

**NJAHS** NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1855 Folsom Street, Room 161 • San Francisco, CA 94103 • Phone: (415) 431-5007

April 21, 1991

Loni Ding.

Dear Loni:

The NJAHS has been asked to help in the writing of the MIS 50th anniversary commemorative booklet. At the meeting nearly a year ago the purpose of the booklet was to target the general public and the non-MIS Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei.

Therefore, this is not a reunion booklet in which the MIS veterans primarily reminisce their past. It has a very serious goal of introducing the MIS story to the public.

The space is severely limited: approximately 80 to 90 pages, in which the photos occupy half the pages. The subject is huge, and to cover it in this limited space will require severe editing. Also, every interesting or necessary subject cannot be covered, especially in detail.

There are hundreds of books on WW II, Pacific war, but the role assumed by the Nisei is seldom mentioned. We believe it is time to tell the story from the Japanese American perspective. Therefore, mentioning Nisei names become important. However, the text must not look like a telephone book; the public will quickly lose interest.

One of the difficulties I'm having is the veterans' tendency to mention division, regiment, detachment, etc. numbers. Except where absolutely necessary for identification, the public is not particularly interested in them. They tend to distract from the narrative. The commemorative booklet should not read like a military manual.

One of the frequent comments I receive is that the particular story had very little strategic importance in the overall war. People tend to remember specific story of interest. The story says something about the participants, whether of strategic importance or not.

The 100/442 rescue of the "Lost Battalion" had little strategic importance in the overall conduct of the European war. But it had a profound influence of how the American public perceived the Nisei soldiers.

At the recent meeting we all felt that it would be good to have the draft seen by non-Nisei who is knowledgeable about us. I received your address from Tom Sakamoto.

About 40 to 50 photos will be used. They will be integrated into

the text with effective presentation in mind. As you know, Janice Kawamoto did the designing of the commemorative booklet the NJAHS published in 1987 during the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The MIS has asked her to design this book as well.

On the text each subject covered is given a single page, or less. The result is conciseness.

Please give us your comments on the text. Do they tell the story effectively?

Any comments you may have will be greatly appreciated. The final draft will have to be submitted to the designer in May.

Tom tells me that you will be returning to San Francisco on May 8th. Your comments can be forwarded either to Tom Sakamoto or myself. Tom's address:

Tom Sakamoto

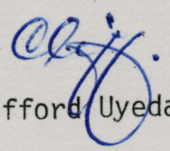
[REDACTED]  
Saratoga, CA 95070 [REDACTED]

I can be reached at the NJAHS office (see letterhead).

The enclosed draft, dated 4/28/91, will be put together for distribution to the commemorative booklet committee on April 30th when we next meet.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

  
Clifford Uyeda.