

WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25

CI/RB
CCP

MID 291.2
Japanese

11 October 1943.



MEMORANDUM FOR: The Assistant Secretary of War.
Attention: Colonel William P. Scobey.

Subject: Japanese-American Combat Team.

1. Inclosed is a copy of the list of rejected volunteers which was forwarded to the Adjutant General with a request that letters be written to these individuals notifying them of their non-acceptability.

2. A copy of the letter to the Adjutant General will be furnished you by Major Edwards, Training Group.

For the A. C. of S., G-2:

John Lansdale Jr.

JOHN LANSDALE, JR.,
Lieut. Colonel, Field Artillery,
Chief, Review Branch, Counterintelligence Group.

- 2 Incls.
- Incl 1. OASW Routing Slip 10-6-43 w/incls.
- Incl 2. Cpy of list of Rejected Volunteers.

ASW 342.18 J. A. Volunteers
7- MIS (LANSDALE)
11 Oct 43



WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to:
MID 291.2 Japanese
(7-1-42)



4 October 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

Subject: Japanese-American Combat Team

The list of names of all Americans of Japanese ancestry who were rejected for the 442d Combat Team has been furnished The Adjutant General with a letter substantially the same as you recommended to be sent to each one. This will notify each man who has been rejected that his services will not be used by the War Department.

GEO. V. STRONG
Major General
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2



Incl # 1/2

1

MEN REJECTED FROM THE ARMY

<u>Relocation Center</u>	<u>Physical</u>	<u>Overage</u>	<u>Underage</u>	<u>Derog. Inf.</u>	<u>Quali. #27</u>	<u>Kibei</u>	<u>Alien</u>	<u>Request Repat</u>
CENTRAL UTAH	28	7	1	3	2	1		
COLORADO RIVER	52	3	1	8	5		2	
GILA RIVER	19	2		2				
GRANADA	17		1	3				
JEROME	3	1			1			1
HEART MOUNTAIN			1			1		
MANZANAR	42	1	2	6				2
MINIDOKA	72	3	7	15	4		1	
POWERS	2			2	2	2		
TULE LAKE	16			2 14		1	1	
OUTSIDE THE CAMPS				14		2		
Total	<u>246</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

MID 201-4
 Japanese

Authority NND 740062
 By MS NARA Date 4.18.03

April 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL GIBSON, G-1:

Subject: Eligibility of Volunteer Japanese-Americans for Japanese-American Combat Team in Special Assignment Group Category.

Reference our telephone conversation of this morning on the above subject, it would be very helpful if this change in policy could be communicated to volunteers in relocation centers who have been tentatively rejected for physical reasons so that these volunteers, many of whom have been offered jobs, can reach some decision as to whether to wait for the Army or not. Do you think you could devise some short statement to take care of this?

ADJUTANT

JOHN M. HALL
 Captain, P.A.
 Assistant Executive

Colonel E. S. Gibson
 Room 3B-917, Pent

OASW:JMH:MGB

April 19, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN HALL:

The Bureau of Public Relations has been given a release which will inform persons concerned that their physical records will be checked to determine whether they can be used in the combat team.

/s/ EDWARD S. GIBSON,
 Colonel, G. S. C.
 Chief, Enlisted Branch, G-1.

92nd 342.18 JP. Volunteer Teams - Manual

4-1

4-16-43

STATISTICS ON FORMS EXECUTED BY MALE AMERICAN CITIZENS

<u>Relocation Center</u>	<u>Number Registered</u>	<u>Number Answering "No" to Loyalty Question</u>	<u>Number Volunteers</u>
Central Utah	2420	806	116
Colorado River	3356	671	238
Gila River	2488	547	119
Granada	1117	117	121
Heart Mountain	1881	451	47
Jerome	1341	110*	33
Manzanar	1626	913	101
Minidoka	1607	32	310
Rohwer	1585	300*	37
Tule Lake	<u>2342</u>	<u>836*</u>	<u>59</u>
Total	19963	4783	1181

* Estimates only, based on preliminary computations.

April 8, 1948.

Compiled by GLH.

Classif. No. ASW 342.18 J. A. General

ASW 342.18 J. A. - VOLUNTEERS - *Manzanar*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



APR 7 1943

Mr. John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

Mr. Eisenhower of the Office of War Information has discussed with me a suggestion that the War Department send a formal congratulatory letter to the parents of Japanese-American volunteers. I believe he is writing you concerning this and I should like to say that I am very much in favor of it.

As you know, the families of loyal citizens in relocation centers are particularly in need of this type of recognition at this time. A simply worded statement complimenting the father on his son's action in volunteering and expressing faith in his son's success as a volunteer should go far in the direction of heightening the pride both of the families concerned, and of center residents in general.

Sincerely,

D. S. Myer
Director

*342.18 War Relocation Authority
Kumamoto
342.18 War Relocation Authority
327.31
4-7-43*



April 13, 1943

Dear Mr. Eisenhower:

Thank you for your letter of April 8 and the suggestion that the War Department dispatch letters of commendation to the parents of Japanese American volunteers.

I agree that such a letter probably would produce a favorable reaction in the recipient parents and it might even increase volunteering, but I question the desirability of singling out this racial group for special consideration. Such action, I believe, would lay the War Department open to criticism that it is playing favoritism to the Japanese. The Japanese themselves repeatedly have asked to be treated as other Americans, and the War Department policy is being oriented in that direction.

I shall insist that the Japanese Americans be accorded the privileges of other American soldiers and that meritorious service by them be rewarded appropriately, but it occurs to me their act of volunteering, although recognized as an act of loyalty and patriotism, also carried with it the opportunity to establish more favorably their position among the American people generally.

While I am not in accord with the suggestion that the War Department initiate such a letter, I do feel a letter of the type suggested should be dispatched by the commander of the unit to which the volunteer is assigned. I am told that some unit commanders make a practice of sending letters of similar nature to next-of-kin when their recruits arrive. It is my feeling that the organization commanders' letter, being an official communication, would

98-5 34218 D.

Volunteers
General

9- Eisenhower
3538- [unclear]
4-13-43

be held by the recipients in somewhat the same high regard as would a War Department letter. With this thought in mind I am having an inquiry made as to what action along this line is contemplated by the commanding officer of the Japanese American Combat Team.

I appreciate your interest on this matter.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

John J. McCloy

Mr. M. S. Eisenhower, Associate Director
Office of War Information
Room 3362
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

OASW:WPS:MDH

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 8, 1943

Honorable John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. Secretary:

A move on the part of the War Department that would do much to improve morale in the War Relocation Centers, and perhaps to increase the number of Japanese-American volunteers, would be the issuing of a signed and sealed letter of congratulation to all parents of Japanese-American volunteers who are in the relocation centers.

There are special reasons for urging this step in the case of Japanese. The Japanese have great respect for symbols of governmental authority; an official document would mean much to them. Induction into the army is regarded by them, due to their native background, as a solemn privilege. The custom of send-off parties in honor of inductees, brought to this country and to Hawaii from Japan, is evidence of the honor attached to induction.

Under present circumstances, because of the curtailment of some of their liberties, the feelings of the Japanese in the relocation centers regarding the volunteering of their children have been mixed. A document from the War Department, simply worded and congratulating the parents on the son's action, would help to clarify their feelings and to engage their loyalties.

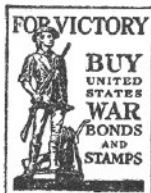
The families of such loyal Americans are particularly in need of moral support, because of the undercurrent of antagonism in the relocation centers. A letter from the War Department similar to the enclosed would be cherished among family possessions, shown to neighbors, and used as tangible evidence of the Government's intention to give the Japanese a fair deal.

I hope you will find it possible to give this matter your favorable attention.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. S. Eisenhower".

M. S. Eisenhower
Associate Director



Enclosure

On behalf of the United States Government, I wish to congratulate you upon the enlistment of your son in the Army of the United States. His action in volunteering for military service is a fine demonstration of strong character and true loyalty.

You have every right to be proud of your son who, by willingly taking his place in the defense of his country, has joined in spirit with the men who came from foreign lands over three hundred years ago to establish our nation. Your son is one with the brave pioneers who have built this nation and believed in it and fought for it.

March 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL NEWTON:

Subject: Press Release Concerning Japanese American Combat Team.

1. Mr. McCloy suggests that if it is not too inconvenient, there be substituted for the first paragraph of the attached release the following:

"Since authorization for the formation of an Army combat team composed of American citizens of Japanese ancestry, more than 1,000 volunteer applications to join the unit have been received in the ten relocation centers in the continental United States, the War Department announced today."

2. Mr. McCloy had the feeling that the release in its present form gave too much the impression that the War Department was doing the Japanese Americans a favor in permitting them to volunteer.

(SIGNED)

JOHN M. HALL
Captain, F.A.
Assistant Executive

Lt. Col. ~~XXXXXX~~ Marshall Newton
Room 2 D 864A, Pentagon

OASW:JMH:MGB

Enc.
Press release 3-18-43

WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations
PRESS BRANCH
Tel. - RE 6700
Brs. 3425 and 3770

2978

March 18, 1943

I M M E D I A T E

R E L E A S E

1,000 IN RELOCATION CENTERS
SEEK TO JOIN COMBAT UNIT

Since authorization for the formation of an Army combat team composed of American citizens of Japanese ancestry, more than 1,000 applications for permission to join the unit have been received in the ten Relocation Centers in the continental United States, the War Department announced today.

Quotas for the unit are being allocated between volunteer inductees from the continental United States and Hawaii, as well as Americans of Japanese extraction who are already in the Army.

At the Minidoka Relocation Center, Hunt, Idaho, four brothers, Chet, Howard, Kenny and Ted Sakura, were reported among the volunteers. When this news reached the War Department, the following letter was sent to Mrs. Misa Sakura, their mother, on behalf of the Secretary of War:

"Dear Mrs. Sakura:

"The Secretary of War has directed that I extend to you the congratulations of the War Department upon the enlistment of your four sons in the Army of the United States. Their action in volunteering for service in the combat team consisting of loyal Americans of Japanese descent is a splendid example of true Americanism.

"President Roosevelt has stated: 'No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution -- whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort.'

"I am sure that you are proud of your sons who have willingly taken their places in the defense of their country."

END

DISTRIBUTION: Aa, Af, D.

March 13, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SURLIN:

Dillon S. Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority, has indicated that it would be very helpful to have a press release made on Wednesday of next week indicating the total number of American citizens of Japanese ancestry who have volunteered for service in the armed forces.

Complete figures on this are not available at the present time but to date they are as follows:

Volunteers from Hawaii, nearly 10,000.

Volunteers from war relocation centers, including evacuees who have previously volunteered for duty at the Military Intelligence Language School at Savage, Minnesota, approximately 1,200.

Volunteers from other sources within the United States, approximately 100.

I shall be glad to discuss this matter with a representative of your office, but in the meantime I assume that it will be necessary to clear this release with the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

Mr. Baker of the War Relocation Authority is their public relations representative and may be reached by calling 819 - 72496.

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBIE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive

OASW:JDH:MGB

OASW 34218
Sarg. Brn. 25 Volunteers

2-1-Myer

3-13-43

DAILY REPORT RECEIVED BY G-2 OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ARMY

		HEART MOUNTAIN	GILA RIVER	ROHWER	CENTRAL UTAH	MINIDOKA	COLORADO RIVER	TULE LAKE	GRANADA	MANZANAR	JEROME	OUTSIDE
February	20	7	-	11	32	6	98	-	33	33	10	12
"	22	6	-	5	-	16	14	-	13	12	4	3
"	23	8	-	-	3	32	-	-	-	11	-	7
"	24	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
"	25	-	-	-	-	17	11	-	11	-	-	-
"	26	2	-	6	-	-	24	6	16	-	-	5
"	27	-	-	6	-	-	9	-	-	6	-	6
March	1	-	16	-	19	19	13	-	40	7	5	3
"	2	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
"	3	5	-	-	-	92	1	-	-	-	-	13
"	4	-	-	-	-	16	-	6	-	-	-	1
"	5	-	-	-	4	15	9	-	-	5	-	2
"	6	-	-	-	-	16	17	5	3	-	-	5
"	8	9	15	-	-	39	-	8	-	1	-	9
"	9	2	15	3	-	23	-	-	-	2	-	-
"	10	-	3	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	4
"	11	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	3	-	5	2
"	12	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	7	3
"	13	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
"	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	15	2	13	1	-	-	54	3	-	1	-	3
"	16	-	-	-	-	3	4	21	-	-	-	3
"	17	2	13	1	-	-	54	3	-	1	-	3
"	18	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	7
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"	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
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"	22	-	6	-	5	1	6	2	-	-	-	3
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"	24	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
"	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
"	26	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	14
"	27	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	4
"	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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