

192 Fairlawn Drive
Berkeley, CA 94708
March 27, 1995

Mr. Clifford Uyeda

San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Clifford:

I got your address from Joe Oyama so I might tell you of a matter which I feel will interest you.

Recent activities relating to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team have focused on the site of the Bruyeres monument to the Nisei soldiers.

But few persons are aware that the existence of the commemorative plaque and the original dedication were largely due to a young American news couple, Larry and Ruth Hall.

The Halls were close friends of my husband, Larry Tajiri, then editor of the Pacific Citizen in Salt Lake City, and myself. The Halls were working for the Associated Press.

Sometime in 1947 the Halls announced they were leaving for France for a long visit. (As I recall it, they were leaving their jobs also.)

My husband (sorry I have to make these sort of formal distinctions, but the two Larrys even then caused some confusion) thought a plaque at Bruyeres commemorating the liberation of the town by the Nisei would be a good idea. He suggested that the Halls might be willing to carry the project through, and the JACL okayed the idea.

The Halls left for New York, and while there they arranged for the plaque to be made and worked out the proper inscription.

They lugged the heavy plaque all the way to Bruyeres. Once there, they got the cooperation of the mayor, arranged for participation by the U.S. Army, which sent a squad of firing troops, and the U.S. Embassy.

The memorial site had to be chosen, leveled and cleared and all parade arrangements made, including cooperation of the French army, which sent a band and a unit of infantrymen. All this had to be done in two days, but the French cooperated magnificently.

The Halls wrote a wonderful story of the event, a copy of which I enclose. There was no mention of their role, though I suspect they were suitably recognized at the ceremony, probably as representatives of the JACL.

Larry Hall joined the United States Information Agency and eventually became one of its top officials. Now retired, the Halls live in Bethesda, Md.

Their role in the establishment and dedication of the 442nd monument has never been recognized or acknowledged. I thought it might be of interest to the Japanese American Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Guyo Tajiri

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