

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE  
Yokohama, Japan

Military Address: c/o HQ 8th Army, APO 343  
Local Addresses: American Consulate Building,  
6 Yanashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama  
Telephone: Octagon 2-1844 or Honkyoku 1844.

January 2, 1947

Memorandum: American Citizenship of Persons of Japanese Ancestry  
Resident in Japan

Persons of Japanese ancestry who are resident in Japan and who desire either to return to the United States or to receive the protection of the US Government while they continue to reside in Japan must establish their claims to American citizenship by making formal application for passport or registration at an office of the American Consular Service. Offices are located at Yokohama and Kobe, with office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. (Until public announcement is made of the opening of the office at Kobe, all correspondence should be sent to Yokohama.)

In order to make an application a person (1) must fulfill all the requirements listed below; (2) must obtain a definite appointment by filling out and sending in the attached sheet entitled "Request for Appointment to Establish Claim to American Citizenship" (Note that only this one sheet should be sent, and that all other papers should be brought at time of appointment); and (3) must appear in person at the time of appointment, bringing all the required items.

The following items are absolutely essential, and it will not be possible to take the applications of persons who do not fully meet the requirements:

1. Before coming here every applicant who is 18 years of age or over must fill out in full and bring with him at time of appointment the attached affidavit form, "Supplement to Form 213 or 213a". Particular attention must be paid to those sections concerning places of residence and places of employment or schooling; be sure to give the full address of each residence and the inclusive dates of each period of residence, employment or schooling; be sure to bring the information up to date, including activities since the surrender.
2. Evidence of citizenship in only one of the following forms:
  - a. An American passport, whether current or expired. (Note that by a passport is meant only that document issued by the Department of State or an American Consulate in the form of a small book with green or maroon covers.)
  - b. Letters or other documents which show the applicant has been previously registered at an American Consulate or had an American passport. (If he is certain that he was previously registered or issued a passport, this office will request verification thereof and no other evidence of citizenship will be necessary.)
  - c. Birth certificate.
3. Evidence of identity in only one of the following forms (Note that every applicant must present evidence both of citizenship and of identity):
  - a. Passport, current or expired.
  - b. "Certificate of Citizenship--Hawaiian Islands", issued prior to the applicant's leaving Hawaii.

- c. Lacking other evidence of identity, he must obtain a Certificate of Identity (shashin shomei) bearing his photograph under seal from the Japanese police of the locality where he resides, and must also be accompanied at time of appointment by an identifying witness. This witness must be a person who has known the applicant for several years and who (a) has an American passport or Card of Identity and Registration, or (b) is a member of the US Armed Forces, or (c) is an alien known to this office.
4. Four recent passport-style photographs. These should be not more than 3 by 3 and not less than 2½ by 2½ inches in size, unmounted, printed on thin paper on a light background, and showing full front view of face.
5. A certified copy of his parents' Family Register (koseki Tohon), whether or not his name appears therein; this must be a full copy and not an extract (koseki shohon) and must have been issued within the past 12 months. If the applicant has opened a new Register with himself as family-head, this too is required. If applicant is a married woman she should present the Register of both her father's and husband's families; the same applies to a man who has entered his wife's family.
6. Evidence in the form of letters from employers and/or schools which will conclusively establish everything the applicant has been doing since leaving the US, including exact details of any war-time service (kinro-hoshi, teishintai, choyo), and including all employment since the surrender. These letters must state the exact nature of employment and the inclusive dates of employment or schooling. If the applicant was unemployed during any long period, he must present documentary evidence of such fact.
7. IMPORTANT. If the applicant has had any employment whatsoever under any branch or organ of the Japanese or other foreign Government (including employment by the national, prefectural, or municipal governments, and by such agencies as public schools, railways, health services, etc.), he must present a certificate from the appropriate governmental authorities stating that his position was not one for which only a Japanese subject was eligible and that a non-Japanese could have occupied the same position, and also stating what Japanese law or regulation determines the nationality requirements of the position he held.
8. In the case of a male, evidence that he has not served in any way in the Japanese Armed Forces. A certificate from the appropriate Village or Ward Office will serve.
9. If the applicant claims that his name does not appear in any Family Register in Japan, he must present evidence of having been registered as an American with the Japanese police during the war, in the form of an Alien's Residence Permit (taiho-Kyokasho) or Residence Certificate (iju-shomeisho) which was valid at the time of the surrender in 1945, or proof that he formerly had such a document, or other evidence of his claim that his name does not appear in any Family Register. He must also be prepared to state positively whether or not he ever applied for and received permission to reacquire (kaifuku-suru) Japanese nationality.
10. Applicants who are over the age of 21 must prove that they have never voted in a political election in Japan, by presenting certificates to that effect from the appropriate Village or Ward Offices.
11. An applicant may include his or her minor children or brothers and sisters in his application, but only provided they too have a claim to American citizenship and are less than 19 years of age. Such persons should be included in a group photograph with

the applicant (item #4 above); they should appear here with the applicant; and evidence must be presented of their own citizenship (item #2) and identity (item #3).

(Note: in the case of a child born outside the US on or after January 13, 1941, of one American-citizen parent and one alien parent, the child does not have a claim to American citizenship unless before the birth of the child the American parent has resided for a total of 10 years in the US, at least 5 of which were after reaching the age of 16.)

12. If an applicant desires to include a minor child who was born in Japan and whose birth has never been reported to an American Consulate, it will be necessary for him to execute a report of birth at this office. For this purpose he should present a certificate from the attending physician, midwife or hospital, or some other document to establish the birth (an Expectant Mother's Handbook, "nimpu-techo", is satisfactory), and also evidence of the marriage of the child's parents. When making an appointment with this office, applicant should be sure to state the number of births he desires to report, in order that sufficient time be reserved for him.
13. Each applicant should be prepared when he comes here for an appointment to supply the following additional items of information:
  - a. Dates of residence in US.
  - b. Dates of residence in Japan or other countries.
  - c. When he expects to return to the US for permanent residence.
  - d. Date of marriage.
  - e. Place and date of birth of father and mother.
  - f. Place and date of birth of husband or wife.
  - g. Dates of residence in US of father and mother.
  - h. Place and date of birth of children and of brothers and sisters.
  - i. Names and full addresses of two persons in US who can furnish information concerning applicant's identity and who have personal knowledge of the place and date of applicant's birth.
  - j. Name of each school attended in US and during what years it was attended.

(This form must be fully filled out before coming here and must be presented by the applicant at time of appointment.)

SUPPLEMENT TO FORM 213 OR 213a

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE) ) SS:  
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN )

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
do solemnly swear that the following is a true and complete record of all the places of my residence since January 1941 (give full addresses and inclusive dates of residence at each):

That the following is a true and complete record of all my activities since leaving the United States (give full details of names, addresses, and dates of schools attended and places employed, including descriptions of duties of each position held; include all employment, full-time, part-time, paid, volunteer, "kinro-hoshi", "teishintai", "choyo", etc.):

That I (have) (have not in any way whatsoever) been employed under a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, and, if so, I give below the full and exact details of the position held and the evidence which I present to show that having the nationality of such country was not a requirement for the position I held:

That I (do) (do not) possess Japanese nationality, and that the following is a full and complete recital of all the pertinent facts relating to such nationality (indicate clearly the manner in which such nationality was acquired, lost, and reacquired; the dates of all such changes; the date of any application for reacquisition of Japanese nationality; and the dates of each and every entry into a Japanese Family Register):

That I present the following evidence in support of my claim that I do not possess Japanese nationality and that I have never made application for such nationality:

That I (did) (did not) enter or serve in the Japanese Armed Forces; as evidence of which I present the following documents:

That I (have) (have never) voted in a political election in Japan, and, if so, I give details below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of applicant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
American

\_\_\_\_\_  
Consul

## NOTICE TO PERSONS REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS

Until all persons who now desire to return to the United States as soon as possible, and are willing and able to accept transportation to the West Coast or Hawaii whenever offered, have had an opportunity to make passport applications, it will not be possible to make further appointments to establish citizenship for persons who plan to remain in Japan for the time-being.

Fares are subject to change without notice and vary according to ship and availability of accommodations. At present a maximum adult fare from Japan is \$325 to the West Coast or \$200 to Hawaii, with reductions of 50% for children who have not yet reached their 12th birthday, or 90% for infants less than one year old. Fares must be paid in United States funds; yen may in no case be exchanged into dollars.

You are requested to complete the attached form, "Request for Appointment to Establish Claim to American Citizenship", and return it to this office. If you indicate that you will return by the first available transportation, you will be given the earliest available appointment, either at this office or at Kobe, in order to make a passport application. If you indicate you do not now plan to return, your request will be kept on file here until registration applications can again be accepted, at which time you will be informed of your appointment date.

As it will be impossible to reply to individual inquiries, it is requested that you do not call at or further communicate with this office concerning this matter until requested to do so. You should, however, promptly inform this office of any change in your address.

All communications to this office should be addressed as follows: if you are permitted to use the military mails, "American Consular Service, c/o HQ 8th Army, APO 343"; or otherwise, "American Consular Service, 6 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama".

American Consular Service,  
Yokohama, Japan,  
January 2, 1947.

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT TO ESTABLISH CENTER TO AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

1. Date of filling out this form:
2. Name in full: *Henry Soichiro Watanabe*
3. Place and date of birth: *Seattle Oct. 29, 1915.*
4. Date of last arrival in Japan: *June 1924.*  
Name of country from which I came to Japan: *Seattle, Washington.*

5. I (have) (~~have not~~)\* performed any one of the following acts: if I have, I now draw a line beneath such of the acts as I have performed: (a) renounced American citizenship; (b) served in the Japanese Armed Forces; (c) worked for the Japanese Government, or any subdivision thereof, in a position open only to Japanese nationals; (d) applied for or acquired Japanese nationality on or after my 21st birthday by the process known as "kaifuku"; (e) voted in a political election in Japan.

6. I (do) (~~do not~~)\* now desire to return to the US as soon as possible, and assuming funds to be available for the cost of my passage, I (am) (~~am not~~)\* willing and able to accept transportation to (the West Coast) (~~Hawaii~~)\* whenever offered.

(DO NOT STATE YOU DESIRE TO RETURN UNLESS YOU ARE ACTUALLY WILLING AND ABLE TO DO SO WITHIN THE NEXT 3 OR 4 MONTHS: FAILURE TO INDICATE YOUR ACTUAL INTENTIONS COULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT YOUR APPLICATION AT THE TIME OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AND RESULT IN PROTRACTED DELAYS.)

7. I (do) (~~do not~~)\* have in my possession sufficient US funds to pay the cost of my passage; I (can) (~~cannot~~)\* obtain such funds from friends or relatives who are now in Japan.

8. I (do) (~~do not~~)\* have a relative or friend in the US who I have reason to believe would be willing and able to pay the cost of my passage. That person is my friend, and his full name and address is:

*Mr. Shigeji Kontani  
2750 - 2nd. Ave. So. Minneapolis, Minnesota*

\*Cross out words not applicable

9. I desire that the following named members of my family, who also are American citizens and have performed none of the acts listed above in item 5, make their applications with me and accompany me to the US (give full name, relationship to you, place and date of birth of each; if any of the persons named have previously made a written request for or received an appointment, give full details):

10. I (have) (have not)\* previously had an American passport, and (have) (have not)\* been registered at an American Consulate before the war.

11. I (do) (do not)\* have a memorandum from your office telling exactly what papers I must have to make an application, the date of which memorandum is \_\_\_\_\_.

12. I desire to make my application at (check one of the following):  
( ) Yokohama; ( ) Kobe; ( ) whichever office can give me the earliest appointment.

13. I (do) (do not)\* already have an appointment scheduled at Yokohama on \_\_\_\_\_, but wish instead to receive an appointment at Kobe.

14. I give below my full name and full mailing address, written in romaji and also in Japanese characters, and I will keep you informed of any changes in my address:

\*Cross out words not applicable



General Consulate Building

何時 何日の何時に行つた、直いか、何向へ取合する。

~~出生~~ Passport or birth certificate

写真 4枚 3 inches X 3 inches. 2 1/2 X 2 1/2 2リ小サリツタ

コセキトオホニ 新いの

戦時中、人をもしてゐたか? (I know)

米に、何處へ帰つて、何をしてゐたか? (學校 etc.)

(大印) 軍隊に行つて居たか? シヨ-キイ書と市役所を取つたか?

日本にてセキヨシツタものが有るか、何處か?

130 米に何時から何時迄居たか?

日本に何時から何時迄居たか?

米に何時頃帰るか?

何時結婚したか?

父母の生れた所と年月。

妻の生年月日及び所。

父母の在米年月日。

子供及び姉妹の生れた所と年月日。

在米にオケル人二人の名前と住所。本人を良く知つて居る人で

生れた時と所を知つて居る人。

米で通つた學校。有るか。

昭和十六年より昭和廿二年迄の住居住所。

米に何時頃、今迄居る物ツク書キ出さる。

日本にコセキヲ有るか (何時)

コセキトオホニに入ツタ日。

何時 何処でセキヨシツタか?

American Consulate Building,

6 Yamana-cho, Chiba, Japan

Naka-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba-ken, Japan

XH07114, 1115 1/2 272ko bairia

I want to make an appointment to establish my claim of American citizenship ship.

Handwritten Japanese text, likely a translation or notes related to the English text above. The text is written in a cursive style and is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.

Yokohama Branch of the  
Diplomatic Section GHQ SCAP  
c/o Hqs 8th Army, APO 843

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POST OFFICE  
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PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300



Mr. Henry Watanabe,  
77 Nawate Dohii, Matsumoto-shi,  
Nagano-ken.

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1001  
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長谷川 隆平  
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ハシロー  
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