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1945

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TOYOTA, MIKIO

*Form letter
Sept. 3*

3005-C
Newell, California
Aug. 27, 1945

AUG 29 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig, Director
American Civil Liberties Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Although I have applied for the renunciation of my citizenship, I am not in receipt of the acceptance of my renunciation. At that time, I was indirectly forced to renounce my citizenship by certain groups in power such as the Sokoku Kenku Dan.

I have failed on my part to safeguard my citizenship which I regret very much. If cancellation is not possible, I would like to ask advise as to my pardon or parole.

Your immediate attention to this matter will greatly be appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

Mikio Toyota
Mikio Toyota
Family #5788
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

MT:kt

TERASAWA, TOSHIKAZU

ANS BY FORM LETTER 9-3-45

AUG 30 1945

7312-A Tule Lake
Newell, California
August 28, 1945

American Civil Liberties Union
Northern California Branch
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, 4, California

Attention: Ernest Besig, Director

Dear Sir:

I have been informed that your organization has been very helpful to many of the American of Japanese ancestry who are troubled by problems arising due to the Pacific War. I, myself, am one who would like to ask for any sort of help you can offer in my case. I have enclosed a copy of a letter written to the U. S. Attorney General, Department of Justice, which will explain my problem thoroughly but here is my case in brief.

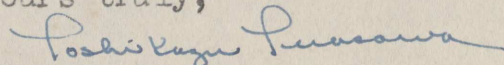
I am residing in Tule Lake now and in January of this year have applied for my renunciation of citizenship. However, I wish to have it cancelled now and get a chance to relocate to the coast as soon as possible. I understand the seriousness of this matter but I am willing to try everything to correct it as soon as possible.

My sisters are in the same state that I am and would also like assistance if possible. Their names are:

Miss Yukie Terasawa
Miss Hiroe Terasawa
Miss Isoe Terasawa
Miss Sumiko Terasawa

Trusting that this request does not seem unduly importunate, I beg to remain

Yours truly,



Toshikazu Terasawa

Enclosure

AUG 30 1945

7812-A Tule Lake
Newell, California
August 28, 1945

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Northern California Branch
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, 4, California

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Yours truly,

Toshikazu Terasawa

Enclosure

7812-A Tule Lake
Newell, California
August 28, 1945

U. S. Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am an American Citizen of Japanese Ancestry now residing at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center. I have applied for the renunciation of my citizenship and as yet have not received any answer concerning the matter. However, after much thought and consideration, I know must honestly admit that I have made a very serious error and am requesting for the cancellation of my renunciation. I will try to give my reasons to you in the paragraphs that are to follow and am asking for a thorough and fair consideration for my request.

At the outbreak of the Pacific War, I was attending the University of Southern California as a sophomore. Friends and classmates were all very kind to me even though I did bear the facial features of my ancestors. When the first hint of the evacuation of all Japanese on the coast became known to us, my classmates and friends comforted me by saying that such an unreasonable act will never come about. I agreed with them all along. But, the day did come when I was evacuated and my citizen rights were taken away from me. My thoughts were at once confused and my feelings hurt and irritated. As days, months, and years passed in camp, all I could read and hear of was the incidents of prejudices against the Americans of Japanese Ancestry. Older folks, parents, and friends, all gave brighter sides of the future in Japan and to top it all, a repatriation call came from the country with whom America was at war. Then the loyalty question came up and my answer was quickly given without much thought. At that time I definitely resented the evacuation move and could pledge no loyalty to this country.

Last year I was moved to this camp. Japanese ideas were dominating here though I'll frankly admit I didn't agree with all the things they tried to make us do. However, my thinking became clearer here and I gave thought to my situation as well as my parents' and sisters'. I was wondering if my parents could make a go of it outside and was worried about the treatment they would receive. I was trying desperately to decide the question of loyalty when the renunciation applications came into this camp. The conditions of the camp at that time were very unusual. There was a prevailing pressure, which seemed to me, influenced many to renunciate. As for myself, I was pushed toward renouncing my citizenship by this pressure, because my mind was not fully deter-

U.S. Attorney General-Page Two-8/28/45

mined to hold an American citizenship on account of the undetermined family problems which I just stated.

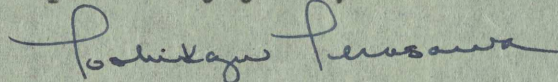
Only after my hasty decision was made did I realize the grave situation. I had talked with soldiers on furlough and friends who were visiting camp and they all told me about the opportunities offered outside and also about the feeling of little prejudices. Relocated friends were writing of swell times once again, and then, my parents were offered work and housing by friends. All of this solved my family problems and I now realize that my entire family could resettle if only I did not apply for the renunciation of my citizenship. That seems to be the only obstacle to our family's relocation.

At the time of the renunciation hearing, I stated that I did not know whether I had a dual citizenship or not. It seems that I do not have a Japanese citizenship.

For these reasons I am determined to regain my citizenship if possible. I fully realize the seriousness of this matter and if it happens to be impossible to cancel my renunciation, I would like to try for a parole.

Trusting you will give this request fair and just consideration, I remain

Respectfully yours,



Toshikazu Terasawa
Family No. 23928

7 sym letter
Sept. 1945

George I. Suckida
5605 - E
Newell, Calif.

Dear Sirs:

AUG 29 1945

I have renounced my United States citizen and regret very much that I've made such a big mistake.

Well, the situation is that in Jerome we just happen to live in the block 12 which had the second most person that have come to Tule Lake and we were influenced by them. In Jerome I was planning to go outside, but the question is that the block people start talking and they start

to pick on me folk so I
just stay.

When I came to Lule Lake
again we happen to live in
the worst block of the Lule
Lake block 56 which cause
so much trouble that the
W.R.A. wanted all block 56
resident to move out to
other block that was in about
January of 1944. When I
was living in that block
I never cut my hair short
like everybody did — I
didn't march like other
boys did. People in the
block say that we are
real American cause my
brother & I went to
dance and always speak
English.

So about the renounced
of United State citizen I been
force to do it ~~so~~ from
bottom of my heart I
was raise in United State
and I like it.

If I can only get
my citizenship back I
would like to start over
again.

Will you kindly let
me know this how I
can go about it. If you
can do this at present
time then I wonder if you
could give me a parole as
alien to go out side until
my citizen paper is back.

yours truly
George Buckner

Tom Masamori Tsuchida

5605 - E

Newell, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I have renounced my United State citizenship and regret very much that I've made such a big mistake.

Well, the situation is that in Jerome we just happen to live in the block 12 which had the second most person that have come to Lake Lake and we were influenced by them. In Jerome, I was planning to go outside, but the question is that the block people start talking

and they start to pick on
my folk so I just stay.

When I came to Lake Lake
again we happen to live in
the worst block of the Lake
Lake Block 56 which cause
so much trouble that the
W.R.A. wanted all block 56
resident to move out to other
block that was in about
January of 1944. When I
was living in that block
I have never cut my hair
short like everybody in the
block boys did — I didn't
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that we are real American
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of United State citizen I been
force to do it — from
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Will you kindly let
me know this how I can
go about it's if you can
do this at present time
then I wonder if you
could give me a parole as
alien to go out side until
my citizen paper is back.

Yours truly
Tom M. Mason Tsuchida

Mr. Ernest Besig
American Civil Liberty Union
San Francisco, California

Aug. 29, 1945

SEP 4 1945

Dear Sir;

At last the day has come where we should awake from the great sleep and forgotten memory.

Sir, my request upon this letter is to cancel my citizenship renunciation which I have done with such a blind mind as to get influenced by so many odds, which have made a fool out of me.

To my knowledge I had no intention to go Japan or renounce my citizenship, but to live in center one couldn't not live in peace without getting influenced toward wrong and that's exactly what had happened to my case. I was taught in Japanese School about how great Japan was and as a God Country in which it was a wrong influence and in center we was just forced to get influenced toward wrong, which was our blindness move. I had never been to Japan and so I do not know a thing about that country's culture and living except in what I was taught at which I have finally realized it was a wrong education. Since my only saving and renouncing was influenced by the people to live in the center, I wish that you could reconsider my case and let me prove to myself that I'm in a heart a real American citizen except that I was influenced toward a wrong road till I realized myself.

Sorry to trouble you so much but, will be waiting for your answer patiently.
Thank you.

NAME - TSUGINORI, IRIYE
Add. 8014-G-H
Newell, Calif.

Sincerely yours,
Tsuginori Iriye

SEP 4 1945

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
August 29, 1945

Ernest Besig, Director
American Civil Liberties Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to you with hopes that you may be able to inform me what procedure I may take to cancel my hearing for renunciation of my citizenship. I realize now that it was very foolish to throw away my citizenship, and request that you reconsider my case and return my rightful citizenship.

My reason for requesting such a hearing was so that I may accompany my parents to Japan and help care for them as they wanted me to. As I am the only one they have to turn to, they pleaded with me to make all proper arrangements to return to Japan and look after them in their old age. So it happens that I was foolish enough to request renunciation on March 1945. I regret this action very much and know that it was a big mistake.

However, in a place like Tule Lake Center it is very difficult to think sanely and clearly. Many political groups go around agitating, and rumours fly thick and fast. Since we have such little contact with the outside it is hard to seek and get sound advice. The "high-pressure" organizations of the center is very strong in our block and they worked on my parents until I had gone through the motions

of a renunciation hearing.

I feel that if had not been placed in concentration camp along with my parents, I would not have been so weak as to have others influence me into renouncing my citizenship. I was born in Sacramento and lived there all my life prior to evacuation. I was engaged in farming and led the usual life of an American citizen. doing my duties faithfully and gladly, and just as loyal to the United States as any other citizen. Then when I was sent to Sacramento Assembly Center and later to Tule Lake Center, I became very embittered that such an action could happen in America. We were among the first to evacuate and we were forced to give or throw away most of our essential equipments. What little we sold was "dirt cheap" because that was the only way to raise enough ready cash to prepare for camp necessities. The three years' confinement in this center didn't help to lessen my bitterness, and as a result became very narrow-minded. If I had been left to lead a normal American life, I am sure I would not let my parents or anyone else sway me into renouncing my precious United States citizenship.

My two sisters have already relocated to Sacramento and one brother in Topaz will return with his family to the "Capital City" next week. My parents realize what a mistake they made and what an injustice it was to me to make me renounce my citizenship. They wish to remain in America and my father has left to look over our old home town. I am anxious to remain in America as it is my real home and lead the life of a good American citizen. Whatever mistakes I made in this center I wish to rectify and appeal to you to give me an opportunity to cancel my renunciation hearing.

My greatest desire is to have my rightful citizenship returned to me, but if that is impossible will you kindly consider a parole for me? I have worked for three years in Mess Operations and have never agitated or caused trouble for the administration in any way. For two years Mr. Harry Kirkman was my direct supervisor and I am sure he will give you a good recommendation of my character.

Thank you kindly for your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Isamu Tsuji

Isamu Tsuji
Family No. 27389

2313-D

Tule Lake Cal

August 31, 1945
Newell, California

SEP 7 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig, Director
American Civil Liberties Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

This letter is ⁱⁿ relative to renunciation of my
American Citizenship. I deeply regret that I took
such a hasty step. Please read the enclosure
which explains the reasons why I foolishly threw
away my rights and priveleges.

May your organization help the Niseis to regain
their citizenship.

Very sincerely yours,

Toshio Tsunekawa
Toshio Tsunekawa
3305-C
Newell, California

August 31, 1945
Newell, California

SEP 7 1945

Mr. Edward J. Ennis
Dept. of Justice
Enemy Alien Control Unit
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I, Toshio Tsunekawa is a renouncee. I have renounced my citizenship in February, and I am now regretting it very much. Can you help me in regaining my citizenship tho' it maybe a very hard task.

When renunciation was made possible, there were rumors spread from rumormunngers and we were all drowned into and applied for renunciation. The rumors were that we would be forced out of here; whereas, the people outside ~~are~~ ^{would} take arms and harm us. And others ~~that~~ had spoken in threats. These are or were rampant especially in my block where "Hokoku Dan" was very strong and now majority of them are interned.

As I am alone here, I was upset that I was drowned with- in the rumors and pressure. The columns in the San Francisco Newspaper spoke of violence displayed toward the returning evacuee.

People that have already renounced at that time have pestered me and pounded me with question if my hearing notices came. And so I renounced without thinking so that I didn't have to be bothered by no one.

Likewise an opportunity to renounce one's citizenship followed closely after the Army handed down ^{to} many niseis a somewhat "discriminatory" classification. One pitfall seems to have led a confused individual like myself into another.

I have no family except for my one brother who is an ex-serviceman, ~~who~~ has served in the U.S. Army. He wants to help me with the relocating plans and wants me to join him. He is now in Chicago. I then went to the relocating office and found out that I am stopped by your office, so I am hastily sending in my reasons to have things cleared to make my relocation plans possible.

As young as I am, I regret that I made a grave mistake in renouncing my sacred citizenship. If it is impossible for you to cancel my citizenship at present, will you please grant me as a parolee? I intend to make my future jointly with my brother, now a resident in Chicago since our parents have deceased.

My brother now lives at:
Mr. Noboru Tom Tsunekawa
5509 Blackston Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

I would appreciate your kind reply to this matter at your earliest convenience. Thanking you again for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Toshio Tsunekawa
Toshio Tsunekawa
3305-C
Newell, California

5803-C

Newell, California
September 7th, 1945

SEP 11 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig
American Civil Liberties Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, California

Honorable Sir,

I am one of the many residents of Tule Lake Center who has hastened to the decision in regards to the U. S. citizenship.

Drifting with the majority of the center people, I applied for renunciation not considering the consequences of the action.

My wife, an American citizen, is determined to remain in the U. S. with her mother and baby, and now I realize keenly that my action was superficial.

If you would advise me as to what step I should take to regain my U. S. citizenship, I would appreciate your able assistance.

I would do my utmost to become a
better U. S. citizen.

Sincerely yours,

Susanna Tonine

Fujio Henry Tokumoto
516 SD
Newell, Calif.
Sept. 13, 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig
Director
American Civil Liberty Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco, Calif.

SEP 17 1945

Dear Sir:

I wish to write to you concerning my renunciation of my citizenship.

As you know, I was born here in the United States and was brought up in the way of American life and thinking. I went to school and played, made friends with many of the Caucasian people whom I had contact with before the war.

Before this war, I was a law abiding citizen and have never been in trouble as to state or Federal offense.

When World War II started, my folks, brothers and I were put in camp even though I was an American citizen. Even in camp, we were not allowed to go out, without privileges, rights that belonged to us. Even though we were kept in camp if we were given our freedom outside of camp, we would gladly have helped in the National defense.

So with this in mind for the past three

years, my indignation burned inside me until without careful consideration, I renounced my citizenship. After renouncing my citizenship, I found out it was too late to cancel my papers.

I know it was a serious thing to do but if the army had released me from confinement early, I would not have been in this predicament.

Also, I have never been to Japan and hope I never will have to go back.

So, with this in mind, I wish to ask you if it is all possible for me to get back my citizenship back. In closing, I wish to ask you for an early reply of my letter.

Yours Very Truly
Fujio Henry Tokumoto
Fujio

I wish to ask you for consideration of my case.

TANJI, Jane K.

SEP 19 1945

September 17, 1945

Civil Liberty Union
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

May I take this opportunity to appeal to you my earnest desire to clear my husband's status so that he may be able to relocate from this Center and to get a privilege of returning to a normal way of life as a permanent resident in the United State.

Prior to the evacuation we were relocated to Stockton Assembly Center then to Rohwer Relocation Center. It was our plans to go into some sort of business on the outside with our friends who have already relocated.

The plan was actually progressing satisfactory and in order to expedite planning of relocation, we were busy preparing some other minor matters.

But to my astonishment, suddenly in the midst of such state of my mind there came a notice of segregation from the Rohwer Relocation Authority to my husband. It was stated in the notice he received that he was to be transferred from Rohwer Relocation Center to Tule Lake Center. To the numerous question, I asked regarding the reason why my husband have to be transferred to the Tule Lake Center, but they did not give me any satisfactory answer. The reason for my husband transfer to the Tule Lake Center is still unknown to me, as yet. As I have mention before, I pledge my loyalty to

the United State and swore to God that I would abide by the laws of the United State. I believe firmly that it must be a fundamental spirit and also a responsibility to be loyal and law abiding to the country where he is a permanent resident.

At present my husband is working at Mess Hall 80 as an Stock Clerk assisting and cooperating with Administration in carrying out the War Relocation Authority Policies within the center.

Please consider my sincere plea and assist me in every way possible within your power to get my husband's Clearance for relocation.

If there is any question I must answer in order to clear his

status, I will be glad to do so.

Your favorable consideration
and assistance in fulfilling my
earnest and sincere plea will
be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. June L. Sanji

October 3, 1945.

Mrs. James K. Tanji,
Tule Lake Center,
Newell, California.

Dear Mrs. Tanji:

I regret the delay in answering your letter of September 17, which you have written on your husband's behalf. You say he is not free to leave the center, but nowhere do you state the reason. I assume, however, that he is a renunciant.

The Justice Department has indicated, as you possibly know, that it will remove renunciants to internment camps and then remove them from the country as enemy aliens. We have suggested to renunciants that they should write briefly to the Attorney General repudiating their renunciations and requesting a further hearing.

In addition, however, in order to secure restoration of citizenship and release from internment it is necessary to bring prompt legal action. If you do not have sufficient money to hire your own attorney, you should join with other persons in a similar position in pooling your financial resources for the purpose of hiring an attorney. This is an urgent matter because it will be difficult to secure counsel once your husband is removed to an isolated internment camp.

With reference to alien registration which I understand is about to be undertaken, renunciants who have repudiated their acts should register under protest. Letters can be filed claiming United States citizenship, or an entry can be made on the registration form that the person claims United States citizenship.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Besig, Director.

October 24, 1945.

Mr. Akira Tamura and
Mrs. Anna Tamura,
Block 4915-C,
War Relocation Center,
Newell, Modoc County,
California.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Tamura:

In reply to your
letter of October 22, 1945, please be informed
that your names will appear on the main list and
not on a subordinate list. I met Mrs. Tamura on
my recent visit to Tule Lake and so informed her.

In addition, one of the
committee members informed me he would have you
both fill out questionnaire forms. You can ask
the committee to send on the questionnaire forms
to me and inform them that you have made your
arrangements direct with me.

Very truly yours,

WMC/W

It is likely that I shall be in Tule
Lake Saturday or Sunday of this week at which
time you may see me.

Mr. Wayne M. Collins
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco, Calif.

Oct 22, 1945
Akira Tamura
Anna Tamura
#915-C
Tule Lake
Newell, Calif.

Dear Sir

I wanted to get in touch with you face to face to ask you about the money question, for I am in the hardhood to make a big amount to pay for the citizenship - regaining law suit in advance.

I was in the U.S. Army almost 7 months and after I had honorable discharge I was evacuated and soon got married in the Camp. In such conditions and career I come through until to-day, though I have been working for the W.R.A. and get paid I am not in good condition to make a Two hundred dollars as a round sum of money.

So 50 dollars be agreed by you to pay for the first payment and later pay you as much as I can, assuming that you trust all my proposition about this money problem? I'll be sure to carry out the contract made between you and me.

I know I have to contact or discuss this matter with the delegates who are functioning now based on Block 26-20, Tule Lake Center.

I think they will probably put my name in the subordinate list, not to be put forth in the first group considered fully-paid group.

I desire to leave my matter to you to regain my U.S. citizenship. I would like to hear from you directly if my case will be handled by you as in the first group with the agreement you make for me.

Let me inform from you how you can make a contact between you and me about payment after I paid the first 50 dollars.

Yours very truly

Atira Jamara

Anna Jamara

Mr. Collins :

Oct 79th 1945

Akira Tamura
49-15-C
Tule Lake R.C.

Dear sir:

I am very glad to hear that you are helping those Japanese who renounced the U.S. citizenships.

I hope you could easily understand how and why we came to the point that we liked to renounce it.

I like to confide that I do believe the majority of these renunciants will be secured to regain the citizenships by your help if they have the convincing reasons. Trouble for me is I have not enough money to pay for the law suit. I do not like to tell you that I have no monetary power as a man, however, I will tell the truth that I have not... I got married in the center at which time I spent some amount for the wedding according to the old Japanese ~~xxx~~ custom, not knowing that we will be in need of the big money for the case like this law suit for the regaining the citizenship.

Will you tell me if there is a possibility for me to wait for some time for the result of the law suit after I enlisted my name for the persons who will take action in the law court by your legal assistance? Can I pay for the time being a certain amount of money as much as I could pay, and later pay you in the sense of the so-called the easy payment, monthly or yearly?

I desire to live and enjoy my life with my wife in this country for why I came to this country was, in my idea and opinion, that the U.S.A. is the best country in any angles. I decided to refer this country to live and die even when I was not enough old to consider or be able to judge in comparison as old men who could easily know which was better for they lived long enough and had some elderly experiences to judge as to which was the best.

I wish the people of the United States and the Government consider the fact that we came to this country for we thought that the U.S.A. is better than Japan no matter how instinctively and traditionally we have attachment to Japan, and that those who made us renounced our U.S. citizenship are a few American and entire Japanese immigrants, the parental generation, ISSEIS for NISEIS. For such reasons and datum I hope you will be successful on helping us and also I like to hope that I will be behaving very proudly in and at any corners of the world I may go as an American citizen.

Your very Truly,
Akira Tamura
Anna Tamura