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1945

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ODA, MR HIROMU

ans by form letter, 9-7-45

Husband alone renounced

SEP 6 1945

8305 DE
Tulelake, Calif.

August 30, 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig
American Civil Liberties Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco 4, California

Dear sir:

I have enclosed a copy of the letter which was written to Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director of Enemy Alien Control Unit, Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C. requesting the eligibility for relocation through the following means:

1. Regaining my United States citizenship.
2. Even as a parolee,
3. Or even still as an Issei.

The outside pressure I had to undergo in the act of my renouncing of my United States citizenship is most greatly regretted on my part, but I had no other alternative, because of the pressure ultimatum.

Mr. Besig, since there are hundreds, even thousands of people who are now writing to you for the same purpose, I cannot be selfish, but please do everything within your power in regaining my United States citizenship. I still intend to become a permanent resident of the United States: the same as it was before the war.

I wish to thank you ever so much for all the wonderful things you are now doing not only for myself and my family, but for all the Isseis and Niseis you are doing so well toward our resettlement. The Japanese, both the Isseis and Niseis are not ungrateful people: We will do our best to help you whenever the time arrives.

Thanking you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours truly,

Hiromu Oda

P.S. I HAVEN'T APPLIED FOR REPATRIATION OFFICIALLY.

COPY

SEP 6 1945

8305 DE
Tulelake, Calif.

August 30, 1945

Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director
Enemy Alien Control Unit
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear sir:

I, Hiromu Oda, is a resident of the Tulelake Relocation Camp in Newell, California.

On August 4, 1945, I received the "NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF RENUNCIATION OF UNITED STATES NATIONALITY", dated April 17, 1945.

Although there are five members in my family,

myself	-----	HIROMU ODA	-----	39	years	old
my wife	----	MARION C. ODA	-----	29	years	old
my son	-----	ROBERT A. ODA	-----	8	years	old
daughter	---	JANICE H. ODA	-----	3	years	old
my son	-----	WILL H. ODA	-----	2	years	old

I was the only one in my family who has renounced citizenship: my wife and three children have not applied for renunciation.

The sole and chief reason for my renunciation was because I was compelled to do so: I was forced upon threat to take such action, due to pressure, threat and attitude of some pressure-forcers here in this camp.

Fortunately and thank God, I was able to talk myself out of not joining any of the pressure groups or organizations, because and only because I had complied to their pressure by renouncing my United States citizenship. I had to do it: it was an ultimatum--do it or else was the predicament I was in. So, for the protection of myself and my family, I had to act as I did -- I had no choice.

Before coming here to Tulelake, I was a resident of the Manzanar Relocation Camp. The following is a case that happened to me just before the Manzanar incident took place on December 6, 1942. I was then working as an Assistant Block Manager there. One night at about midnight, a group of masked pressure gang broke into the home of my Block Manager and was about to beat him to kingdom come, but when they noticed that

they were in the wrong home, they asked for the address of my home. Although my address was given to them right away somehow due to their first mistake by entering the wrong home, their savage-like attitude faded. Besides, when they sensed that they had awakened and aroused suspicion of the neighbors they ceased to come to my home.

Here, in this camp, there were numerous persons and groups of persons appearing as soon as the Army Hearing and Renunciation procedures were under way.

Therefore, because I was again forced to comply with the demands or ultimatum or renounce your citizenship or else, I had no alternative but to act as though I was in sympathy with them. I had to protect myself and my family, or face the grave consequences. So, in order to make them feel that I was on the up-and-up with their kind, although it was most disagreeable that I was not able to think and act as I pleased, I had to act and act fast. The result was the renunciation of my United States citizenship. They wanted me to act as they did: my renunciation of My United States citizenship convinced them that I was on the level. So, as soon as that act of mine was completed, their further threats upon me and my family ceased completely.

I am certain that you are an authority on MOB-PSYCHOLOGY and its effect once anyone is plunged into their whirlpool of destruction by not complying with that mob. Being a father of three innocent children what else was I to do--but comply.

Now that the war has ceased, the outside pressure has almost completely diminished. Even the former pressure-forcing persons and groups of persons have realized their defeat or uselessness, so I am able to act as I think right. This is the opportunity that I had long been waiting. It seems as though the pressure-groups have no interest whatsoever in trying to lead the lives and destinies of others when they themselves are groping for salvation.

Due to the outside pressure up to date, I may have become self-centered, individualistic and even selfish in thinking solely of myself and my renunciation without giving even a moment of thought concerning the future of my wife and three children. I certainly regret very, very much for my previous actions.

If what I have done in the past may affect the future happiness and opportunities for my wife and three children who are still citizens of the United States, surely, I cannot forgive myself.

Therefore, if what I have done in the past makes it absolutely impossible to regain my United States citizenship right away, I would like very, very much to leave this center as soon as possible, even as a parolee, so that I may be able to repay my three innocent children and wife for the innumerable nervous strain and discomfort I have showered upon them.

I repeat. If I cannot regain my United States citizenship, I hope I may be given the chance to relocate even as a parolee or even still as an Issei, so that I could give the fullest satisfaction and opportunity to my innocent wife and innocent three children.

I await with a light of hope in my heart for your compassionate reply.

Yours truly,

Hiromu Oda

PS:

I have sent this same letter to the American Civil Liberties Union in San Francisco, and have written also to the Western Defense Command begging them for a re-hearing of my case.

H.O.

I havenot applied for repatriation to Japan officially.

AUG 31 1945

Masaichi Oi
604-C Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
August 29, 1945

Mr. Edward J. Ennis
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I've written to your department about my cancellation of renunciation of my citizenship a few months ago. Will you please notify me at your earliest convenience, exactly in what category is my present classification. I haven't heard about my status and hope I am a citizen. If there is any possibility of retaining my citizenship, I would be more than happy to comply with whatever procedure necessary. If there is no other alternative, I would like to have your department's approval on my relocating to Hawaii as a parolee. My going to Hawaii is very urgent and necessary, because my father there is very sick. Because of his age, he has become a victim of rheumatism. This being the case, he is unable to support himself and because I'm the only son, he is expecting my early return. He has been a resident of Hawaii for the last fifty years, and there is no doubt of his loyalty for he has proven this through his long years of hard work and cooperation with the Hawaiian-American peoples. To the best of my knowledge, this is the only country I have citizenship in. I have never intended to live elsewhere and would not have renounced if rumors and pressures had not forced me to.

As far as my records are concerned since internment in the U. S. A. Center, I believe I've complied unquestionably with its policies as I saw fit, and as the circumstances permitted. I'm at present working in my block kitchen and have been for the last one year and a half. Many of my friends have already relocated and have proven they are loyal--All I want is just a chance to prove myself.

I know it is a great favor after what has happened, but for a hearing of just two or three minutes, citizenship is too much to lose. Please, as a personal favor to me, who is in trouble and for the sake of my sick and aged father who is unquestionably in need, I ask your every assistance. I have grown in the atmosphere of the great democratic nation, and I know now without doubt this is the kind of life I would ever want to live.

I beg your pardon for causing your offices so much inconveniences. Given a chance, I would do everything humanly possible on my part to prove a good citizen.

Very truly yours,

Masaichi Oi

OISHI, RYUCHI
, MATSUYO

Repatriation

SEP 4 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig, Director
American Civil Liberty Union
216 Pine St.,
San Francisco, California

August 31st, 1945
Family No. 27727
38-19-D
Tule Lake RC.,
Newell, Calif.

Dear sir:

I and my wife have a favor to ask you. I wish you will kindly handle our case in your hand, for I leave all this matter to you.

I, Ryuchi Oishi, born in 1880, Aug. 15th, and my wife, Mrs. Matsuyo Oishi, born in 1900, Oct. 1st, first were willingly evacuated and stayed in camp for we both believed that the High US Authority wanted us to agree to cooperate the war effort, this authority making us believe that all the Japanese' going to the camps will be one of the cooperation in war time. And we did follow so.

I have applied the repatriation, for my parents are now quite old, and I thought I ought to have any possible way to hurry to get Japan at that time that we needed to expressedly sign our intentions at the registration.

We were told that we could easily relocate outside from this camp. The Army even persuaded us to relocate too. This means our status is good for going out to relocate or to resettle. This time we both decided to stay in this country permanently, for my experiences in this country is longer than that in Japan.

The destination I have in my mind is San Francisco. I want you legally help me to gain the permit or pass which will allow us both to travel and stay there forever. I wish I like to depend on you fully in the respect that I expressed in this letter. Also wish you will further inform me what I need to do or write as you shall instruct us for this case. I thank, we thank you.

Very Sincerely Yours

Ryuchi Oishi
.....
Ryuchi Oishi

Matsuyo Oishi
.....
Matsuyo Oishi

P.S.
We applied for
the cancellation
of the procedure
of the repatriation

Mr. Ernest Besig, Director
American Civil Liberty Union
218 Pine St.,
San Francisco, California

Address Star, 1945
Family No. 2777
31-18-D
Tule Lake RC,
Newell, Calif.

September 4, 1945

Dear Sir:

I and my wife have a favor to ask you. I wish you will kindly handle our case in your hands, for I leave all such matters to you.

Mr. & Mrs. Ryuchi Oishi
38-19-D
Newell, California

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Oishi: Authority wanted us to believe that all the business, going to the camp. It isn't quite clear from your

recent letter whether you have merely requested re-patriation and then cancelled the request, or whether

you were citizens who have renounced your citizenship.

You undoubtedly know by this time that the Western Defense Command has cancelled its

segregation and exclusion orders and that citizens

will now be free to leave the Tule Lake Center. The renunciants, however, will continue to be detained.

If your problem is one of re-

nunciation, then the enclosed form letter may be of

help to you. If yours isn't a renunciation problem,

and for some reason you are not permitted to leave the center, please advise me.

Sincerely yours,
Ernest Besig, Director

EB:AR

OKAMURA, JAMES SHUJI, 19,+
KOSAKU, 21

OKAMURA, JAMES, SHUJI
318 A TULE LAKE
NEWELL, CALIF.

SEPT. 17, 1945.

SEP 19 1945

Dear Sir;

I Shuy James Okamura age 19
wish to restored my U. S. Citizenship for which
I renounced in month of May of this year.
At this opportunity, I would like to explain
under what circumstances did I make
a such a mistake.

My parents who had lived in this
country for nearly forty years, had a deep
feeling of loyalty toward America. They have
bought many U. S. Treasure Bonds
trying to help America and always advised
me to be loyal American. I had agreed
upon this matter and bought war stamps
in school which I was attending in
Los Angeles. Trying to help America in a
way that I can help. But when we
were forced into a camp and my rights
as a citizen was totally denied and treated
like as enemy alien, I could not help
myself being aggressive toward America
especially when General Dewitt quoted
that "Jap is a Jap" and other people quoted
that "Good Jap is a dead Jap" Well. This made
me be more aggressive than ever before
if you were in my place I think you
will feel that way too.

As you know this camp, Tule Lake

have many fanatics who are creating serious trouble in the camp. they were treating residence who wish to remain peace in the camp by attacking in the night by half a dozen or more culprits. they attacked many peace loving people in my block. as we niseis who wished to remain loyal to America by remaining peace in the camp were exposed to the same danger unless we renounced our citizenship

Some Japanese school teacher who were in the fanatic group, also forced us niseis to renounce our citizenship as you know in Japanese custom the student should obey the teacher, because from elementary school we are taught teacher are always right. I thought it was a right thing to do but I know it was a big regret.

So taking the above circumstances into consideration. I wished you to restore my U. S. Citizenship and let me stay in this country to build up my future. If my citizenship cannot be restored by law, I would like to be paroled and relocate immediately to continue where I left off during my stay in camp.

Yours, Truly
James Shuji Okamura

OKAMURA, KOSAKU
8318 H TULE LAKE
NEWELL, CALIF.

SEPT. 13, 1945

SEP 19 1945

Dear Sir;

I Kosaku Okamura, age 21 wish to restored my U.S. citizenship for which I renounced in month of may of this year. At this opportunity, I would like to explain under what circumstances did I make a such a mistake.

Three and half years ago, I was a most happy boy in America with full of ambition. During that time, I was just eighteen and was attending to Thomas Jefferson High School in Los Angeles, Calif. I took a science for my major and was on my Sr. term and ready to enter the University to become a doctor when my high school career was over. And then the Pearl Harbor incident had happen. I was scared to death for a while when I heard it was a war against my ancestors. The reason I got scared mostly was discrimination. Although I was a American citizen, I had different hair and different face from other Americans. But these things have gradually go away from my mind when no body seems to discriminated me at school and
over

other places. One day at school, the teacher had encouraged me by saying that you and I have different ancestors but we are not different from any other Americans, so we must fight together to defeat the enemy. I was very encouraged by these words and was ready to fight against the enemy to protect my country.

But suddenly, we were forced to evacuate from my home town and was put into the camp. I always thought these things will never happen to me because I was American citizen and had same rights as any other Americans. But our government didn't took as I thought. On account of this, my future ambition was completely broken and hereafter I could not help being aggressive toward America. I think you will feel the same when you happen to be in my place.

My answer Noe to the question 27th and 28th was not display of my disloyalty to the U.S. but it was simply our honest expression of

~~cont.~~ cont.

disapproval of the treatment I received from American public after the out break of the war.

After we were segregated from Manzanar to Tule Lake as disloyal Japs. I found this camp was in such a turmoil and was still under martial law an account of many fanatics were creating serious troubles in the camp. One of my friend in the camp was violently attacked in the dark by a dozen culprits and seriously wounded when they thought he was a leader of a peace loving residents of this camp. There were more of these attacks increasing day after day. And later we niceis who wished to retain loyal to America by remaining peace in the camp were exposed to the same danger unless we renounced our Citizenship. I thought it was wrong things to do at first but if I didn't do as others did I was fear of a phisical attack at anytime and this was only way to remained safe during that time.

Today, I know it was a big
over

regret and wish you to restored
my U.S. citizenship and let me
stay in this country to built up my
future. If my citizenship can not
be restored by a law, I would
like to be paroled and relocate
immidiately to continue where I
left off during my stay in the camp.

Yours truly

Kosaku Okamura

October 3, 1945.

Kosaku & James Shuji Okamura,
8318-A,
Tule Lake Center,
Newell, California.

Dear Kosaku & James Okamura:

Your recent letters were duly received. If these are copies of letters you sent to the Attorney General, I would say they are insufficient, because all you need say is that you repudiate the renunciation of your citizenship, and this you fail to do.

In addition, however, you should take legal action to restore your citizenship. If you do not have sufficient money to hire an attorney, you should join with others at Tule Lake in pooling your financial resources. The matter is becoming urgent because the Justice Department intends to remove renunciants to isolated internment camps and thereafter remove them to Japan. It will be difficult to secure legal help once that is done.

I notice that you, Shuji, were only 19 at the time you renounced. I presume you were not a dual citizen and that whenever you filled out WRA forms you denied dual citizenship. Did you also deny dual citizenship in your renunciation hearing? And, you Kosaku, were you under 21 at the time you renounced? Can you establish that you are not a dual citizen?

I understand that alien registration is about to take place at Tule Lake among the renunciants. If you wish to repudiate your renunciation you should register under protest. File a letter to that effect or or state right on the registration form that you are a United States citizen.

I am hoping that after much talk, the thousands of renunciants at Tule Lake will finally get together and act. This constant waiting can lead only to serious consequences for you.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Besig, Director.

OKUNO, Sataro -

Form letter 9/16/45

Mr. Ernest Besig Sept 13, 1945

SEP 15 1945

2 broos. in the
Army

Director
American Civil Liberties
Union
216 Pine St.
San Francisco Calif.

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago I received my paper for the renunciation of my citizenship I have gone through the procedure and have been accepted

However I am appealing to you hoping that you will consider my case for the restoration of my citizenship

At the time of my hearing, I ~~could~~ Could not read the statement or ever understood what was being said and there were no interpreter to help me

I have no intention whatsoever of going to Japan for my parents and all my relatives are in this country, relocated and leading a normal life with all egainces, I ~~with~~ wish to join them and resume the normal living in the country, the only country I know I have no dual citizenship prove that this in the only country I know I am a law abiding and a loyal one, whose life has been disturbed by the ill fortunes of war I also have two brother serving this country
(over)

in the United States Armed Services

With all those reasons I am finite
sure that you'll consider my appeal
for the restoration of my citizenships
I sincerely hope that something can be
done, and shall be hopefully waiting
for an answer.

Thank you for your kind attention

Sincerely

Sataro Okuno

Blk 53-17-C

Tule Lake Calif.

Sept 13, 1945 Mr. Ernest Berig

Director

American Civil

Liberties Union

216 Point San Francisco

I want to cancel my

Application to renounce

my citizenships I want to

be a United States ~~Citizenship~~

Citizen

Sincerely

SEP 15 1945

Sataru Okuno

Blk 53-17-C

Tule Lake Calif.

OKUNO, TAKESHI BOB

ans by form letter, 9-14-45

SEP 12 1945

Sir:

I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. Ennis requesting for a futher reconsideration of my case regarding the recent act of renouncing my citizenship. Would you please file it in your office and will appreciate your kind assistance regarding my case.

Thank you.

47
4715-E
Newell, California
September 10, 1945

The Hon. Edward J. Ennis, Director
Department of Justice
Enemy Alien Control Unit
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In view of my present status, I am appealing to you for repudiation of my renunciation of United States citizenship and also for a reinstatement of my citizenship to a former status.

I am a native-born of American Citizen, having full desire to exercise all the rights of United States citizen and to be bound by all the obligations of such citizenship. I was not a free agent when I signed the renunciation form, but under duress.

I request that my case be reopened for further consideration and the introduction of evidence to prove the renunciation was ineffective and void because signed under duress.

Respectfully yours,

Takeshi Bob Okuno

*From letter
Sept. 3*

John Ozawa
7918-B
Tule Lake Relocation Ctr.
Newell, California
August 27, 1945

AUG 29 1945

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

Dear Mr. Besig:

I am a citizen of the United States by birth and 21 years old and a resident of Tule Lake Relocation Center.

Pursuant to Renunciation held in this center I signed the individual request for Renunciation against my own free will.

At the time of the Renunciation I was induced, forced, influenced by the elderly residents of this center and by the members of the Hokoku Seinen Dan, which I was forced into. I have long since withdrew from that organization which I never did believe in. I was a member just at the time of my Renunciation hearing and I wastold just what to say at my hearing by the residents and by the members of that organization. Prior to Evacuation I was a loyal Citizen of this country and suddenly without any reason at all I was placed behind barbed wire fences. Because of that, and not being able to be in contact with my outside Caucasian friends, I thought that the Japanese-American rights were of no value so I was easily influenced by everyone. Now I fully realize that the Government had no intentions of taking away any rights of a citizen of Japanese ancestry.

After due consideration and fully realizing the biggest mistake of my life, I wish you would consider my situation and make it possible for me to get back my citizenship and relocate as soon as possible and I shall continue to abide by all the laws of this country.

Yours truly,

John Yoshio Ozawa

SEP 6 1945

Newell, California
August 29, 1945

No name given

American Civil Liberties Unions
216 Pine Street
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Sir:

In view of my present status, I am writing to you for a reconsideration of my case regarding the recent act of renouncing my citizenship. Although I have not yet received my final papers of approval, I am appealing to you for a cancellation of the renunciation papers and also for a reinstatement of my citizenship to its former status. May I say that, since the time of the dishonorable commitment, I have suffered the consequences and have deeply regretted the biggest mistake of my life.

At that time of my making such an unwise decision, I felt that I had sufficient grounds to justify my commitment, recalling the facts that though I was born a citizen of the United States and strove to do my utmost, and even though I had a brother serving in the United States Army before Pearl Harbor, my family and I were rudely evacuated without a fair trial from the only place that we knew as home, and to say nothing of the fact that we found ourselves completely stripped of our home and properties. Needless to say, the humiliation was unbearable as we were herded into a crowded camp where civil liberties and freedom were denied us, and the bitterness we felt towards the government was hard to forget.

However, as time passed and we were doubting the government's faith in us, I decided to attempt a recognition, so I volunteered to help out the national labor shortage in Idaho on a short term leave during the latter part of 1942. I quickly discovered that I was just as unwelcome there as I was in California. Still, in 1943, I registered myself as a loyal American and swore allegiance to the United States government at an Army Interview. But regardlessly, I was considered disloyal when martial law was declared and I was subjected to many civil denials and to rigid restrictions, and the incidents that followed often made me wonder if my citizenship was of any value to me.

In the meantime, many pressure groups were rising, and it was almost impossible to live an individual life as countless rumors were spread inciting anger, worries, and feelings of insecurity. Influential pro-Japanese groups sprang up overnight and they started to sway the Niseis' minds with their radical indoctrinations, forcing us into a dilemma over the choice of my native country and my ancestor's country. I was living in the midst of mounting confusions.

Then in the early part of 1945, when the much-talked-about renunciation period came into effect, I applied for a hearing and was interviewed by one of your representatives. Now that I can look at the situation more clearly, I can truthfully say that, at that time of renouncing my citizenship, I was under the mental strain of mob psychology and didn't have my normal reasoning capacity to cope with the immediate problem. Being that I was locked in behind a wall of barbed wire fences away from the progressing outside world for a period of over three years, and suddenly confronted with such an enormously important problem, I admit that my reasoning capacity had deteriorated to a certain extent, and therefore, as I had more or less a tendency to be swayed by the shortsided influences of the many pressure groups, I could not make a clear decision for myself.

At present, I am contemplating on relocating with my family to Ely, Nevada where I have an older sister who has been residing there for a period of approximately ten years. We are all waiting anxiously, with sincere hearts, for the day when we can again resume our normal trends in a democratic, American way of life. However, my status reveal that, though I am cleared by the Army as an excluder, I am stopped by the Department of Justice in accordance to the act of forfeiting my citizenship. Therefore, I have taken this measure in appealing my case to you for a favorable reconsideration.

Will you kindly accept my appeal and will you please inform me of any further developments.

Thank you kindly.

Very Sincerely yours,

4503-C
Newell, California