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Misei, age 54, born & raised in So. Calif. , living in LA at the outbreak of hostilities with Japan, attending LA high as a sophomore.

My father was picked up at Terminal Island, while visiting friends, by the FBI on Dec.7., 1941 & kept in jail for a few days before being released.

When EO 9066 was signed & executed by the government, and then given a "choice of leaving our home or being forced into concentration camps, our family readily accepted the former, based solely on my fathers experience with the FBI. .

To explain the anxiety, apprehension , fear & trauma related to that period of time in my life is an impossible task.

Between the time of Dec. '41 to early '42 when we left LA, I attended school on public transportation with all of the stares, racist remarks & the belligerent public. I resorted to riding a bike to school to alleviate my apprehension of attending school.

We left LA in early '42 "voluntarily" for Layton, Utah, although we had never been there before. We left with our uncle & his family and another family, together for safety and convenience since we had only one 2-door automobile in our family of 7 children, grandmother & both parents.

Living in Utah as sharecroppers for the next three years, under the most primitive conditions, was truly a nightmare. We moved three times in 3 years each time trying to live under more favorable conditions, but with not much success.

Sharecropping work, for a city-bred high-school student, which included day & night irrigation, loading cow manure, harvesting tomatoes, sugar beets, etc., seemed like the next thing to slave labor. We also picked fruit, potatoes, beans, etc. to survive during the summer & worked in the cannery when the season was over.

We slept on floors, with lots of bed-bugs for company. We had no running water or electricity and only a wood-burning stove & kerosene lamp for cooking, heating & light to study.

During my last year of high school, my baby sister died, when she fell in the out-house toilet. Everyone was working in the fields at the time, even my mother who was expecting, & so no one noticed that she was gone until it was too late. She died of suffocation.

All seven of us kids were born at home, with a mid-wife in attendance, and my mother never experienced any complications. Since my sister died shortly before my mother was expected to deliver, she was going to a hospital for the first time in her life. She died in the hospital, due to complications, so we were told, giving birth to my youngest sister, who has never seen her mother.



II

Just before my graduation from high school, I recieved my draft notification to report for induction, as soon asschool was over. I served in the US Army \* with a stint overseas in Japan with the occupation forces as a interpreter-interrogator, after attending MISLS in Minnesota.

At the time of my induction, I was glad & fearful to get out of the "slave labor" conditions of the previous 3 years, forced on me & the rest of the family By EO 9066.

To be drafted by the government, to serve your country in time of war under such conditions that existed at that time; incarceration of all persons from the west coast with the wrong color face by aborgating all constituional rights, racist discrimination wherever you went, in public, the media, etc., left me quite apprehensive about my future.

To put a monetary value on the loss of my mother & sister; overcome the anguish, fear, apprehension & anger that I feldt at that time & still to today is wholly incomprehensible to me. But to this end I believe the US Government must show meaningful restitution in the form of monetary compensation, with a minimum of \$25,000, per affected individual.

*Aki Horiuchi*

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Aug. 3., 1981