

register for the draft. The Tanimoto brothers were adamant that they were citizens, but because of being incarcerated would not register. Mori said that if he were given his freedom, he would consider it. Jim asserted that he had registered before going to Tule Lake, but was given a 4-C classification, that of enemy alien. He told the presiding officer that he was neither an enemy nor an alien and would not accept that classification.

An official memorandum dated April 29, 1943, titled "Final Disposition of Registration Recalcitrants" cites the fate of three of the Tanimoto brothers as well as others. The wording preceding the disposition is: "Released following trial, conviction, and completion of sentences." ¹¹⁸

George served from February 21, 1943 to April 7 (45 days).

Mamoru (Mori) served from February 21, 1943 to April 21 (60 days).

Masashi (Mike) served from February 21, 1943 to March 31 (38 days).

There was no entry for Jim, who speculates that the WRA "trial" findings indicated that he had been pressured by his brothers and not capable of independent judgment. Described as a farmer, age 22, before internment, Mori Tanimoto is alleged to have applied for repatriation, would be willing to lose his citizenship and would serve in the army of Japan. He had registered for the draft in Gridley on February 2, 1942, and was classified as 4-C. Mori recalls that he actually told WRA that he

was not being treated as a citizen, but would consider re-registering if freed from camp. The reference to repatriation and willingness to serve in the Japanese Army is untrue.

The final disposition report states that Mike Tanimoto, age 28, was born in California, sent to Japan at age 4 or 5 and attended school there for four years, staying in Japan six or seven years. He wrote a petition just prior to the February 21st seizure of Nisei at Tule Lake, and was said to have applied for repatriation, and that he would fight for Japan.

Actually the term "repatriation" was inappropriate for a person who was a citizen of the United States and had not ever been a citizen of Japan. (This is a minor point, given the seriousness of the situation.) Mike was transferred to the stockade at Moab penal colony in Utah. It was here that the more serious offenders were to receive imprisonment. Mori has no idea of the reason Mike was treated differently from his brothers. A probable explanation is that having been partially educated in Japan gave him the status of Kibei, and the WRA assumed that Kibeis were very nationalistic, in favor of Japan. Jim remembers that Mike (now deceased for several years) reported that Moab was no worse than Tule Lake. He was most impressed by desert-like conditions of the region, as compared with Gridley and the Central Valley.