

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MID 291.2 Japanese

January 31, 1943.

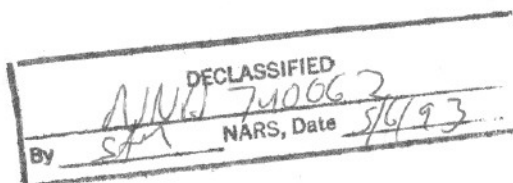
MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of the Assistant Secretary of War,
Attention: Captain John M. Hall.

Subject: Japanese enlisted men.

1. The following are the names of the enlisted men of Japanese ancestry who will accompany the teams to the Relocation Centers:

S/Sgt Kazunobu Tamura	39230523
T/4 Gr Edward H. Aburamen	39077183
T/4 Gr Isamu Adachi	39151355
T/4 Gr William T. Ishida	39081444
T/4 Gr Akira Kato	39387151
T/4 Gr Hisato Kinoshita	39155319
T/5 Gr Taro Tsukahara	39004178
T/4 Gr Fred Odanaka	39157446
T/4 Gr Kenneth M. Uni	19066254
T/4 Gr Kazu Yoshihata	39085132

JOHN LANSDALE, Jr.,
Major, Field Artillery,
Chief, Review Branch.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 25, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL SCOBEEY:

The number of enlisted men of Japanese descent in the Army this date as given by the Machine Records Section, Adjutant General's Office, is as follows:

Camp McCoy	1,380	(100th Bn.)
Camp Savage	550	
Other Posts in U. S.	3,026	
Hawaii	<u>675</u>	
Total	5,631	
	<u>1,380</u>	
	4251	

In addition there are 22 officers of Japanese descent on active duty in the United States and 46 officers of Japanese descent not on active duty in the United States.

MERRITT B. BOOTH,
Lt. Col., Infantry.

* The 100th Battalion is no longer at Camp McCoy. Therefore the total figure should be reduced by 1380.

HALL

4251
<u>1380</u>
2871
<u>675</u>
2196

ASW 34218 J.A. General
Hickford, chief

13 July 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Attention: Chief, Machine Records Branch.

Reference the attached memorandum from your office, dated 10 July 1943, subject: American Soldiers of the Japanese Race, file AG 032.2 (23 June 43), it appears that the statement made in paragraph 2 regarding the number of Japanese Americans recruited in Hawaii and other insular possessions - 2073, is incorrect. Previous information furnished this office indicates that in April some 2800 were voluntarily inducted in Hawaii and transferred to the United States Mainland for service with the Japanese American Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

It is requested that this apparent discrepancy be reconciled, and that this office be furnished with a statement on the situation.

[SIGNATURE]

WILLIAM P. SCOBEE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

XX

ORCV:VPS:RHW

Enc: as described above.

Chief, Machine Records Section
AGO
Room 1024 Munitions Building
20th & Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D. C.

13 Jul 43

DECLASSIFIED

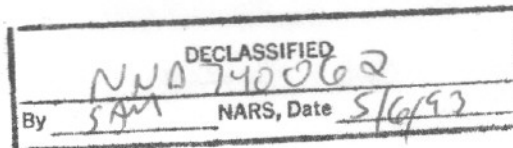
Authority NND 740062
By AB NARA Date 5/14/04

LW:be:1014 OM-R

~~RESTRICTED~~

AG 032.2 (23 June 43)

10 July 1943.



MEMORANDUM FOR: Col. William P. Scobey,
Executive to Assistant Secretary of War.

Subject: American Soldiers of the Japanese race.

1. With further reference to your memorandum of 23 June 1943, a report showing the cause of separation or transfer of Japanese American soldiers from 1 July 1940 through 31 May 1943 is inclosed.

2. Of the total number recruited during this period 3883 entered the service in the continental United States and 2073 in Hawaii and other insular possessions.

AMBROSE F. WHITE,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Chief, Machine Records Branch.

1 Incl.
List

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~SEPARATIONS OF SOLDIERSOF JAPANESE RACE

<u>CAUSE OF SEPARATION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Certificate of Disability	54
Dependency	1
Convenience of the Government - over 38	1
Convenience of the Government - To Enlist in Regular Army	34 *
Convenience of the Government - To Accept Appointment as Warrant Officer	1 *
Convenience of the Government - To Accept Commission as Officer in the Regular Army	7 *
Convenience of the Government - Erroneous Enlistment	4
Desertion	2
Died in Active Federal Service - of Disease	2
Died in Active Federal Service - of Accident (not Aircraft)	2
Died in Active Federal Service - Killed in Action	14
Total	<u>122</u>

CAUSE OF TRANSFER TO ERC

Transferred to ERC or Released from Active Service - Dependency	2
Transferred to ERC or Released from Active Service - Over 28 Years	8
Transferred to ERC - Convenience of Government - Loyalty Doubted	265
Over 38 Years of Age	1
Total	<u>276</u>

AGGREGATE TOTAL398

* Not considered as released from the armed services.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
MACHINE RECORDS BRANCH
10 JULY 1943

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~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

AG 032.2 (23 June 43)

10 July 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Col. William P. Sebey,
Executive to Assistant Secretary of War.

Subject: American Soldiers of the Japanese race.

1. With further reference to your memorandum of 23 June 1943, a report showing the cause of separation or transfer of Japanese American soldiers from 1 July 1940 through 31 May 1943 is inclosed.

2. Of the total number recruited during this period 3883 entered the service in the continental United States and 2073 in Hawaii and other insular possessions.

AMBROSE F. WHITE,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Chief, Machine Records Branch.

1 Incl.
List

~~RESTRICTED~~

3 July 1943

Dear Congressman Holifield:

You recall my conversation with you with reference to the request made in your letter of June 17. I asked the Adjutant General for figures and data as to the number of Japanese American soldiers now in service and the locations from which they came. I now have a preliminary report from the Adjutant General in which he informs me that as of 31 May 1943 there were 5,600 Japanese American soldiers serving in the Army.

Additional information requested by you cannot be furnished at this time since it will require an examination of the records. I expect an additional report on or about July 15 at which time I will give you additional information.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBRY
Colonel, General Staff
Executive to Ass't. Secretary of War

Honorable Chet Holifield, M.C.
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

OASW
WPS:MS

3-18 J.A. Brown
Holifield, Cong. Clert.

X X

3 Jul 43

WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLYOFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTONIN REPLY
REFER TO:AG 032.2 Holifield, Chet
(23 Jun 43)OM-R

2 July 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel William P. Scobey,
Executive to Assistant Secretary of War.

Subject: Concerning American Soldiers of the Japanese race.

1. This is in reply to your memorandum of 23 June 1943, same subject as above, in which you requested information on the following points:

a. The approximate number of Japanese American soldiers now serving in the Army.

b. The number of Japanese American soldiers recruited

- (1) In the continental United States
- (2) Hawaiian and other insular possessions.

c. The number of Japanese American soldiers who have been released from the armed services, with a statement as to the reason for their release.

2. According to records in this office, there are approximately 5600 Japanese American soldiers now serving in the Army, as of 31 May 1943.

3. A machine tabulation will be required to secure b and c above and it is estimated that this additional information will be ready for dispatch to your office by Saturday, 10 July 1943.

A. F. White
AMBROSE F. WHITE, *Inc*
Colonel, A. G. D.,

Chief, Machine Records Branch.



Authority NMD 740062
By AB NARA Date 5/14/04

HAROLD W. LANE
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
5180 WHITTIER BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE:
POST OFFICE AND POST ROADS

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

RECEIVED
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

SECRETARIES:
MILDRED WINFREE
FLORENCE M. ODEMAR

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
408 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Washington, D. C.

1943 JUN 18 AM 10:01

June 17, 1943

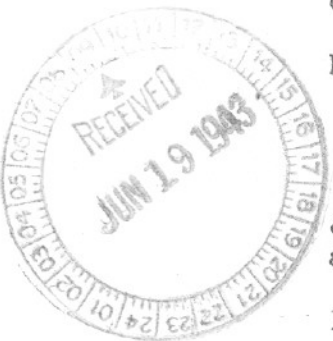
Honorable Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As a member of Congress from the state of California, I am greatly interested in the so-called Japanese problem.

I would like to ask a few questions in regard to the participation of American soldiers of the Japanese race in our armed forces. Any question asked which infringes upon confidential information need not be answered.

1. Approximately how many Japanese American soldiers are now serving in the armed forces?
2. What is their general record in regard to loyalty and efficiency as soldiers?
3. What per cent of Japanese American soldiers have been released from the armed service because of insubordination or doubt as to their loyalty?
4. What per centage of Japanese American soldiers have been recruited from the-
 - (a) Continental United States
 - (b) Hawaiian, Philippines and other insular possessions?
5. Is it the policy of the armed forces to utilize Japanese American soldiers in the Pacific combat area against enemy Japanese troops?



I might herein conclude that I am heartily in favor of the manner in which General DeWitt has handled the Japanese evacuation from California and that I appreciate and approve the splendid work of the War Relocation authorities.

The questions I have asked about have been asked for the purpose of obtaining factual answers to the questions from my constituents and for the purpose of supporting the Army and the War Relocation authorities in their policies.

Sincerely yours,

Chet Holifield
Chet Holifield, M. C.



0520 320 (Japan) (6-17-43.)
004 032.2 Holifield, Chet
(17 Jun 43)

WAR DEPARTMENT
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MINISTERS
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
812 WEST 165TH PLACE
GARDENA, CALIFORNIA
PHONE MENLO 4-1325

INDEPT.
JUL 26 1943
ASST. SEC.

1943 JUL 24 PM 4:07

ADW

July 20, 1943.

Secretary Stimson,
War Department,
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

I am concerned lest the rising tide of hysteria against all Japanese in America make the post-war solution of the problem of returning them to civilian status an extremely difficult one. If it is not too difficult, I would appreciate it if you would have some one in your organization give me information on the points named below providing they do not involve secret military information.

1. How many Nisei Japanese are now in the American Army? If information is available as to how many volunteered and how many were drafted, I would appreciate it.
2. How many of them are overseas?
3. How many of them have been guilty of treacherous conduct against the U. S. A.?
4. How many have been cited or given awards? Names and addresses of these would be helpful if from southern California.

Yours truly,

Arthur T. Kent

342.10 811. Paul [unclear] [unclear]

34218 2A. Gen.
 34218 2A. Gen.
 34218 2A. Gen.
 34218 2A. Gen.

On that occasion the soldier was arrested by the civil police and transferred to his unit: 28 July 1943 that he was "drunk but not sober".

To date the record shows that three Japanese soldiers have been cited. These three were awarded the Medal of Merit, for meritorious service in the theater of operations. Since all of these soldiers were serving in the combat zone having been stated. I regret it is not possible, because of military security reasons, to give exact answers to the questions you ask. However, I can give approximate and general statements which I trust will serve your purpose. The answers given herein are in the order in which the questions were asked.

a. There are approximately 8,000 Japanese American citizens in the Army at the present time. Of these 8,000 approximately half are volunteers. On December 7, 1941, there were approximately 4,500 Japanese American soldiers serving in the Army, and although some were discharged the greater number of them were retained in service. On January 28, 1943, the Secretary of War authorized the organization of a Japanese American combat team. The press release announcing that organization is attached herewith for your information. In addition to the separate Japanese units in the Army there are about 3,000 Japanese American soldiers in other units and scattered throughout the various service command units.

b. It is not possible to give the number of U. S. soldiers of Japanese extraction now overseas. It can be stated, however, that this number is much less than a thousand. It might be added that the majority of those serving overseas are in the Southwest Pacific theater.

c. There is no single reported incident of treacherous conduct on the part of any Japanese American soldier. As a whole their conduct is better than the average American unit. In fact, as far as known to this office, the record of the 442nd Infantry Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, (having a strength of about 3,500) for three months showed only one court martial for serious offenses. Reports submitted to this office show that the military offense of "absent without leave" is negligible. Also, it was stated that only one Japanese American soldier had been arrested in the city of Hattiesburg.

Press Release 28 Jan 43

34218 2A. Gen.
 34218 2A. Gen.
 34218 2A. Gen.
 34218 2A. Gen.

ARTHUR T. KENT
MINISTER

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
812 WEST 165TH PLACE
GARDENA, CALIFORNIA

RECEIVED
JUL 25 1943
POST OFFICE

1943 JUL

On that occasion the soldier was arrested by the civil police and transferred to his unit with the report that he was "drunk but orderly".

July 20, 1943.

d. To date the record shows that three Japanese American soldiers have been cited. These three were awarded the military decoration, Medal of Merit, for meritorious service in the theater of operations. Since all of these soldiers came from Hawaii, I am not furnished their names. Neither can the theater of operations in which they are serving be stated. Commanders serving in the combat zones having Japanese American soldiers under their control in all instances report that they perform highly important missions in a very loyal manner. In fact, these officers report no single occasion for having the slightest concern about their loyalty and trustworthiness.

The officers of the Army having closest contact with the Japanese American soldiers and those in command of the units to which they belong are enthusiastic in their praise for them. In particular, the 442nd Infantry Combat Team has a very high esprit de corps, and the War Department is of the opinion that when its training is complete it will be able to acquit itself with honor on the field of battle.

I trust the information given herewith will be of value to you and serve your purposes.

1. How many Nisei Japanese are now in the American Army? If information is available as to how many volunteered and how many were drafted, I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

2. How many of them are overseas?
3. How many of them have been guilty of conduct against the U. S. A.?
4. How many have been cited or given awards? Names and addresses of these would be helpful if from southern California.

The Reverend Arthur T. Kent
First Methodist Church
812 West 165th Place
Gardena, California

Yours truly,

Arthur T. Kent

oasw;vps;maw

Encl.

Press Release 28 Jan. 43

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 740062

By AB NARA Date 5/14/04

JSC/hpj/

WAR DEPT.
Jul 18 1943
ST. SEC.

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
WASHINGTON

In Reply
Refer to:
AG 032.2 (17 Jul 43)OM

17 July 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL WILLIAM P. SCOBEEY,
Executive to Assistant Secretary of War:
Subject: American Soldiers of the Japanese Race.

1. Attention is invited to the attached memorandum from your office dated 13 July 1943, and memorandum from this office dated 10 July 1943, Subject: "American Soldiers of the Japanese Race," file AG 032.2 (23 Jun 43).
2. Data submitted in paragraph 2 of memorandum from this office were obtained from induction records received from the Headquarters, Hawaiian Department. A check has revealed that no records of induction were received in this office from the Hawaiian Department for the 2,800 inducted in April.
3. The method of reporting the strength of the Army is in no way associated with the method of reporting inductions and although no records were received in this office showing the Japanese Americans as being inducted, they are being carried in the strength of the Army if they are assigned to any organization.
4. An investigation is being made to determine why these induction records were not received from Hawaii and corrective measures are being taken to assure a more prompt delivery of records from foreign departments in the future.

500 342.18 O.A. Hancock
(Resignated) (Check)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 740042
By AT NARA. Date 4-29-93

Ambrose F. White
AMBROSE F. WHITE,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Chief, Machine Records Branch, AGO

- 3 Incls.
Incl # 1 - Memo for Col Scobey, 10 Jul 43.
Incl # 2 - List.
Incl # 3 - Memo for TAG, 13 Jul 43.



~~RESTRICTED~~



17 Jul 43

FILL

10 July 1943

STATISTICS ON JAPANESE POPULATION AND EVACUATION

Persons of Japanese ancestry in U.S.A., April 1940 - - - - - 126,947
 California (73.8%), Washington (11.5%) and Oregon (3.2%)
 had 88.5% or - - - - - 112,353
 Arizona .5% - - - - - 632

Total evacuated - - - - - 112,000
 Voluntarily - - - - - 5,000
 Under orders (almost all into relocation centers) - - - 107,000

Total in U.S. never in relocation centers - - - - - 20,000

Approximately 2/3 citizen - - - - - 85,000
 1/3 alien - - - - - 42,000

72% of citizens have never been to Japan

Releases from relocation centers - - - - - 15,000
 Indefinite leave - - - - - 8,000
 Seasonal leave - - - - - 7,000
 Aliens run about 15% of total releases

"No" answer to Question 28, male citizens of military age - - - -24%
 "No" answer to Question 28, citizen and alien 17 and above - - - -10%

Total questionnaires - Alien 35,000 - - - - -73,000
 Citizen 38,000

About 1000 in unevacuated parts of Washington, Oregon and
 California; Colorado, 2734; New York 2538; Utah 2210;
 Idaho 1191; Montana 508; Nebraska 480; Nevada 470

ASW 342.18 Statistical

X-Hall

10 Jul 43

HQ, 442ND INFANTRY COMBAT TEAM
CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI



June 17, 1943.

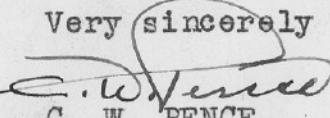
Colonel William P. Scobey,
Office of the Assistant Secretary,
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Scobey:

Herewith is a detailed report on interviews with thirty-five representative Japanese American soldiers who returned to evacuated areas of the Western Defense Command on furloughs soon after their induction.

In general, they reported they had encountered no incidents nor heard of any others who did. They found favorable receptions in varying degree on all sides and those who expressed themselves without exception thought a similar welcome would await any returned evacuee.

Very sincerely yours,


C. W. PENCE,
COL., 442nd Inf.,
Commanding.

30 June 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL RUFUS S. BRATTON:

Here is a copy of the remarks and statements made by the Nisei who returned to the evacuated area of the Western Defense Command on induction furlough. I think this is rather illuminating as to the sentiment on the West Coast. Of course the anti-Japanese press and propaganda agencies have stirred up anti-Japanese feeling among certain classes, but they do not appear to have sold their ideas to everyone.

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEEY
Colonel, General Staff
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

Encl.

Report on Japanese American Soldiers Who Visited Western Defense Areas.

Colonel Rufus S. Bratton
2E 482
Pentagon

OASW:WPS:MDH

ASW 342.18 Subfactory 4422nd

X X

30 June 43

ASW 349.18 Infantry 442nd

30 June 1943

Dear Colonel Pence:

Somewhat belatedly I want to express my thanks for your letter of June 17, and the summary of statements by the Nisei who returned on furlough visits to the West Coast evacuated area. These reports not only were interesting, but they are of value to us. Copies were furnished to the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, and to the Ninth Service Command.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEEY
Colonel, General Staff
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

Colonel C. W. Pence, Commanding
442nd Infantry Combat Team
Camp Shelby, Mississippi

OASW:WPS:MDH

ASW 254 Permits to Army - Comments
Collected from
X X

30 June 43

Report on Japanese American Soldiers
Who Visited Western Defense Areas

-0-

1. Masao Kanemoto-- Visited Caucasian friends in San Jose, Cal., May 29 to June 4, 1943. Excellent reception, was interviewed by town newspaper and picture printed. Write-up was favorable. San Jose State College paper also wrote him up. Greatly enjoyed visit and impression of area was good. Friends and strangers stopped and talked to him on streets and in restaurants.
2. Bill Shimada-- Visited Caucasian friends in Seattle May 16-19. Reception by friends very good while strangers were indifferent to his presence. Encountered no incidents and was not stopped by police. Thought Seattle looked good and would like to go back.
3. Frank Kimura-- Visited Chinese, Filipino and Caucasian friends in Reedley, Cal., May 16-19. Reception and treatment very good, but he thinks wearing uniform of U.S. soldier made difference. He believes from own experience Japanese evacuees would be welcomed back to his home.
4. Franklin Koriyama-- Visited Caucasian friends in Seattle, June 12-15. Reception very cordial and no unpleasant incidents. He thought settlement of evacuees in farming areas would be acceptable.
5. Yasuo Fujino-- Visited Caucasian friends in Seattle May 26 to June 2. No unpleasant experience with strangers or police and most favorably received by friends. General impression of home town excellent and would like to go back again.
6. Victor Mariyosu-- Visited sister in Spokane, Wash., May 18-22. Good treatment by public, had a good time and found sister uncomplaining.
7. George Hijiya-- Visited Caucasian friends in Portland May 9-11. Treated fine by friends and had no difficulty in hotels, trains or restaurants.
8. Kei Kitahara-- Visited Salinas, Cal., two days and farm at Reedley, Cal, formerly operated by himself and brother. Treated well both places, particularly enjoying Reedley where Chief of Police and High School principal greeted him cordially. Saw many ex-schoolmates and "it was just like old times." Didn't think uniform made any difference, believes he would have been treated same in civilian clothes.
9. Masaharu Okumura-- Visited Caucasian friends in Santa Barbara, Cal. May 25-June 2. Treated very well. Thought town looked "different" and noted many of his friends had gone into Army. Was accepted as another returned soldier. Would like to go back.
10. Seiya Tanaka-- Visited Sanger, Cal., 7 days from May 27. No difficulty anywhere, found most of his friends had gone into Army
more

or defense work. Would like to return at earliest opportunity.

11. Kaun Onodera-- Visited, without incident, Caucasian friends in Seattle 7 days from May 14. Believed uniform made no difference that he would have been received with same ~~and~~ cordiality in civilian clothes. Saw many strange faces in district where he formerly lived, found many of his schoolmates had gone into service.

12. Frank C. Okada-- Visited Seattle May 19-22. Encountered no incidents; thought former Japanese residential district looked bare ~~and~~ with stores closed and windows boarded up. Saw no friends there but he had lived in other residential district (Caucasian) and was cordially received by parents of schoolmates, many of whom had gone into service. Was widely congratulated on getting in Army.

13. Hiroshi Hirai-- Visited old friends in Seattle May 24 for three days. Treated very well and had no incidents to report. Encountered lot of back-slapping on being in uniform. Would like to go back but would prefer going back in uniform to civilian clothes, believing that makes difference.

14. Allen T. Anzai-- Visited Visalia, Cal. one week from May 14. Felt very welcome, not even looked at by MP's and was joyfully greeted by what schoolmates he could find. Would like to go back again.

15. Sakae Samu~~e~~l Aoyama-- Spent three days in Seattle from May 7. Keenly felt honor of being in uniform and was warmly greeted by friends. From reception he thought it would be feasible for evacuees to be returned. He would like to go back.

16. Kozo Hiromura-- Visited Portland three days from May 6. His old high school teacher expressed great pride in Hiromura and other Caucasian friends made him glad he was soldier. Visited Chinese restaurant and found manager and employees most friendly. Had no incidental difficulties and heard of none affecting others.

18. Mitsuru Hayashi-- Visited Klamath Falls, Ore. one week from May 27. No incidents. Saw many schoolmates who congratulated him on getting in service. He believed Japanese still left in town were having difficulty getting gasoline, but otherwise they were unaffected. He was treated as ~~in~~ just another American soldier and would like to go back.

19. Roy Sato.-- Visited Portland May 17-25. Had a good time with many of his old friends who toasted him on being in uniform. Saw no difference in town except increased war activity particularly at shipyards. He'd go back at earliest opportunity, in or out of uniform.

20. Ko Onodera-- Visited Seattle 7 days from May 19. Experienced no difficulties with other soldiers, civilians or police. Had no trouble getting hotel room or eating in restaurants. General impression

more

3-- Report on visits.

was that town was favorably disposed toward Nisei soldiers. Thought uniform accounted in good part for that. (See No. 34)

21. Henry Izumizaki-- Visited Watsonville, Cal., from June 1 to June 5. General impression good. He was well treated by Caucasian friends and had no incident to report involving treatment from police or general populace.

22. Fred Oshima-- Visited Caucasian friends in San Francisco, Berkeley and Richmond June 1-5 without incident or unpleasant reception in any way.

23. Martin L. Ito-- Visited Caucasian friends in San Diego from May 31 to June 3 and found things much to his liking. The welcome was cordial and he came back well satisfied and confident.

24. Portola Takata-- Visited Caucasian wife and friends in San Francisco from May 29 to June 3 and was highly pleased with reception. He thought, however, that the Chinese resented his being back in coastal area. On visiting Chinatown he was "stared at" and thought he was subject of lot of talking in Chinese but there was no incident or difficulty.

25. Tokio Matsushita-- Visited friends in Watsonville, Cal., and had an excellent time. They were surprised to see him in uniform but that made his visit all the more welcomed. No unpleasant incidents and he is positively certain that Japanese would be ~~wild~~ welcomed back to evacuated areas.

26. James C. Nose-- Visited Seattle May 9-11. Friends and acquaintances were hospitable but he believed strangers regarded him as a Chinese or Filipino. Well received and stayed in home of Caucasian friend. His picture was published in a paper and he was widely congratulated.

27. Jim T. Suzuki-- Visited Caucasian friends in Seattle, Wash May 20-22. Had no unpleasant experiences during his visit and was accorded good treatment at hotel and restaurants. Had a good time with friends and would like to go back.

28. Albert Ichihara-- Visited Caucasian and Chinese friends in Seattle, May 18-22. Cordial welcome by friends, and no unpleasant experiences. He believes that the Japanese can go back into the Western Defense Command without much difficulty.

29. John K. Endo-- Visited Caucasian friends in Castorville, Cal., near Salinas, May 15-17. The reception was grand and he had no trouble of any kind, either in the town or en route.

30. Nagasawa, Ichiro J.-- Visited Seattle, May 30 to June 2, and stayed with Caucasian friends. His welcome by friends was good though he believes that the uniform does make a difference. He had no ill treatment by anyone.

4-- Report on visits

31. Gichi Yamagata-- Visited Salinas, Cal., two days and Reedley, Cal., two days, ~~from~~ May 15-19. Found friends cordial and strangers attentive and well disposed probably because he was in uniform. Had no difficulty with police or other soldiers. It made him lonesome to visit his old haunts and things generally did not look so cheerful but he'd be glad to go back.

32. Hisashi Nishimura.--Visited friends and ex-school teachers in Seattle and was cordially received. Strangers probably thought he was Chinese and police were unquestioning. Believed morale was good and thought Nisei would be welcomed back generally. Other soldiers were particularly friendly to him after reading pieces about Japanese Combat Team.

34. Ko Onodera-- Visited Seattle May 18-22 and found friends cordial, other soldiers no different and was ignored by officials. Believes evacuees could go back without difficulty. Found former Japanese district "dead" with weeds growing where farms ought to be producing. (See No. 20)

35. ~~Yasuhiko~~ Tatsumi Tada-- Visited Seattle ~~from~~ May 12-14 and would have liked to have more time there due to ~~for~~ friendly reception from all including other soldiers and officials. Encountered no incidents himself and heard of none affecting other returned Japanese American soldiers.

END

28 June 1943

ASN 34216 JA.
General

Dear Senator Connally:

The writer of the attached letter, Private First Class Charlie Rose, ASN R-3508960, Med. Det., Station Hospital, Hamilton Field, California, in voicing an objection to the acceptance of Japanese Americans into the Army, gives no reason for his stated views. Regardless of what may impell him to offer the objection, it cannot be considered by the War Department as justifying a policy of not using loyal American citizens of Japanese extraction in the military service.

The Army now has approximately 8,000 Japanese American citizens in the Army and of these approximately 4,500 belong to the 442d Infantry Combat Team, stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. These men are proving to be excellent soldiers and the disciplinary record of the Camp Shelby organization is one of the best in the Army. Not only has there been no indication of any disloyalty on the part of these soldiers but to the contrary they have evidenced a wholehearted desire to do their full duty. It is believed that the unit will do well in combat when its training has been completed.

In addition to the Camp Shelby organization there are a number of Japanese American soldiers in other Army units. In fact, some of these soldiers are serving in theaters of operation in combat with the enemy, and from all reports they are doing their duty in a highly commendable manner. Only recently three of them were decorated for exceptional meritorious service. There are other Japanese American soldiers being trained for and employed in confidential assignments, and these too have satisfactorily demonstrated their dependability and loyalty.

XX
X-Road

The use of Japanese American citizens in the Army is in accordance with the policy stated by the Secretary of War on January 28, 1943, at which time he announced the War Department's plan to organize the Japanese American Combat Team. At that time

28 June 43

he made the following statement.

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the Nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations, those barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am glad that I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war."

Since it appears that Private Rose has no information of either the value of Japanese American soldiers to the war effort or of their loyalty and dependability, it is suggested he be advised that the War Department is carrying out the principles of democracy as expressed by the Secretary of War, and there is every indication that the young Japanese American citizens in the Army are demonstrating their loyalty to the United States with a zeal equal to other American citizens.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBEE
Colonel, General Staff
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

The Honorable Tom Connally
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Encl.

Ltr to Senator Connally from Pfc Charlie Rose, Hamilton
Field, Calif., dated 12-6-43. Commenting on JAs in the Army.

OASW:WPS:MDH

April 12, 1943

Dear Roane:

Twice before I have written to you with reference to American Legionnaires of Japanese extraction. In these letters I have given you impressions of loyalty on the part of these Japanese Legionnaires. These were my observations in the Japanese Relocation Centers I visited.

I stated in my letters that it is my feeling that some recognition should be given to these Legionnaires who, although they have yellow skins and slant eyes, definitely and by positive actions indicate their loyalty to this country. In nearly all cases these men were aliens, born in Japan, but Congress saw fit to give them citizenship for their services in the last war. Now events prove that with but few exceptions these men value their citizenship and ask to prove their worth to their adopted country.

A significant example of this is indicated in the quoted paragraph given below, from a report made by Major S. L. A. Marshall on the situation which existed at the Tule Lake, California, Relocation Center during the period the War Department Registration Teams were registering Japanese American male citizens as a preliminary to the plan for organizing our Japanese American Combat Team. The War Department Registration Team encountered a serious situation at Tule Lake. The disloyal Japanese had entered into a conspiracy to frustrate the military registration and actively attempted to break it up. One of the loyal groups who materially assisted the Army teams in this registration was the American Legion group. I quote here from Major Marshall's report:

"I cannot refrain from expressing my high regard for this latter group (American Legionnaires) or from commenting on the serious injustice that has been done by the United States. Certainly the highest credit is due them for their service, and yet no one has come forward to speak for them. Instead of burning with resentment because they were treated just like the rest of the people of Japanese blood, these

veterans have done their best to reconcile opinion in the Center to the situation. Few men are more deserving of better treatment at this country's hands than these, and few have gotten less. On one day when registration had ceased entirely, an Issei sixty-two years of age, bodily ill and walking with a cane, came to the registration hall. I expressed astonishment at seeing him. He said: "I am a citizen. This is my country. I won my citizenship fighting in the last war." I said: "How do you wish to answer the question as to whether you are willing to serve in the armed forces?" He replied, taking the citizenship papers from his pocket: "How could I prove myself worthy of these papers unless I were willing to go again?" I told him that he might be in physical danger because he was registering when the thousands would have no part of it. His words were these: "Do you think I am afraid of these people when I have been a soldier of the United States?" I had no answer for him, but I had and still have the deep conviction that it is time for the country to say something to these men and to treat them with the same kind of dignity that they have accorded their citizenship."

It is my sincere hope that regardless of the general opposition by the California Legions, some recognition can be given to these legionaires.

I hope that upon your return from your North African trip I will have an opportunity to talk to you about this matter and that you will in the meantime inform me on the action proposed.

Sincerely,

~~ADAMSON~~

WILLIAM P. SCOBAY
Colonel, General Staff
Executive

Colonel Roane Waring, National Commander
American Legion
War Memorial Building
Indianapolis, Indiana

OASW:WPS:MDH