

Monterey Park, Calif. 91754
July 25, 1977

Dear Mr. Harrington:

I received your letter back in April and meant to answer sooner. I have been in ill health and under doctor's care since the beginning of the year and therefore, have neglected almost all correspondence to my friends. I hope that you will forgive me for my long silence.

For an old timer, I am sorry to say that I have no combat record to write about. Nevertheless, I will try my best to relate to you what I still remember. I am very delighted that the activities of the MIS soldiers in World War II and the Occupation of Japan is finally going to be told.

I was born on June 8, 1917 in Los Angeles, the first son of Frank and Tome Matsumura, who immigrated to the United States in 1905 from Fukui Prefecture, Japan. I have a brother, Bill, who is two years younger. My parents, who operated an apartment and later a hotel, brought us up under strict discipline and wanted us to have the best possible education.

In 1924, I was sent to the St. Francis ~~X~~avier School (the present Maryknoll Catholic School) here in Los Angeles until 1926, at which time my parents visited their native country, Japan, and took my brother and ~~me~~ along with them with the intention of leaving us there to have ~~me~~ Japanese education. It was common practice in the 1920's and 1930's among original Japanese (Issei, the first generation) to have their offsprings (Nisei, the second generation) educated in Japan to have ~~me~~ Japanese cultural background. Bill and I were left in the care of our grandparents, and we studied there until the end of 1936. I still remember how difficult it was to learn the Japanese language and thus, desperately wanting many times to return to the United States. Our education in Japan spanned from elementary school to college level.

With the grim view of the Sino-Japanese relation, we, dual citizenship holders, were about to be conscripted into the Japanese Armed Forces. Fortunately, we were able to leave the country before the conscription law affected us. We returned to Los Angeles in January, 1937, starting school immediately. I graduated from Belmont High School in January, 1941. ~~_____~~ I was caught in the second draft of this area and was sent to Fort MacArthur on April 1, 1941 to start my first day of military service. *when I was attending the Los Angeles City College.*

After less than a week's stay at the fort, I was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, with the 161st Infantry Regiment of the 41st Division. I was a machine gunner and later, a second gunner of the 37 mm anti-tank gun unit. During the big War game of the 41st, the 40th, and the 7th Divisions at the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation in the summer, I was interviewed by Captain Kai Rasmussen, who had just returned to the United States from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo as a military attache, and was given a simple test on my knowledge and understanding of the Japanese language.

Order came down in ^{October} [redacted] 1941 from General White, the 41st Division Commander, to proceed to the Presidio of San Francisco. ^{officially} On November 1, 1941, the 4th Army Intelligence School was [redacted] and I became one of sixty students. I was graduated in April, 1942 and was waiting for overseas assignment when I was ordered to become an enlisted instructor at yet an unopened intelligence school in Savage, Minnesota. The Military Intelligence Service Language School was opened officially in May, 1942 at Camp Savage. Dick Hayashi, then Corporal Hayashi, was one of my students in B-1 Class. The group of the enlisted instructors out of the first MIS class were Sergeants Arthur Kaneko, Joe Masuda, Ichiro Nishida, Morio Nishita, Tom Sakamoto, Ryuichi Shinoda, James Tanizawa, Gene Uratsu, and myself. Sgt. Kaneko remained in the service for about 25 years and retired as Lt. Col. Masuda and Uratsu served 20 years, the former retiring as Major, the latter as Captain. Sakamoto, with 30 years of service, retired as Full Colonel.

I taught middle class (B-1, B-2, B-3) as well as Officers' Class until about July, 1943, at which time I was ordered to proceed to the War Department, G-2 Section, Washington. I was a team leader of Sgts. Kazuo Yamane, John Kenjo, and Seishin Kondo. We were engaged in highly classified work and discovered that we were the first and only Niseis ever to be assigned in the Pentagon Building. We remained there until the autumn of 1944. In September, 1944, we became a cadre to help establish a Military Intelligence Research Section at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, where we remained until the end of the war. I was expecting overseas assignment all those years since graduating from the 4th Army Intelligence School.

With the captured military and civil documents coming in great quantities, the Washington Document Center Advance Echelon was set up in Tokyo and I was ordered there in November, 1945. My duty as an investigator was primarily to scan and confiscate ~~necessary documents~~ to be shipped back to the Washington Document Center. Identification badge issued by General

(From the Japanese Government Agencies)

MacArthur was very helpful in carrying out my assignments. 1st Lt. Robert Lambaum of New York was with me in the Tokyo route and Navy Lt. (J.G.) Robert Fould was with me in the Kyoto and Osaka area. I remained in this capacity until April, 1946 when I was approached by an officer of the GHQ Legal Section to find out if I would be interested in working in the upcoming War Crimes Trial as an investigator.

Shortly afterwards, I applied for military discharge from active duty in Tokyo and took the job of War Crimes investigator with the 8th Army War Crimes Defense Section in Yokohama with five other Nisei Veterans. One of the six was George M. Koshi of Denver, an attorney for the trial defense section. The others were Ken Aiba, Masaru Jinbo, Kiyoshi Kido, and Jack H. Yamada, all of Los Angeles and former MIS graduates. I took part in several mass murder trial cases as well as minor cases and it was a very valuable experience for me.

In August, 1947, I was married to Miss Kinuko Sekine of Tokyo, at the U.S. Consulate in Yokohama and returned to the U.S. in October, 1948 with the intention of returning to college. We have two grown daughters, 26 and 28, both of whom are school teachers with the L.A. School District. I have been working for the Lucky Supermarket for about 20 years and intend to retire in a few years.

I am indeed grateful for the educational opportunities I have received in both Japan and the United States. Without them, I could not possibly have accomplished the tasks assigned to me. I hope the above information will be helpful in compiling your book.

Very truly yours,

Jimmie M. Matsumura