

Feb 22

Mr. French:

~~Confidential~~

As far as I know Wakatake is okay. However, Mr. and Mrs. Miura worked for the Jap broadcasting station at Hankow and after Sept, 1945 started working there for the Chinese. Our consular representative in Hankow reported that steps should be taken to get them off the air as talk around town was damaging to US prestige due to their wartime activities.

WBH.

4th Floor
Mr Howard
Williams

MEMORANDUM

February 19, 1947

TO: Mr. Francis Styles
FROM: Stewart French
SUBJECT: Citizenship of Japanese-Americans

Major Bob Dwyer, one of the chief prosecutors of the War Crimes Trial in Shanghai (The Bureau Ehrhardt case) spoke to David Coffin and myself about helping two men who were born in the U. S. A. of Japanese parents and who were taken to Japan as infants. Major Dwyer states both of these men were extremely helpful to the prosecution, working long and hard and exercising great intelligence and devotion to duty.

Major Dwyer speaks extremely highly of their loyalty to the United States and has requested us to do everything we can to help them.

It seems they surrendered their passports to this Congen and have not yet received them back.

Is there anything we can do to help them?

sf/emc

SHANGHAI DETACHMENT, STATION COMPLEMENT
ARMY ADVISORY GROUP

APO 917
18 February 1947

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Mr. Stewart French
American Consulate
Shanghai, China

Before Major Dwyer left for Tokyo on TDY Saturday, 15 February, he left instructions that the attached brief history of Clyde WAKATAKE and Kay Kiyoshi MIURA be forwarded to you. The War Crimes office will be closed on 20 February 1947 and both these men will be out of employment. We have not been able to transfer them through our Civilian Personnel office because they have not been cleared by the consulate. Anything you can do to help their cause will be greatly appreciated by Major Dwyer.

Sabina M. Diamond

Secretary to
Major Robert T. Dwyer

Incls: Statements by
Kay Miura
Clyde Wakatake

PRESENT ADDRESS: # 633 Dixwell Road
Shanghai, China
Telephone: 45562

STATEMENT

NAME: WAKATAKE, Clyde

PLACE OF BIRTH: San Jose, California.

DATE OF BIRTH: 17 June, 1919.

FATHER'S NAME: Wakatake, Tasabure (Deceased)

MOTHER'S NAME: Wakatake, Ume

BROTHER'S NAME: Wakatake, Masao. (Younger).

DATE OF DEPARTURE FOR JAPAN: 3 February, 1937

DATE OF ARRIVAL IN JAPAN: 19 February, 1937.

PRESENT OCCUPATION: Interpreter and Translator for the War Crimes Branch,
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Shanghai Detachment,
Station Complement, Army Advisory Group.

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PERSONAL HISTORY

Up until the age of four, I was living in the vicinity of the bay region, San Francisco, moving from one place to another until my family finally settled down in Los Angeles, Cal., in 1924. I lived in Los Angeles until my departure for Japan and during the years in Los Angeles, I was attending school.

I went to the Amelia Street Grammer School and then transferred to Breed St. Grammer School and after my graduation I went to Hellenbeck Junier High School in Boyle Heights. I graduated Hellenbeck in 1935 and ~~then~~ entered Theodore Roosevelt High School. Unfortunately I was not able to graduate high school ~~as~~ because of my departure for Japan.

My father lived in the United States for approximately 34 years and my mother about 20 years. Things did not go too well for my father and also as his health was not too good, his desire was to return to Japan ~~where~~ he was born. As I was only a student at that time and quite dependent on my parents, I had no alternative but to go together with them. We left San Pedro Harbor, Los Angeles, on 3 February, 1937 on the Asama Maru arriving in Japan 19 February of the same year. The port of arrival was Yokohama and after we reached Japan, we immediately left for my father's native country place which ~~was~~ Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

I was quite disappointed and ill at ease because of my lack of understanding in the Japanese language and their customs and after staying in the country for about three months my desire was to return to the States. However, as I have mentioned previously, I was still completely dependent on my parents^{and} I had no other means

but to stay with them until I was able to take care of myself. Also the wish of my parents were that I continue with my studies I entered the Hiroshima Sanyo Middle School from the second ~~year~~ grade. I attended that until my graduation in February, 1941, where I immediately left for Tokyo to enter Meiji University. It was during my school years that ^{the} war broke out, but I continued my studies and stayed in Meiji until my graduation in September, 1943.

In December, 1942, my father passed away and as everything was not too well off for us, I had to obtain a job in order to continue attending school. At this time, I would like to mention here that after the outbreak of the Pacific War, all large firms and companies were placed directly under government control or semi-government control. It was very difficult for me to obtain work in an ordinary Japanese company because ~~mixhacckmmixmx~~ I still ~~had~~ ^{did not sufficiently} understand the full meaning of the Japanese language and the only course open to me at that time was to try to enter a firm where English ~~was~~ being utilized. English speaking firms were being closed rapidly and the course open for me was the News Agency or the news paper company although I had no experience in journalism or writing. Through an introduction by a friend I was employed by the Domei News Agency in Tokyo in the European-American Department doing translation work. This work continued after my graduation until June of 1944. It was in June that I was called over to the Head office of the Austral Asiatic Association where I was introduced to a Mr. Ogata. He was the head of the ~~Aust~~ branch office of the Austral-Asiatic Association in Shanghai and he told me that he wanted a civilian interpreter. I was only too glad to get out of Japan and it was on 6 July, 1944 that I arrived in Shanghai, by plane.

During all these years I never had any Japanese papers or even try to take out Japanese papers. Many times I was approached and asked to take out papers, but I stalled them off by saying that I did not have any birth certificate so it was very difficult for me to take out Japanese papers. After the outbreak of the war, all foreigners were forced to register and take out permits to live in Japan at the Metropolitan Police Station. This included all Japanese-Americans who did not possess Japanese papers. This permit had to be renewed every year and I had to go through many abuses and humiliation by the Japanese police when applying for these papers. Even for traveling outside of Tokyo, I had to get a traveling permit telling them where I was going, on what business, what route I was going to take, etc..

At the office of the Austral-Asiatic Association, I was something like a chief clerk taking care of the office's personnel needs, meeting miscellaneous office duties, translating English commentaries into Japanese and also translating Red Cross messages that were being sent to Australia from Shanghai through our office. This office was under the supervision of the Japanese Naval Press Bureau, where we were getting out funds to run the office. I was in this office until June, 1945 when it was abolished. From then on until the end of the war, I did not take any other employment. It was after the war that I, through some friends, was fortunate enough to obtain work as translator for the Office of Strategic Service. Before being employed I had to make out a complete statement as to my activities during the war and after working approximately eight days I was released from the above job. It was about three weeks later that I was picked up by the Criminal Investigation Division of the United States Army and detained at the Ward Read jail. I was there for about 2 and half months, being picked up on 6 Nov., 1945 and released on 14 January, 1946, where I was later released by Lt. Colonel O'Conner of the Judge Advocate's Office. I had no employment after my release and in desperation, I approached Col. O'Conner if he could assist me in any way of obtaining some kind of work. During this time, the War Crimes office was investigating and trying Japanese war criminals and to carry out this work, some interpreters and translator were necessary. Through the kind permission of Col. O'Conner, I was able to obtain a job as interpreter and translator in the War Crimes Section of the Judge Advocate's Department working as official court interpreter in the war crimes trials tried before the American Military Commission. At present I am still with the War Crimes Office.

Present Address: 633 Dixwell Road
Shanghai, China
Telephone: 45562

Name Mr. Kay Kiyoshi Miura

Home Address 111½ East Canon Perdido St., Santa Barbara,
California, USA.

Present Address 633 Dixwell Road, Shanghai, China.

Date of birth April 30, 1910

Place of birth Napa, California, USA

Nationality American (Nisei)

Parents (Father) Tokuji Miura born in Japan, Kumamoto, Kyushu.
(Mother) Kame Miura born in Japan "

Parents resided in California in U SA
for about 30 years.
Their occupation--Farm and truck gardening.

Sister Chiyoki Takimoto, married to S. Takimoto
living in San Jose at outbreak of war,
present whereabouts unknown.
Born in Japan, came to US around 1917.

Education Graduated primary, grammar, and High School
at San Jose, California.

Graduated High School in 1929.

Started schooling at State Teachers College
but left before finishing. (Short period)

Left the United States on trip to Japan in
November 1929 together with parents.

Entered language basic school in Japan in
1930. Tokyo.

Entered Meiji University Preparatory Department
1931. Graduated 1933.

Entered Meiji University 1933.

Graduated Meiji University in 1936, Tokyo.

Experiences: Employed by National City Bank of New York,
Tokyo Branch from 1936 to 1939 under G.C. Coe.
Mgr.
Resigned bank position in 1939 to take up
employment in non-official capacity as interpreter,
translator with Japanese Consulate in
Hankow.

Prior to taking on job with Japanese office
approached American Consulate Official in
Tokyo on adviseability of this assignment.
Told that they could not issue a visa as
China was in certain parts was under the

occupational forces of Japan, but if the Japanese government was willing to issue an invitation to go to their section, the Consulate could see no harm in accepting. The report of this interview was made to Mr. George C. Coe the manager of the National City Bank of New York, Tokyo, who again advised me to see some Consular official I knew personally. Then went to Yokohama to see Consul General Boise at Yokohama who was a friend of the Niseis and who did everything possible for us. Mr. Boise was out so spoke to another official about going on this trip and was told that the cause was a good one and could see no harm as the U.S. and Japan were on friendly terms. Reporting this interview to Mr. Coe, I was told that every young man has the spirit of youth and since it was for a good cause, my resignation was accepted.

Arrived in Hankow in February 1939. Started work in unofficial capacity as interpreter and translator.

Carried on work in everyway possible to aid and prevent any misunderstandings between the Japanese and Americans, British, French, and other foreign nationals that were present.

Upon outbreak of war between the United States and Japan which was absolutely by surprise, stated my request for resignation to the Japanese Consulate as I was an American citizen and requested to be put on the evacuation list, but this was denied on the

grounds that Japan did not recognize my United States citizenship. Told to remain and carry on work as interpreter.

For some time after declaration of war no Americans were interned and all were permitted to have some leniency.

Was with Consulate until 1944 when bombed out in 1944 and came to Shanghai. Placed under the care of the Embassy Office. However, reprimanded on a number of occasions because I never showed up at the office. Went to the office not more than five times since arrival until surrender of Japan. Was then put on the announcing staff of the radio station XORA under the control of the Japanese and ~~the~~ Puppet Chinese. Read news compiled by Domei as turned in by the authorities. Lived practically broke all the time. Had to make living on the salary received.

Was given no facilities for housing, living expense, nor was I permitted to ask for any loans with the office.

After surrender of Japan went to American Consulate immediately upon their opening to state my case and would appreciate any decision.

Taken into custody as possible suspect and placed in Ward Road Jail from November 6, 1945 and was released on January 15 1946.

Prior to being taken into custody helped out as translator in the office of the O.S.S., U.S. Army and was paid for the work.

After being released from custody did translation work with regard to confidential war crimes documents. Not as an employee but on the basis of piece work.

I was officially employed with the JAGD, War Crimes Section on March 4, 1946 and have been with the United States Army since.

Acted in capacity of translator, and interpreter with the War Crimes Section and as official interpreter at War Crimes Trial in the Ehrhardt case.

Marital Status

Married

Wife-Toshiko Asakura Miura, Nisei

Wife's parents and family in Santa Barbara, California. Long residents, well known.

Wife speaks very little Japanese and had a very hard time through out the war. Was not given fair treatment by the Japanese at all. Ostricized and insulted on a number of occasions.

Would like to see wife get back to her parents at earliest possible time.

At present working with Central Broadcasting Administration of National Government, but is physically weak and needs a chance to get away from all the nervous strain she has already gone through. Her parents are asking her to come back to them for awhile to rest up.

Her brothers served with the 442nd division in Europe.

Note:

Neither of us have ever renounced our American papers, the rights as an American citizenship were not recognized by the Japanese.

We have both applied for registration and passport back to the United States.

I intend to volunteer into the United States Army upon clearance of citizenship status.

I am at present employed as chief clerk at the Ward Road Jail assisting Captain C.R. Parsek with the office work.

Since the surrender of Japan I have given my time and efforts willingly and to the best of my ability. For the first time I feel that I am doing something with my whole heart in the work.

During my years at the University in Japan I devoted my time besides study, in taking up activities in sports and in social functions. Sport activities included baseball, football, and basketball, in which I participated in varsity competition. The purpose was not only because I was interested in these sports but because I believed that sports was a good medium through which friendly relations between the English speaking countries and the Japanese could be maintained. The Japanese were keenly sports-minded and I was in the advantageous position of helping it along at that time. Sports was one event in the country where politics did not take sway and was something that was the closest to the democratic principles which I had been schooled in. Baseball was the rage at that time and many teams representing the United States made their trips to the country and learned I think that the Japanese could be educated in ways that were democratic. Football later became popular and it was another step toward giving the Japanese something which they did not have and which they found to their liking. In other words the spirit of democracy was there among the younger race and they were all to my recollection keen on seeing close and friendly relations with the United States.

In social activities, the few niseis that were in Japan at the time get together and organized a club, the purpose of which was first of all a chance for us to keep the principles of democracy which was ours and not to lose it. Later as more and more niseis came to Japan the organization grew in size and it lead on to holding socials and keeping our American ideals.

As for myself, I held an officers position in one of the largest of these nisei organizations all during the time in Japan. I was therefore, also able to keep in touch with and have contact with the members of the elite and exclusive organization, the America-Japan Society, which was the highest, most respected organization for America-Japan relations.

Upon graduation in 1936 from the university I joined up with the National City Bank of New York Tokyo Branch, where I served until 1939. I was given very good treatment and highly appreciate all that was done for me by the staff.

My termination with the bank came when I began to receive stories of the Japanese army in China running wild and not giving the foreign nationals a chance to carry on a peaceful life. These stories would come to me over the counter of the bank where I was then teller. The true stories were never printed in Japan and all foreign news was strictly and severely censored. It then came into my mind that something might yet be done to stop the unnecessary action of the Japanese. I took it that the reason for all the misunderstanding that arose was because of the language problem. What probably made me give up the bank and decide to enter the service at Hankow was the request that I had received to go to Hankow as a non-official employee of the Japanese Consulate at Hankow and the last flow of news I got over the counter of the bank where some missionaries travelling through Japan said the treatment meted out to all foreigners by the Japanese army was unbearable and that the main cause was the language difficulty. Since I had both Japanese and English, and furthermore, as I had always worked with the interest of friendly relations of Japan with all nations and especially with the United States, as I was myself one of her citizens, I took it upon myself that now was the time to serve in whatever category I could to maintain friendly relations with the United States.

I arrived in Hankow in the employee of the Japanese Consulate Hankow as translator and interpreter of a non-official status. Prior to taking up the position, I had a talk with the manager of the bank and explained

the purpose of my wanting to resign. The manager who took a great interest in me advised me to be sure of my status before taking up the job. He advised me to see the American Consulate and to find out if it would jeopardize my position as a citizen. I went to the Consulate and after seeing one of the consuls there and was told that there should be no difficulty in travelling under the invitation of the Japanese government, I reported the matter to my employer, who again advised me that I'd better ^{see} some one in the Consulate that I knew personally. I knew a Consul ~~General~~ Boise at Yokohama so went there, where I was unfortunate in finding him out. I therefore, saw a Consul and explained the matter who gave me the reply that he saw no objection as there was no state of any form of rupture in Japanese American relations. I was also told that they could not give me a visa as the place I was travelling to was Japanese occupied. If the Japanese had no objections that it should be a good idea to have someone there who could speak both languages and help smooth matters for the benefit of the ~~poor~~ American population.

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7 January 1946

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Citizenship status of Kiyoshi Meiura.
TO: Lt. Col. J. J. O'Conner.
FROM: Glenn D. Edwards

It has been ascertained that on Aug. 20, 1941, the American Consul in Tokyo addressed a letter to the American Consul at Hankow concerning the citizenship status of Mr. and Mrs. Meiura who were presumably then employed by the Japanese Consulate in Hankow. The subject of discussion was whether a person who possessed dual nationality might be considered as having expatriated himself under "sec. 401 (d)" (54 Stat. 1169; 8 USC 801) by accepting employment in the Japanese consulate, if a prerequisite to that position was Japanese nationality. The section of law under reference is as follows:

(A person who is a national of the U.S. whether by birth or naturalization, shall lose his nationality by...) "Accepting, or performing the duties, of any office, post, or employment under the government of a foreign state or political subdivision thereof for which only nationals of such state are eligible."

The letter contains the ambiguous statement that, "it is obvious that only a person possessing Japanese nationality is eligible for employment as a Japanese national and he therefore may be subject to the penalty of Section 401".

It appears that the most significant facts are (1) as of August 1941 the subject was considered as having both American and Japanese nationality, (2) he then held a position under a foreign state, e.g., Japan, for which only nationals thereof were eligible, and (3) the American consular service was at that time unable to determine whether Meiura should be considered as having lost his claim to United States citizenship.

S* GLENN D. EDWARDS
Glenn D. Edwards

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S* GLENN D. EDWARDS
Glenn D. Edwards

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
~~CHINA THEATER~~
~~X-2 BRANCH~~
~~REPORT~~

Local File No. YEK-129

5. The investigation made of MIURA ~~by YEK-14~~ revealed the following: KAY MIURA - News Announcer. Born in the United States. Employed by the Japanese Embassy, Shanghai. Because of his American diction, was shifted to Radio Station XG00. Worked as news announcer and later became RICHARD ICHIRO IWATATE's (the manager of XG00) right-hand man. Helped manage XG00, and offered suggestions frequently accepted. Did not air views or personal feelings. His wife, who was also employed in Radio Station XG00, as a program and continuity announcer, is believed to be American born.

[SAR] 6. The investigation made of WAKATAKE ~~by YEK-14~~ did not reveal any information other than his being an employee of DOMEI and of the Austral-Asiatic Association.

7. Reports were prepared by MIURA on the Japanese Consulate at Hankow, by INOSHITA on DOMEI and by WAKATABE on DOMEI and the Austral-Asiatic Association. The information they furnished is being submitted in reports entitled: "THE JAPANESE CONSULATE GENERAL AT HANKOW", "THE DOMEI NEWS AGENCY" and "THE AUSTRAL-ASIATIC ASSOCIATION".

8. While no information has been received to indicate that these three men were particularly active for the Japanese, the fact remains that they did work for Japanese propaganda agencies, and for the Japanese Government. It was recommended that in view of their previous employment their work for the Translation Section be immediately discontinued.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD: In view of the employment of subjects by DOMEI and by the Japanese Consulate, investigation is being continued relative to the activities of subjects, to determine the extent of their actual work for the Japanese.

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
CHINA THEATER
X-2 BRANCH
REPORT

Local File No. YEX-129

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7 January 1946

MEMORANDUM

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TO: Lt. Col. J. J. O'Conner.
FROM: Glenn D. Edwards

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It appears that the most significant facts are (1) as of August 1941 the subject was considered as having both American and Japanese nationality, (2) he then held a position under a foreign state, e.g., Japan, for which only nationals thereof were eligible, and (3) the American consular service was at that time unable to determine whether Meiura should be considered as having lost his claim to United States citizenship.

S* GLENN D. EDWARDS
Glenn D. Edwards

KAY KIYOSHI MIURA

On September 25, 1945, the above named individual was employed by the Translation Section, Army Liaison Headquarters, to translate unclassified documents. He was an American citizen in Japan when the War broke out, and there-after worked for the Japanese. He had been employed as interpreter for the Japanese Consulate in Hankow as well as the Japanese Embassy in Shanghai. On applying for work, at the Army Liaison Headquarters, He advised that he was an American citizen and had only worked for the Japanese as a means of livelihood. He stated that he was never trusted by the Japanese and was never in a position to obtain information concerning intelligence activities. Enquiries concerning Miura revealed that he is a news announcer, born in the United States. Because of his American diction, he was shifted to Radio Station XG00. After working as a news announcer for this station, he became the right hand man of Richard Ichiro Iwatate, who was the Manager of Station XG00. Miura aided in the management of the station and offered suggestions which were frequently accepted. He did not state his views or personal feelings. His wife who is believed to be American born was also employed in Radio Station XG00 as a program and continuity announcer.

The following information appeared in a questionnaire submitted by Miura:

Name: MIURA, KAY KIYOSHI ()
Present Address: No.3 Great Western Road.
Age: 35. Height: 5'6". Weight: 160. Eyes: Brown.
Hair: Black.
Nationality: American
Married.
Father's name: MIURA, TOKUJI. Address: Kumamoto, Japan.
Living? Yes. Nationality: Japanese.
Born: Japan. Age: 68.
Mother's name: MIURA, KAME. Address: Kumamoto, Japan.
Living? Yes. Nationality: Japanese.
Born: Japan. Age: 69.
Wife's name: TOSHI. Address: No.3 Great Western Road.
Living? Yes. Nationality: American.
Born: Santa Barbara, California.
Age: 28. Maiden Name: TOSHI ASAKURA.
Education: Santa Barbara College.
Language Ability: English-Japanese.
Occupation for past 5 years: Interpreter. Employer:
Japanese Consulate-General.
Salary: C.R.B.\$18,000
Years on Job: 5.
Best Occupation: Radio-Announcer.

ARTHUR J. HANSEN

MANAGER

LUTHERAN MISSIONS HOME & AGENCY.
HANKOW

22935

TELEPHONE

漢口信義公所總經理

韓

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道

天性美籍
電話二二九三五號

~~Confidential~~

February 27, 1947.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. H. B. Howard.
From: Lea E. Williams.
Subject: Application for American passports of Miura and ~~Wakatake~~ Wakatake.

Major Dwyer of the War Crimes Trials called today and expressed an interest in the passport applications of two Jap-Americans - Miura (and wife) and Wakatake. It was explained to him that it will be necessary for these people to prove that their employment with the Jap Gov't ~~was~~ did not require their being Japanese subjects, ~~[redacted]~~. He was also told that these two men will probably have to show that they never served in the armed forces of Japan. These two men stated that they will try to get the information required. Major Dwyer also is going to attempt to obtain proof that Japanese nationality was not a requirement for their jobs (he expected to be in Tokyo in the near future where he will work on this).

Maj. Dwyer is of the opinion that these two men would make loyal American citizens. He bases this opinion ^{on} the fact that they have both worked very hard since starting their present jobs with the U. S. Army. Naturally they have a good reason to make a favorable impression on this Army/officer.

Major Dwyer is also interested in the procedure to be followed by his friends in case their passport applications are refused. In accordance with your instructions on this subject, I told him that when new evidence warranting the reopening of such a case is submitted - the whole case is again sent to the Department for review. I also told him that the Dept of Justice might also study such a case and render an opinion. He did not seem satisfied with this arrangement and stated that a case like this could easily be taken into a Federal Court. I informed him that this is a procedure about which I know nothing and therefore could not give him any advice on such a possibility.

We will no doubt hear more from the two Japs and possibly from Major Dwyer. I believe that his interest is not due to the fact that he has some information clearing these men but only due to his feeling that they have worked hard and appear to be good boys.

LEW
LEW

P.S. The man whose card is attached claimed that he remembers Miura formerly worked for the Japanese Consulate in Hankow in 1940 and 1941.

~~Confidential~~

February 27, 1947.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. H. B. Howard.
From: Lea E. Williams.
Subject: Application for American passports of Miura and ~~MURK~~ Wakatake.

Major Dwyer of the War Crimes Trials called today and expressed an interest in the passport applications of two Jap-Americans - Miura (and wife) and Wakatake. It was explained to him that it will be necessary for these people to prove that their employment with the Jap Gov't ~~xxx~~ did not require their being Japanese subjects. ~~xxxxxx~~ He was also told that these two men will probably have to show that they never served in the armed forces of Japan. These two men stated that they will try to get the information required. Major Dwyer also is going to attempt to obtain proof that Japanese nationality was not a requirement for their jobs (he expects to be in Tokyo in the near future where he will work on this).

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