shall let you know by letter and I shall send you a certified copy of the judgment which you can keep for future use.

I am enclosing a copy of the transmittal letter of the Justice Department (Attorney General) which was sent to the Department of State (Passport Office). You should take the enclosed copy of that transmittal letter promptly to the United States Consul in Japan nearest you and there apply for a U.S. passport if you have not already done so. The U.S. Consul will issue a U.S. Passport to you which will show on its face that you are a citizen of the United States.

When you receive the U.S. passport from the U.S. Consul you can make your own arrangements to return to the United States. You should write and let me know your U.S. address and the time you expect to return to the U.S.

If you have children born in Japan such children are U.S. citizens and you will be able to bring them back to the United States with you.

If you have a spouse (wife or husband) who is an alien such person can enter the United States as a "nonquota immigrant" because you are a U.S. citizen. An application can be made to the nearest U.S. Consul in Japan for a non-quota immigrant visa for such spouse.

If your spouse (wife or husband) is a renunciant who does not recover U.S. citizenship administratively through the Justice Department or by court trial, or does not wish further to try to recover U.S. citizenship, such a spouse, nevertheless, can elect to be an alien and can obtain a nonquota immigrant visa from the nearest U.S. Consul and can return to the U.S. because he or she is the spouse of a U.S. citizen.

If your spouse is an alien or a renunciant who does not recover citizenship but becomes an alien who returns to the United States as a nonquota immigrant he or she here becomes eligible to apply to an office of the U.S. Immigration Service to become naturalized, that is to say, to become a U.S. citizen by naturalization.

It is my conclusion that in due course of time Congress will enact a new law authorizing the return of property or its approximate value to aliens whose property was seized and confiscated during the war under the provisions of the Trading With The Enemy Act.

If you intend to remain in Japan for a while you must be careful not to commit any act whereby you might lose U.S. citizenship. You were informed by me in previous letters of various acts of expatriation whereby a U.S. citizenship can be lost.

If you have dual citizenship you can denounce (renounce) Japanese nationality. This can be done by signing a renunciation form before a Japanese consular officer in the United States or before an authorized Japanese government office in Japan.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

WEB:CMR

93-1-1320

146-54-325

COPY FROM
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CIVIL DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CS

Lloyd H. Burke, Esquire
United States Attorney
422 Post Office Building
Seventh & Mission Streets
San Francisco 1, California

MAR 15 1955

Re: Tetsuji John Sueoka

Your ref: Abo, et al v. Brownell, et al.
Furuya, et al v. Brownell, et al.
(Consolidated actions-Civil Nos. 25294
and 25295). CEC:hv.

Dear Mr. Burke:

This is in response to your letter of September 23, 1954, enclosing affidavit of the above-named subject for a determination as to whether his case may be considered as coming within the coverage of the ruling of the Court of Appeals in the case of Acheson v. Murakami, 176 F. 2d, 953, in accordance with a letter from this Department dated September 21, 1953, to Mr. Wayne H. Collins.

You are advised that an affidavit of this subject was previously submitted to this Department by the Department of State with a similar request for our views. On August 21, 1950, we advised that Department that none of the reasons stated by the subject in his affidavit for renouncing his citizenship are similar to the allegations of fear and duress made by the renunciants in the above case, and expressed the belief that any questions as to the binding effect of subject's actions should properly be decided through court action.

However, following a review of the subject's additional affidavit, together with the complete War Relocation Authority and Department files, it is now the view of the Department that this subject's case may be considered as coming within the scope of the above decision.

We have informed the Department of State of our present view by a letter, three copies of which are enclosed herewith. If you disagree with our action please so advise us promptly

File No. 146-54-325
93-1-1320

in order that we may recall our clearance from the Department of State before action is taken thereon. If you do not disagree, please forward two of the copies to Mr. Collins, pursuant to the agreement in our above mentioned letter of September 21, 1953, and enter into the necessary arrangements for disposition of the case in accordance therewith. If time will permit, we should appreciate receiving copies of the papers before they are filed. The original and one copy of plaintiff's affidavit are returned to you herewith.

Yours very truly,

WARREN E. BURMER
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division

By:

Enoch E. Ellison
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Encl. No. 97106
Original and copy of
affidavit; three copies
of letter to the Depart-
ment of State.

COPY FROM
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CIVIL DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

WEB:CMR

93-1-1320
146-54-325

MAR 13 1955

CS

Department of State
Winder Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mrs. Ruth B. Shipley
Director, Passport Office

Re: Tetsuji John Sueoka
Your ref: F130

Dear Sirs:

On June 1, 1950, the Department of State forwarded to this Department a Supplemental Affidavit of the above-named subject, and requested an expression of our views as to whether his case might be considered as coming within the scope of the Murakami decision. On August 21, 1950, you were advised that we were of the opinion that his case did not come within the scope of the above decision and that we felt that it was one for trial.

Pursuant to an agreement entered into with Mr. Wayne M. Collins, Attorney, to stipulate to the introduction of satisfactory affidavits submitted by plaintiffs in the case of McGrath v. Abo, 186 F. 2d, 766, as set forth in the Department's letter of September 22, 1953, to the Department of State, the subject submitted an additional affidavit setting forth in detail the fear, coercion and pressures exerted upon him to renounce. Following a review of the subject's additional affidavit, together with an examination of the complete War Relocation Authority and Department files, it is now the view of the Department that this subject's case may be considered as coming within the scope of the above decision, and we have advised Lloyd H. Burke, United States Attorney, Northern District of California to this effect. In accordance with our above-referred to letter of September 22, 1953, to the Department of State, we attach copy of our letter to Mr. Burke, together with affidavit of the subject.

File No. 146-54-325
93-1-1320

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to Mr. Collins, and in accordance with the agreement, may be presented by the subject in lieu of the usual supplemental affidavit required of renunciant applicants for documentation as American Citizens.

Yours very truly,

WARREN E. BURGER
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division

By:

Enoch E. Ellison
Chief, Japanese Claims Section

Encl. No. 97107

Affidavit and copy of letter to
Lloyd H. Burke, Esquire.

DATA SHEET

Name: SUEOKA, Tetsuji John

Judgment: 8/12/55 Aff. Japan
(Date & kind)

Address: _____

Card: _____

Folder: ☒ _____

father: Kiichi Sueoka

Address Information:
(Phone bk., C/D, etc.)

Japan.

not in J/D for La + vic

Letters, contact, judgment
order, etc.:

Payment information, billing:

Cross reference:

same family
SS Yoshiko Sueoka
SS Sadao "
SS Sumiko "

Id ID - JUN 30 1960

5/24/60

Sister
FJ.

Mrs. Yoshiko Sueoka Tomomitsu
110-B Kapahulu Ave.
Honolulu, T. H.

Mr. Tetsuji John Sueoka

c/o Mr. James Takehara

Rt. 2 Box 3012

Sacramento, California

WAYNE M. COLLINS
Attorney at Law
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California

Garfield 1-5827

June 30, 1960

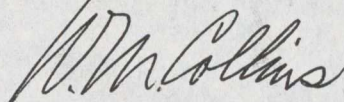
Mrs. Yoshiko Sueoka Tomomitsu
110-B Kapahulu Ave.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mrs. Tomomitsu:

I would thank you to let me know the present address
of ✓ Mr. Tetsuji John Sueoka
Miss Sumiko Sueoka
Mr. Sadao (George) Sueoka

so that final papers concerning their citizenship status
may be transmitted to them. Please use the enclosed
cards and self-addressed envelope for your reply to me.

Very truly yours,



WAYNE M. COLLINS
Attorney At Law
Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA
Garfield 1-5827

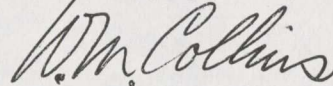
SEP 21 1960

Mr. Tetsuji John Sueoka
c/o Mr. James Takehara
Rt. 2, Box 3012
Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Mr. Sueoka:

Quite some time ago you received from me your individual certified copy of the "Final Judgment" of the Court that cancelled your wartime renunciation of citizenship and that declared you to be a U. S. citizen. However, you have not yet paid the balance of \$ 300.00 due on your account. If it presses you too much to pay this balance in a lump sum, you can let me know and arrangements can be made for you to pay by installments. I am enclosing a stamped envelope for your reply.

Very truly yours,



Enc.

June 12 1961

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter and now at this time times are very hard for me to pay you fee. So I am just enclosing part sum of \$50.00. When I can make more payment I will send more until my \$300.00 fee is paid.

Yours truly,
J. J. J. J.
2127 25th
Sacramento Calif.

AFFIDAVIT

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF AFFIDAVIT

This affidavit should be specifically addressed to the circumstances of your particular case and should not consist of generalities. When you are uncertain as to matters related in your affidavit write "uncertain". Where you claim that any action was taken by you as the result of fear, you should state in each instance, with the greatest possible particularity, what was feared and why. If it is claimed that the fears were caused by threats from individuals or groups of individuals, the nature of the threats, the names of the individuals making them, if known, and the time, place and occasion for the making of the threats should be given.

If more space is needed for answers to particular questions, separate sheets of plain white paper should be used. Each separate sheet so used should be plainly marked with the number of the question being answered and your name.

1. Name Tetsuji (John) SUEOKA		Date of Birth October 27, 1922	
2. If born prior to December 1, 1924	(A) Have you ever renounced Japanese nationality? No	When	Where
3. If born since December 1, 1924	(A) Was your name ever registered with a Japanese Consulate for the purpose of reserving your Japanese nationality?		
If so, did you thereafter renounce your Japanese nationality?	When	Where	
4. State periods of visits to Japan and purpose of each visit: None			
Date		Purpose	
From	To		
5. Give details concerning any formal education in Japan: None			
School		Period of Attendance	
		From	To
Specify subjects studied (attach additional sheet if necessary).			
6. Have you ever made application for repatriation to Japan? Yes If so, give date 1944 and your reasons for so applying: I do not recall the exact date but believe it to be the latter part of 1944. I remember that my father submitted my name together with the names of the rest of his family for repatriation to Japan. As my father has stated in Enclosure #1, he requested repatriation for all of the family without consulting any of us. My father was very adamant about any such decision on his part and would tolerate no objections on my part or any of the other members of his family regarding such decisions. He many times used the threat of physical violence to me to force me to agree to his desires. As evidenced in my father's statement,			
7. (A) Have you ever expressly indicated that you would not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States?		Have you ever declined to answer when asked whether you would swear unqualified allegiance?	
Or have you ever given a qualified answer to such question asked at War Relocation Centers? If so, give your reasons:			
When I was first interviewed, I swore unqualified allegiance to the U.S. However, when my father learned about my action, he was so angry that he actually threatened me with a knife. I felt certain he would have killed me if I had not finally agreed to have my answer to Question 28 changed from Yes to No. My father made certain that I instructed the Camp Commander to make this change. The Camp Commander agreed, however, the change was not made in my presence. While this verbal action seemed to satisfy my father I have			
(B) If your answer to any of the questions in (A) is affirmative, then did you ever subsequently change your mind and express your willingness to swear an unqualified allegiance or would you have been willing to do so if an opportunity had been afforded you? If so, state when you changed your mind and your reasons therefor:			
(con'd from (A) above) reason to believe that the Camp Commander did not make the change as requested. I know for a fact that he was aware of the pressure brought upon me by my father. I believe that he verbally agreed to make the change to satisfy my father, but that he actually did not			


6. (Cont'd from Page 1)

I felt resigned to voice no objection to his action because of fear of bodily harm which he threatened to inflict upon me.

7A. (Continued from Page 1)

make the change because he knew of my previous feeling on the subject of allegiance to the U.S. I believe my record will indicate that my answer to Question 28 is still Yes.

7B. To the best of my memory, I was never afforded another opportunity to change my answer. However, as stated in Question 7A above, I believed that the Camp Commander had not altered my original answer of Yes to Question 28. Consequently, I felt secure in the belief that my affirmative answer was a matter of record. I was afraid to seek too much information regarding the disposition of DSS Form 304A and Form WRA 126-Rev. due to threats by my father every time I mentioned the subject of his forcing his family to disclaim our allegiance to the U.S.



When hostilities commenced between the US and Japan, I expected that my sons would be called to Service, and I was happy that they would be able to serve their country. Even when we were arbitrarily put into camps, my feelings were not changed in any way. But after we had been in camps, for over two years, rumors started to fly about that all servicemen of Japanese ancestry were being mistreated and that some had even met with physical violence. Also, it was rumored that the US Government had decided to draft all eligible Nisei males then in the various camps and use them more or less as "cannon fodder." The only way to prevent this, we were told, was to ask for repatriation to Japan. Naturally, I did not want to lose my sons in this manner - to die for their country was one thing - to be sent mercilessly to their deaths was something else. Therefore, I, without consulting any of my family, requested repatriation for all of us. I felt that I, being the father, had the right to make this arbitrary decision. This was the only way in which I believed I could save them from violence or certain death at the hands of other servicemen. Two years of confinement had made me very susceptible to the speeches of fanatics.

After we were transferred to Tule Lake, things went smoothly for awhile, but not for long. I was soon approached by some members of the Hoshi-Dan and coaxed to join their organization. I refused but they stated that if I refused to do as they asked, the members of our family would meet with physical violence. Again I did what I thought best - I arbitrarily registered the members of my family in the organization, sincerely believing that by so doing I was protecting my loved ones. My sons refused to join

and was very angry with me for having registered him as a member without consulting him. He was not active in this organization at all and refused to attend meetings.

When the question of renunciation came up, rumors were again flying thick and fast to the effect that everyone would be arbitrarily relocated without funds into hostile territories. We had heard stories of families who had relocated being mistreated. I forced by son to renounce his citizenship and to apply for repatriation to Japan. I allowed my son no alternative but to comply with my demand.

After the cessation of hostilities, my wife and I decided to return to our homeland. I wanted my family to accompany me, and I brought pressure to bear on the members of my family, especially John as he was the eldest. I made it a point to emphasize my age and that I had no way of making a livelihood in Japan.

I, therefore am the real cause of my son John renouncing his citizenship and coming to Japan with his family, and I am willing to take the full blame.

I, therefore, accept complete responsibility for forcing my oldest son to renounce his citizenship and to return to Japan with his family.

I certify to the foregoing statement in the realization of a grave error on my part which has resulted in the undeserved misfortune of my eldest son through no fault of his own, and in the hopes that the restoration of his US citizenship will repay him for all the hardships he has suffered due to my past actions.

井関 一
2 Kenichi Sueoka

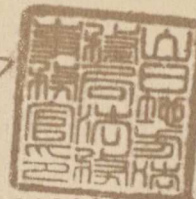


1954 Registration No. 27.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that
the applicant whom I have identified, signed his
name in my own presence, avouching that the statement
set forth in the foregoing is true and correct.

30th July 1954.

[Handwritten signature]



.....
Tokumasa DOHARA
Secretary of Legal Affairs Office,
Iwakuni Branch of Yamaguchi
Legal Affairs Office.

(E) If you claim that your membership in any of the aforementioned organizations, your activities therein, or your acceptance of an office was due to misunderstanding of the purpose or nature of the organization, explain fully:

(F) If you at any time wished to discontinue membership, activity, or office and were prevented from so doing, explain fully:

I wished to remove my name from the list of members many times, however, I did not feel it safe to do so in view of the feelings of my father and the threats to my family by members of the Seinen Dan.

9. (A) When did you decide to apply for forms upon which to renounce your United States citizenship? Give reasons for so doing:

I cannot remember when I applied for forms to renounce my American citizenship, although I believe it was sometime in December 1944. The rumor that all alien Japanese were to be deported had gained in circulation as well as credence in addition to the rumor that the Hissas would be forced to relocate in areas designated by the U.S. Government regardless of our desires. These rumors had a strong influence on my father's thinking, who, in turn, used them to bring great pressure on me. He continually pointed out that he was getting old and that I would have to look after the family. In this light, my father demanded I renounce my U.S. citizenship. The demands of my father backed up by the rumors prevalent at the time, forced me into renouncing my citizenship. Even though I did this against my will, I felt at the time, that I had no alternative.

(B) If reasons given in answer to preceding question differ from reasons given to officer who held renunciation hearing, give your explanation for difference:

My father rehearsed with me many times what he wanted me to say at the renunciation hearing. I was told to say that I felt it was my duty to accompany my family to Japan.

(C) If you claim that your renunciation was caused by fear, you should explain fully why such fear extended from the time of the application for renunciation papers until the date of actual renunciation:

Actually, all during the time that we were detained we were living under a fear of some sort - fear of being deported in separate units, fear of physical violence if we did not adhere to the beliefs of the Hoshu-Dan (this fear was greatly strengthened by the fact that I was afraid of physical violence to my parents) and the fear that we would be arbitrarily relocated to hostile communities.

(D) If the fear did not extend from the date of application to the date of approval by the Attorney General, you should state whether you made any effort to withdraw your application, and if not, explain fully:

(E) If, after approval, you requested the Attorney General to withdraw his approval of your renunciation or to cancel your renunciation, give the reasons for the delay in making such request:

(F) If there are any other facts which influenced your action in renouncing your United States citizenship, state fully below or on a separate sheet if necessary.

Refer to my father's statement (Enclosure #1).

10. (A) If you now are in Japan, give your reasons for having returned to Japan.

Refer to my father's statement and to my answer to 9A above.

(B) If you are in Japan, have you since you returned to Japan taken any action to resume or acquire Japanese citizenship? **No** Answer Yes or No

If you have, state nature of action taken and reasons therefor.

11. (A) If you have served or are serving in the military or naval forces of the United States fill in the following:

I enlisted (or was drafted) on _____ in the _____; my Serial number is _____
State the date State the Branch of Service

I still am in such service _____; I was released from active duty on _____ and received my Discharge
Answer Yes or No on _____

(B) If at any time while in a war relocation center or since then you volunteered for military or naval service but your offer of service was rejected state the time when and the place where you volunteered.

(C) State why your offer of such service was rejected, if the reason was made known to you.

(D) If you were rejected for military or naval service by your Local Draft Board since your release from a war relocation center state the reason for the rejection if known to you.

12. If any member of your family has served or is serving in the military or naval forces of the United States state the relationship of such person to you, the name of such person, the branch of service and serial number of such person:

Brother

Relationship

James Sueoka 2/Egt.

RA19312066

Name

U.S. Army

Branch of Service

Serial Number

JAPAN
CITY OF TOKYO
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SS:

Tetsuji (John) Sueoka

Signature in full of applicant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of August, A. D., 1944.

John W. Simms
Vice Consul of the United States of America
duly commissioned and qualified

Service No. 6171..
Tariff No. 36..
No Fee Prescribed.

This affidavit may be executed before any person authorized to administer oaths.