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February 17, 1943.

Mr. H. L. Stafford  
Project Director  
War Relocation Authority

RE: Tatsuuro Hayasaka  
Family #10705

Dear Mr. Stafford:

In laying out my case for your consideration, I sincerely hope that your decision will be in my favor.

I am a 1941 graduate of the University of Washington with a B.S. in Commercial Engineering. In addition to the basic engineering courses, my specialized studies were in production methods and processes.

My greatest interests are in aviation. Up to September 1942, I held private's license #134867. Wearing glasses had disqualified me from taking a CPT course. However I purchased my own flight time and received ground school training with a CPT group. Staying two extra terms at the University, I studied advanced courses on meteorology and other allied aviation subjects. As of September 1942, I logged nearly 100 hours, mostly on seaplanes.

At the start of the war, I had just begun to attend classes at the Curtiss-Wright Technical Institute in Glendale, Calif.

Having more than sufficient qualifications, I tried to enlist in the Air Corps. Most of my friends from CPT school days were being accepted, but my application came back with - "due to technicalities, we cannot accept your application."

I then tried the Weather Officer's School. This was one branch in which I am thoroughly qualified, having studied the subject intensively. Again, I received a "due to technicality" note.

Soon after that, my father was arrested. Family obligations and government attitude made further attempts impossible.

On April 28, all the Seattle Japanese were evacuated to Puyallup. To say that I was bitter and disillusioned at that time is a understatement. While in this state of mind, I received word that my father was to be interned for the duration. To me that meant that he was to be deported after the war if not sooner.



Therefore, in July, I applied for repatriation. My reasons were many: my father was to be interned. His record for the last thirty years in the United States, not being considered. The treatment I was receiving seemed to prove that I was not considered as a citizen. I was constantly being prevented from even trying to prove my rights to citizenship. Physically I was a Japanese, that was enough to say that I was a potential fifth columnist or saboteur. I could not defend myself nor prove my loyalty.

Since that time, the government policies has changed. Especially in the past several months, there has been a decided swing in the government's attitude toward us. I began to wonder whether I had acted too hastily. Now, I regret what I had done.

On February 2, the day the Army came to start recruiting volunteers, I received a letter from the Justice Department stating that, in the opinion of the Attorney General, my father should be released to be re-united with his family.

Now, all my reasons for signing repatriation papers have been nullified by the government. My father has been cleared, the Army I know, could use me, but because of my action of last July, I find myself in a very embarrassing position.

I realize that this may be the only chance for the Niseis to prove their worth. This can be the starting point whereby our government will be made to see what great wrong had been done and try to correct this in the future. I believe that a sacrifice of the volunteers is worth the price, when the future of the other 100,000 is at stake.

My request is this: I want my record cleared so that I can join the Army. I want to cancel my repatriation papers. This, I want to take place immediately.

For my part, as soon as I am cleared, I will volunteer for service in the United States Army. I cannot do any more.

Sincerely,

Tatsuro Hayasaka (signed )

P.S. If there is still some doubt as to my intentions, I will be glad to confer with you at any time.

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