

December 4, 1990

Office of Redress Administration
PO Box 66260
Washington, D.C. 20035-6260

Gentlemen: Subject: Manabi Matoba

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that to the best of my knowledge, Mr. Matoba's statement that during the early part of World War II he suffered both loss of property and liberty as a result of a military directive is true.

1. **Loss of Property:** Prior to Pearl Harbor, Mr. Matoba was a ^{A CIBEL} a "flying blind" instructor, a link trainer, in the U.S. Air Force. When he first reported to the air force he was ordered to return all his civilian belongings to his brother's home in California. They were never recovered.
2. **Loss of Liberty:** With the outbreak of war he was ordered out of the Air Force and transferred to a unit of the 442. Based upon a false charge he was then transferred to a special labor battalion comprised of Americans of Japanese, German and Italian descent. Because of a military directive all members were demoted to the rank of private and made ineligible for any promotion. Furthermore, through the grapevine he learned that no Nisei soldiers were permitted to visit Manzanar; as a result he never applied for a pass to visit his brother.
3. He was later cleared of the false charge and was shipped with a unit of Nisei soldiers to the air force in Panama for its defense.
4. Until his recent retirement he continued to serve the air force in a civilian capacity.

Very truly yours,

Cedrick M. Shimo
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(relationship: I too was a member of this labor battalion and had associated with him for a year and a half and was aware of the above facts.