

WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON



January 25, 1943.

ASST 34218 Jap. - Cannon

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL SCOBAY:

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		} ————— 3,576.
Other Posts in U. S.	3,026		
Hawaii	675		
Total	5,631		4,251
	<u>1,380</u>		<u>675</u>
	4,251		3,576 in U.S.

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

M. Booth



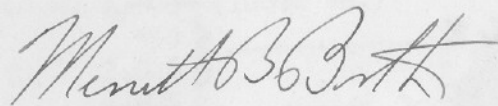
1-25-43

WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL SCOBAY:

On October 3, 1942 there were 3,857 enlisted men of Japanese descent stationed in the United States. We are calling on the Adjutant General to furnish us the present figure.



MERRITT B. BOOTH,
Lt. Colonel, Inf.



~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~
~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~AIRMAIL SPECIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

The Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, D.C., has the honor to advise you that the following units are being constituted and activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on February 1, 1943, in accordance with applicable tables of organization and allied tables, including all published changes thereto, except that the Cannon Company and Band of the 442d Infantry will not be organized. The units are assigned to the Third Army and will be organized as a combat team. Each unit is allotted an initial over-strength equivalent to fifteen (15) percent of the table of organization strength of active elements.

TO: Commanding Generals, Third Army, Third Army Ground Forces, Third Army, Seventh and Eighth Service Commands

- The following units are constituted:
 - 442d Infantry - T/O 7-11 (4-1-42)
 - 522d Field Artillery Battalion - T/O 6-25 (4-1-42)
 - 232d Engineer Combat Company - T/O 5-17 (4-1-42)

2. The units listed above will be activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, by the Commanding General, Third Army, on February 1, 1943, in accordance with applicable tables of organization and allied tables, including all published changes thereto, except that the Cannon Company and Band of the 442d Infantry will not be organized. The units are assigned to the Third Army and will be organized as a combat team. Each unit is allotted an initial over-strength equivalent to fifteen (15) percent of the table of organization strength of active elements.

3. Enlisted cadres conforming to those specified in applicable tables of organization will be furnished as indicated below and will be moved by commanders concerned so as to arrive at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, prior to February 1, 1943:

<u>Cadre for:</u>	<u>Furnished by:</u>
442d Infantry Regiment	Seventh Service Command
232d Engineer Combat Company	Seventh Service Command
522d Field Artillery Battalion	Eighth Service Command

In addition to the table of organization cadre furnished for the 442d Infantry Regiment, the Commanding General, Seventh Service Command, will furnish the following cadre for the Medical Detachment, 442d Infantry:

- 1 Technical Sergeant (673)
- 3 Staff Sergeants (673)
- 1 Technician Grade 5, Clerk, record (055)
- 1 Technician Grade 5, Dental (067)
- 2 Technicians Grade 5, Medical (123)
- 3 Technicians Grade 4, Surgical (225)
- 11 Total

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 740 062
 By Jmc NARA. Date 4/29/93

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~

*A Ser. 372. 18
Pop. am. - Jan
(faw)*

~~RESTRICTED~~

The enlisted cadre men need not hold the grades specified in table of organization but must be capable of performing the duties of the position for which selected. All cadre men must be American citizens of Japanese ancestry who have resided in the United States since birth. The selection of the cadre men will be coordinated with the Director of Intelligence in each Service Command concerned. A complete roster of all cadre men selected will be furnished to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, as soon as practicable after selection has been made.

4. Enlisted fillers required to bring the units to full table of organization strength plus allotted overstrength will be furnished without requisition by this office through the Selective Service System in coordination with the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, so as to arrive at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, not prior to March 1, 1943.

5. Officers: a. Regimental and battalion commanders will be designated by the Commanding General, Army Ground Forces.

b. The remainder of the officer complement will be furnished, insofar as practicable, from personnel under control of the Commanding General, Third Army.

c. Additional officers required to complete the officer complement will be requisitioned in the usual manner.

d. Officers of field grade and captains furnished under the provisions of subparagraphs a, b and c above, will be white American citizens. Other officers will be of Japanese ancestry insofar as practicable.

e. The Commanding Generals, Army Ground Forces and Third Army, will submit a roster of all officers assigned or selected for assignments to the elements of this combat team, to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, as soon as practicable.

f. Officers furnished on requisition will be cleared through the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, prior to assignment.

6. Supply: a. These are non-divisional units.

b. Priority for distribution of controlled items of equipment is B-2-61.1. (See letter, this office, AG 400 (11-5-42) OB-S-C-M, November 9, 1942, subject: "Distribution of Controlled Items of Equipment.")

c. Tables of Basic Allowances are applicable as follows:

(1) For clothing and individual equipment: Table of Basic Allowances 21 (6-20-42) with Changes 1 and 2.

(2) For other supplies and equipment: Table of Basic Allowances 5 (6-1-42) with Changes 1 and 2 for the 232d Engineer Combat Company, Separate.

Table of Basic Allowances 6 (7-1-42) with Changes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the 522d Field Artillery Battalion.

Table of Basic Allowances 7 (6-20-42) with Changes 1 and 2 for the 442d Infantry.

~~RESTRICTED~~

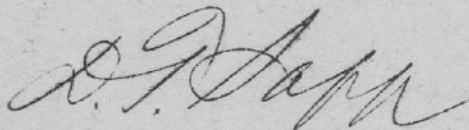
7. The organization of these units will not be publicized or used for propaganda purposes without approval of the Bureau of Public Relations.
8. Direct correspondence between all concerned is authorized. In this connection it is desired that communications and publications of copies of all orders pertaining hereto be kept at the absolute minimum consistent with the efficient accomplishment of actions directed herein.
9. Dates of activation will be reported without delay to Commanding Generals, Army Ground Forces and Services of Supply, and this office by letter.
10. Obligate the allotment cited below to the extent necessary:

Finance Service, Army

FD 33 P 433-01, 433-02, 433-03, 433-04, 433-05, 433-07, 433-08 A 0425-23

(For travel of personnel, including dependents; for packing, crating, un-packing and shipping equipment, impedimenta and household goods; tolls and ferriages en route; gasoline, oil and repairs to motor vehicles en route; communication service; rental of camp sites and procurement of utility service.)

By order of the Secretary of War:



Adjutant General.

Copies furnished:

Commanding Generals,
Services of Supply
Replacement and School Command
Fourth Service Command
Divisions of the War Department General Staff
Commanding Officer,
Camp Shelby, Mississippi
Director, Bureau of Public Relations

ASW 342.18 Jap. Am.

U. S. Army To Include Japanese Unit

**Loyal Citizens
Will See Action
In European Theater**

Fighting Americans whose ancestors were Japanese are to be organized into a major combat unit to help the United Nations besiege Hitler's "fortress of Europe" under a new military policy announced here yesterday.

Fifteen hundred of the new warriors are to be drawn as volunteers from the Hawaiian area under present orders, and others from War Relocation centers in this country.

Individual Japanese have been admitted to the American armed forces, but there were no Japanese-American units of the size contemplated by the new program. The combat team is to include infantry, artillery, engineers and medical personnel, and the unit would presumably number several thousand men.

Senators Applaud Move

Senator Chandler (Democrat) of Kentucky, and other members of a special Senate Military Affairs Subcommittee investigating the relocation program, applauded the move to form loyal American citizens of Japanese descent into such a unit.

Their approval was voiced after hearing Joseph Grew, former American Ambassador to Japan, and other witnesses warn against alienating the many citizens loyal to this country despite their Japanese descent.

Senator Mahoney (Democrat) of Wyoming, a member of the committee, disclosed that the new military plans call for using the projected Japanese-American com-

See JAPS, Page 4, Column 6.

Combat Unit Japanese-Americans

Continued from Page 1.

employment in war production as well as military service."

A hint of how the program might be expected to work came from Hawaii where Lieut. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, announcing the plan to induct 1500 Japanese-Americans as volunteers for the new unit, praised the war service already performed by members of that racial group.

General Emmons, commander of the Hawaiian Department, and also military Governor of America's first battle area of this war, said that loyal Japanese-Americans had contributed materially to the security of the Hawaiian area.

Emmons, the Associated Press reported, said that the volunteers would be trained for Army duty in this country, and will "when trained, be sent into an active theater of operations."

Stimson said the plan was based on recognition of "the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the Nation's battle."

About two-thirds of the 110,000 Japanese now held in detention centers are American citizens, the War Relocation Authority reported. However, some are Japanese-educated and of probable loyalty to their ancestors' homeland.

For some time there has been agitation both within the Government and without for release of those citizens of unquestioned loyalty.

WRA has blamed difficulties in the camps, such as the riot at Manzanar, Calif., last month in which one man was killed, primarily to ill feeling between pro-Axis Japanese and pro-American ones.

1-29-43

~~RESTRICTED~~

ASW 342.18 Jap Army

January 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SURLIN:

Subject: Announcement of Induction of Japanese-Americans into the Army

1. Mr. McCloy assures that you plan to take the attached up with OWI and WRA. The last paragraph of the proposed statement looks sour.

2. The tentative time schedule, exclusive of any pronouncement by the President, is as follows:

Monday	January 25	Personnel of teams to visit relocation centers arrive in Washington for instructions.
Thursday	January 28	Secretary of War's press conference announcement.
Saturday	January 30	Teams leave for relocation centers.
Wednesday	February 3	Press release for volunteers outside of centers. Special announcement in each relocation center.
Thursday	February 4	Teams arrive at centers.
Friday	February 5	Speeches are delivered to units of 200 at a time and questionnaires executed.
Monday	February 15	Teams leave centers.

F. F.

(SIGNED)

Encs.

1. cc ltr 1-15-43 D.S. Myer to J.J. McCloy and draft referred to in above enclosure No. 1.

OASW:JMH:MGB

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

1-20-43

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~DRAFT
1/15/43

COPY

January 15, 1943

Confidential

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

Dear Mr. McCloy:

Since our discussion last Tuesday, I have taken the liberty of preparing a draft of a statement which I hope the President will be willing to send to Secretary Stimson for his use in connection with his announcement of the establishment of a combat unit for Japanese-Americans. I have already shown a copy of this draft to Elmer Davis and Mr. Cowles, and I believe Mr. Davis has a suggestion or two which he feels would strengthen the statement.

It is my belief that this is a matter that should be handled just between you or Secretary Stimson and Mr. Davis. Also, since it involves the whole manpower approach as well as general comments about American citizens and others, it might be well if it were cleared with the President by Mr. Davis. However, this is a matter on which I am not competent to pass.

Perhaps, if the President is willing to make a statement, it might be well to so draft it that it would be released 10 days or two weeks after Secretary Stimson's statement. In that case, it could be tied back to his announcement, but I want to be quite sure that we not miss fire. Therefore, if there is any question about that, I would much prefer to have it handled as a part of the Secretary's press conference.

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to General Suñes, Elmer Davis, and Gardner Cowles, Jr.

As you know, I will be out of town from tonight until about February 1, and Mr. Elmer Rowalt will be acting in my absence.

I sincerely hope and trust that the plans will develop in accordance with procedures outlined, and I see no reason why there should be any hitch.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure

/s/ D. S. MYER

~~RESTRICTED~~DRAFT
1/15/43

COPY

The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry has my full approval. This seems to be a logical step toward the reinstatement of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast. This new unit would be in addition to the nearly 5,000 men of Japanese ancestry now serving in the Armed Forces.

Citizens of the United States who are loyal and reliable should not be denied the right to exercise their responsibilities of citizenship, regardless of ancestry. All citizens should be provided the opportunity to serve wherever their skills will make the greatest contribution, whether it be in the Armed Forces, industry, agriculture, public service, or other work essential to the war effort.

I am glad to note that the War Department, the Navy, the War Manpower Commission, the Justice Department, and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program to assure the opportunity for all such American citizens or others loyal to the United States, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country, particularly at this time when the wise use of manpower is all-important to the war effort.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
FOUNDED 1899



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

ROBERT T. MERRILL
COMMANDER IN CHIEF
P.O. BOX 324
HAVRE, MONTANA



FSW 342.18 Pop. Ann.

January 21st, 1943.

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
Room 4-E-886,
Pentagon Building,
War Department,
Arlington, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed herein you will find a copy of a proposed letter addressed to Secretary Stimson, with reference to the matter discussed by us at our recent conference, together with a copy of a proposed press release regarding such matter, for your information and approval.

Please check the figures contained in these instruments as to the number of persons involved now in the United States and the approximate number that might be utilized in the proposed project, as we desire this detail should be correct.

As soon as your approval is made, including any changes your office may desire to make, the letter will be forwarded to Secretary Stimson and the press release issued both in Washington, and from our National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.

With best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT T. MERRILL,
Commander-in-Chief.

RESTRICTED

F. Merrill

1-21-43

January 00, 1943

Enclosures--Copy of letter to Secretary of War
Henry L. Stimson and story for immediate release

The ranks of our organization include men of every nationality, including Japanese, German and Italian. We have rendered honorable service

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

Dear Sir:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States vigorously recommends the immediate adoption of policies which will impose upon all loyal American citizens, without distinction and irrespective of their hereditary background, the same military service obligations which confront native-born American citizens of military age.

Among the 110,000 Japanese Americans confined to War Relocation Centers, there are several thousands who [vehemently] profess absolute loyalty to the United States.

We recommend that those whose citizenship records are found to be without fault, after close scrutiny by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, should be given the opportunity, if otherwise qualified, to demonstrate their loyalty by front line service against the Axis powers.

Among the 110,000 Japanese currently isolated in Relocation Centers, the War Relocation Authority has pronounced 2,500 Japanese American students eligible for admission to 259 colleges and universities approved by the War and Navy Departments. 384

350 in attendance as of 1/12/43 additional 150 expected in the 6 mos.

This policy of permitting young Japanese Americans to enter our colleges and universities - while the sons of other American citizens are risking their lives to protect our country against its enemies - is inconsistent with basic Americanism principles and discriminatory.

According to authoritative information, [at least 25 per cent of those] Japanese Americans being held in War Relocation Centers are so intensely loyal to the United States they are being harassed and persecuted by the pro-Axis Japanese elements with whom they are being forced to associate.

gangs for

We believe the spectacle of a contingent of loyal Japanese Americans fighting in the front lines against the Axis powers will explode Japanese propaganda which aims to convince the people of the Far East this war is a conflict between the white and yellow races.

Likewise, it is inconsistent with our policies not to permit every loyal American citizen to bear arms for his country, regardless of race, creed or color.

Encl
Hour

-2-

The ranks of our organization include men of every nationality, including Japanese, German and Italian, who have rendered honorable service to our country in World War I and in previous campaigns and expeditions. Many of these same men are serving again in this war, anxious to protect the personal investments they have already made in America's security. Countless thousands of our members are also the fathers of sons serving with the Armed Forces in all sections of the globe - sons who have temporarily abandoned the security of college classrooms for the hazards of front line service.

We respectfully urge induction into the military service of all Japanese American citizens qualified for such duty under Selective Service regulations and whose past citizenship records prove they have honestly repudiated all allegiance to Japan or its rulers.

Cordially yours

Robert T. Merrill
Commander-in-Chief

RTM/AH

Enclosures--Copy of letter to Secretary of War
Henry L. Stimson and story for immediate release

-2-

are
of Military service for several thousand Japanese American basis
citizens "whose past citizenship records prove they have honestly
repudiated all allegiance to Japan or its rulers" was recommended
to the War Department today in a message addressed to Secretary
of War Henry L. Stimson by Commander-in-Chief Robert T. Merrill,
Havre, Montana, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. classrooms
for The V.F.W. leader condemned the present policy of denying
military service to Japanese Americans as "inconsistent with
basic American principles and discriminatory." in-Chief Merrill cites
the Commander-in-Chief Merrill estimates that 110,000 Japanese
Americans are confined to 10 War Relocation Centers in the Rocky
Mountain area. He further states that ^{the great majority} several thousand of
these Japanese Americans profess loyalty to the United States and
are anxious to prove their patriotism.

In criticizing the alleged inconsistency of existing policies,
Merrill declares the War Relocation Authority has pronounced 2,500
Japanese American students eligible for admission to 259 colleges
and universities approved by the War and Navy Departments.

350

"We resent this discrimination which requires certain American
citizens to risk their lives in protection of our country against
its enemies while Japanese Americans of military age are permitted
to enjoy the safety of a college campus," declared the V.F.W. Chief.

Merrill points to the fact that the members of his organization
are overseas veterans of every nationality including Japanese, Ger-
man and Italian. He declares these veterans, as well as non-veterans

OFFICE OF LEND-LEASE ADMINISTRATION
FIVE-FIFTEEN 224 STREET NW.

452

-2-

of both German and Italian heritage, ^{are} being inducted on the basis of their citizenship records.

Merrill's appeal to Secretary Stimson cites the argument that thousands of members of the V.F.W. "are also the fathers of sons serving with the Armed Forces in all sections of the globe - sons who have temporarily abandoned the security of college classrooms for the hazards of front line service."

In recommending the induction of loyal Japanese Americans who are qualified for military service, Commander-in-Chief Merrill cites the value of this policy as a "psychological weapon" against Japanese propaganda which seeks to convince the people of the Far East the present war is a conflict between the white and yellow races.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AG 220.71 (9-28-42)OB-S-P

~~RESTRICTED~~

IVII/el-1705

October 7, 1942.

SUBJECT: Revision of War Department Instructions Governing
Granting Furloughs to Soldiers of Japanese Ancestry.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
Eastern; Southern;
Central and Caribbean Defense Commands;
Hawaiian Department;
All Service Commands;
The Commanding Officer,
Bermuda Base Command.

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: ~~SECRET~~ :
: :
: :
: DATE: Oct 7, 1942 :
: :

ASW 342.18 Jpg Amvians

1. Instructions contained in radiogram from this office, May 27, 1942, regarding furloughs for soldiers of Japanese descent are rescinded.

2. Soldiers of the Army of the United States of Japanese ancestry may be granted furloughs for purpose of entering states of Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona in cases of:

- a. Extreme emergency involving serious illness, which will probably result in death, of members of the soldier's immediate family.
- b. Death of members of the soldier's immediate family.
- c. Circumstances which, in the opinion of the Commanders concerned, merit special consideration because of the peculiar features thereof, may be referred to the Commanding General, Western Defense Command for consideration.

3. Direct correspondence between Commanders concerned and the Commanding General, Western Defense Command is authorized in order to obtain travel permits which are required to be in possession of soldiers of Japanese ancestry who may be granted furloughs in conformity with the policies under Paragraph 2. Such travel permits must be obtained by the soldier prior to initiation of travel. In extreme cases where time will not allow securing a travel permit by mail prior to initiation of travel, such travel authorization will be given by radio direct to the soldier concerned, if so requested by the Commander concerned, and a formal permit will be mailed to the soldier to reach him either enroute or at his destination.

4. Application for travel permits direct to the Commanding General, Western Defense Command by all Commanders concerned is authorized. The following information for the issuance of travel permits is required:

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~~RESTRICTED~~

~~SECRET~~

AC 220.71 (9-28-42)OB-S-E

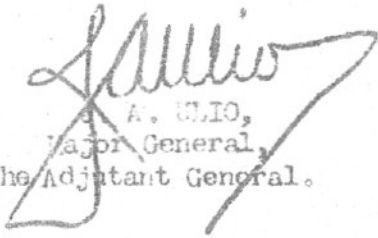
(Cont'd)

October 7, 1942.

- a. Soldier's name, rank and ASI.
- b. Route to be traveled
- c. Time of arrival within the Western Defense Command
- d. Ultimate destination
- e. Name of person or persons to be visited
- f. Soldier's present address.

5. Directors of all War Relocation Projects will be notified by Deputy National Director, WRA that visitations at Projects within the area of the Western Defense Command will be authorized when the soldiers of Japanese ancestry have in their possession approved furlough papers and travel permits issued by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command.

By order of the Secretary of War:


J. A. ULLO,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

COPIES FURNISHED:

The Commanding General, Army Ground Forces
The Commanding General, Western Defense Command
Cominch, United States Navy
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, W.D.G.S.

~~SECRET~~

F. WALTON BROWN
LEET W. BISSELL
BEN S. BEERY
JOHN R. ATWILL, JR.
ASTRID ROGNES

BROWN, BISSELL & BEERY
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
912 ROWAN BUILDING
458 SOUTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

RECEIVED
WAR DEPARTMENT
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

PASADENA OFFICE
334 FIRST TRUST BUILDING
595 EAST COLORADO STREET

1945 JAN 2 PM 4:30

December 29, 1944



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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your criticism of the Post of the American Legion at Hood River for striking from its rolls sixteen (16) members who are American citizens of Japanese extraction was widely publicized in this area. I am concerned for fear that you may feel that the action of the Hood River Post expresses the desires and beliefs of all Posts of the American Legion.

At its last meeting on December 21, 1944, Los Angeles Post No. 8, which meets at Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, and which consists of over 1000 members unanimously passed a resolution advocating that the rights and privileges of American citizens of Japanese extraction be upheld and respected and that there be no discrimination against these citizens because of their ancestry. Although I am not a member of Los Angeles Post No. 8, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of this resolution so that you may be assured that all Legionnaires do not approve of the action of some Posts.

I trust you will feel as I do that this resolution is a constructive step in the solution of the problem of American citizens of Japanese extraction.

With kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,

Ben S. Beery
Ben S. Beery

BSB:lb
enc.



COORDINATION
AND CONTROL DIV.
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF WAR

OSW - 291.2 Japanese - Americans (12-29-44)

R E S O L U T I O N

OF

LOS ANGELES POST NO. 8 AMERICAN LEGION

WHEREAS, there has been considerable controversy and agitation since Pearl Harbor regarding the rights and status of American citizens of Japanese descent; and

WHEREAS, included among such Americans are those who have served in the American armed forces in World Wars I and II and those who are now serving America in various combat areas with heroic distinction; and

WHEREAS, among that group are those who have served actively and patriotically for many years as our comrades in the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, we have personally observed their conduct and activities as members of our own Legion Post and as members of the 17th District of California; and

WHEREAS, there have been grave assaults upon the rights of these fellow Americans and there has been and is now being waged a persistent campaign of intolerance, prejudice and hatred against them; and

WHEREAS, our attitude toward Americans of Japanese ancestry is of transcendent importance not only to them but to all Americans of whatever ancestry since it concerns a preservation of our constitution and the maintenance of the rights guaranteed thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the order of evacuation issued by the military authorities has now been vacated and the return of a number of the Japanese to our community is anticipated; and

WHEREAS, we are of the conviction that the time has come for a fair, honorable and American expression regarding this so-called Japanese problem;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the members of the Los Angeles Post of the American Legion, do hereby declare:

1. There must be no discrimination whatever against any American citizen based solely on his Japanese ancestry. We are deeply concerned over the widely disseminated expressions of certain groups and individuals which seek to deny these Americans their rights as such and attempt to establish a distinction between them and other citizens solely by reason of their race in disregard of the constitutional provision that there be no distinction between any person because of his race or color.
2. We particularly deplore any expression emanating from an American Legion source which refuses to accord any American ex-service man or service man the same rights, privileges and honors as any other citizen solely because of his ancestry.
3. We urge our comrades in the American Legion to see to it that the persons and property of the Japanese returning to our community are safeguarded and protected and that they be accorded their full rights and privileges under the constitution without reservation.

B

The White House
Washington

WBS NL PD

DEC 5 7 21 AM 1944

JUSTICE

MS NEWYORK NY DEC 4 1944

THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE

SECRETARIAL COUNCIL FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE OF NORTH
AMERICA RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS YOU PROTEST OR OTHERWISE USE
INFLUENCE TO SECURE REPEAL UNAMERICAN ACTION OF HOODRIVER
OREGON POST AMERICAN LEGION IN ERASING NAMES SIXTEEN
AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY FROM COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL AS
REPORTED NEWYORK TIMES DECEMBER THIRD

JOE J MICKLE FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE OF NORTH
AMERICA 156 FIFTH AVE NEW YORK.

RECORDED

INDEXED

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DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DEC 18 1944

DIVISION OF RECORDS

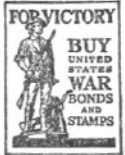
War Div

NEW

CRIM. - GEN. CRIME SEC.

Department of Justice
Washington

December 22, 1944
December 22, 1944



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

Dear Mr. McCloy:

I enclose a telegram dated December 4 to the President from the Foreign Missions Conference of North America requesting repeal of the action of the Hood River, Oregon, Post of the American Legion in erasing the names of sixteen Americans of Japanese ancestry from the county war memorial.

In view of the fact that the discrimination involves persons in respect of their service in the armed forces of the United States, I refer the telegram to you for any action you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Herbert Wechsler
Assistant Attorney General

7 December 1944

Mr. Edward Scheiberling, National Commander
The American Legion
1608 K Street, NW
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scheiberling:

It has recently been called to my attention that a post of the American Legion on the West Coast has erased the names of a number of soldiers of Japanese ancestry, now serving in the United States Army, from its county war memorial.

Many of these soldiers whose names were stricken are serving on overseas battlefronts. There are at the present time approximately 13,000 Japanese-Americans who are serving or have served in the armed forces. You may recall that the 100th Infantry Battalion has been serving overseas for more than a year in combat on the Italian front, and has established an outstanding combat record and been cited for gallantry. The 442nd Combat Team, also a unit composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry, has fought courageously and well on the European front. It seems incongruous and wholly inconsistent with American ideals of democracy that these men who, just like millions of other Americans, have demonstrated their loyalty to their country by bloody sacrifices, should be subjected to such unworthy discrimination.

I am quite sure that the American Legion with its fine record of protecting the interests of the veterans, as well as the position which it holds in the minds of the American people, cannot condone such unfair acts.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) J. J. McCloy

JOHN J. McCLOY
Assistant Secretary of War

Extra

C O P Y

27 December 1944

Mr. Edward Scheiberling, National Commander
The American Legion
Mr. Joe J. Mickle
Foreign Missions Conference
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Mickle: Your telegram to the President has been referred through the Department of Justice to the War Department. For your information I am enclosing a copy of a letter Mr. McCloy has written to the National Commander of the American Legion on this subject.

From later press reports I understand that the Hood River, Oregon, Post has stated that they will return the names of the sixteen individuals involved if it is proved that they do not have dual citizenship. The action of this post against American citizens who have offered their lives and services to their country is a sorrowful reflection on those who are responsible for this act.

Sincerely,

I am quite sure that the American Legion with the record of protecting the interests of our veterans, as well as the position which it holds in the minds of the American people, cannot condone such an act.

HARRISON A. GERHARDT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

Enc.

X-X

Article from New York Times of 3 December 1944:

MEMORIAL BARS JAPANESE

Legion Post Erases Names of 16
Serving United States

HOOD RIVER, Ore., Dec. 2 (AP)

The Hood River Post of the American Legion has erased the names of sixteen Americans of Japanese ancestry now serving in the United States Army from its county war memorial, Comdr. Jesse Edington said today. Many of these soldiers are serving on overseas battlefronts, the post reported.

Mr. Edington said his post would attempt to have excluded from the Hood River Valley all persons of Japanese ancestry, including those moved from their homes to inland areas for security purposes by the Army. The commander, added that his post would cooperate with the Fresham, Ore., Legion in a similar plan there.

SPX 342 (1-28-43)FR-I

February 1, 1943.

Subject: Induction of United States Citizens
of Japanese Ancestry.

To: Commanding General,
Sixth Service Command,
Services of Supply.

1. A combat team composed of English speaking native born (continental United States or its territories) United States citizens of Japanese parentage or ancestry will be activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and will be ready to receive fillers not earlier than March 1, 1943.
2. Beginning February 23, 1943, 3,000 English speaking native born United States citizens of Japanese parentage or ancestry qualified for general service will be selected in the continental United States by voluntary induction through Selective Service.
3. Each volunteer will be cleared by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, prior to being ordered by his local board to report for induction. Clearance will be indicated on a special form, Statement of United States Citizens of Japanese Ancestry (304 A), a copy of which will be forwarded by the local board to the induction station with each registrant.
4. Only men qualified for general military service will be inducted. Inducted registrants, if they request it, will be transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corps and returned to the locality of the local board which forwarded them for induction, recalled to active duty and ordered to report to the nearest reception center seven days hence in the same manner as other registrants.
5. These individuals will be processed at reception centers in the same manner as other registrants. They will be assigned to the Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Separate reports on number inducted will be recorded at Service Command Headquarters and reported to the War Department upon call.

By command of Lieutenant General SOMERVELL:

SAME LETTER SENT TO ALL SC's (EXCEPT NW)

Apt. & Ind. Br.,
VLS, 78786

Adjutant General.

ASW 342.18
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X - AG
X - Somervell

ADVANCE COPY

of Officials of National and State Headquarters Only

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

January 27, 1943

LOCAL BOARD RELEASE NO. 179

EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 1, 1943

SUBJECT: INDUCTION OF VOLUNTEERS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

1. Certain registrants of Japanese Ancestry may volunteer

The Army has announced the formation of a combat team which will be composed entirely of United States citizens of Japanese extraction or parentage, who have made application for voluntary induction through the Selective Service System, and who are found by the armed forces to be physically qualified for general military service. Such volunteers will be limited to persons who were born in the United States or its Territories, and who speak English. The Army will be ready to accept such volunteers on and after February 23, 1943. Even though some such registrants should be found acceptable none should be inducted before that date.

2. Determination of acceptability necessary

Registrants of Japanese ancestry who are citizens of the United States and wish to volunteer for this special combat team may do so at any local board. However, it is necessary to obtain a special determination of acceptability in each case. A special form, Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry (Form 304A) will be used for this purpose. Except as herein directed, all persons of Japanese extraction or parentage shall remain classified IV-C as at present.

3. Preliminary procedure

When a United States citizen of Japanese extraction or parentage between the ages of 18 and 38 wishes to volunteer for induction, the following procedure shall apply:

(a) If he is at his own local board, he shall be permitted to file Application for Voluntary Induction (Form 165), complete quadruplicate copies of Form 304A, and will be notified that preliminary physical examination has been waived and that if he is found acceptable by the armed forces he will be immediately classified and ordered to report for induction. The local board shall immediately forward all copies of Form 304-A to the Director of Selective Service through the State Director.

(b) If he is at a local board other than his own, the procedure will be exactly the same as in paragraph (a), except the board will require completion of Request for Transfer of Delivery (Form 154), leaving blank the date of mailing Order to Report for Induction and the time and place of reporting, and will forward all copies of Forms 154, 165, and 304A to the registrant's own local board. Registrant's own local board will forward all copies of Form 304A to the Director of Selective Service through the State Director.

ASW 34218 Jap. Ancestry - form

(c) If volunteers are in a War Relocation Authority Center, forms 154, 165, and 304A will be completed by Army representatives. For those found acceptable the Army representatives will forward all such forms to local boards through the Director of Selective Service and State Directors.

4. Procedure after determination of acceptability

Following the determination of acceptability, the procedure shall be as follows:

(a) When the local board receives Form 304A indicating that the registrant is "acceptable," registrant shall, if not deferred, be classified in Class I-A, ordered to report for induction, and delivered in the usual manner, or may be transferred for delivery to another local board. A copy of Form 304A will be forwarded to the induction station with each such registrant. Such registrant will be carried on the Delivery List (Form 151) and will be counted in filling the regular call.

(b) If Form 304A, received by the local board, indicates that the registrant is not acceptable, he shall remain in Class IV-C and will be so notified by the issuance of a new Notice of Classification (Form 57).

(c) If the registrant is delivered for induction and is rejected at the induction station as physically disqualified for all military service, he will be placed in Class IV-F.

(d) If the registrant is physically qualified but is returned to the local board because the special quota is filled, the local board shall leave the registrant in Class I-A, make a notation in column 27 of Classification Record (Form 100), and notify the State Director of this fact.

5. Prompt action requested

Local boards are requested to take prompt action on each such case in all steps of procedure and classification in order that the induction of such registrants and the formation of the Army combat team may be accomplished as promptly as possible.

6. Supply of Forms 304A

One set (four copies) of Form 304A is being sent with this Release to each local board. An additional supply is being forwarded to State Directors. Local boards will requisition necessary additional Forms 304A from the State Director.

Lewis B. Hershberg
DIRECTOR

LBH/phw

DISTRIBUTION "A, B, C, D, E, F"

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1608 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

March 7, 1945



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

Dear Mr. McCloy:

The National Commander of The American Legion, Edward N. Scheiberling, has asked me to tell you that the Hood River, Oregon, Post of The American Legion had wired him as follows: "At our regular meeting here Monday night, we voted to restore the names of fifteen Japanese-Americans to our honor roll".

Since you had written the Commander on this subject, he thought you would be interested in this action.

Sincerely,

Elbert H. Burns
ELBERT H. BURNS
Assistant National Adjutant

EHB:15

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



Chicago, Illinois
January 19, 1945
161-1

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER
INDIANAPOLIS 6, IND.

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With reference to your letter calling my attention to the action of Hood River Post #22 in removing the names of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry from its honor roll, after a thorough and complete investigation of the matter, I have just dispatched the following telegram to the Commander of Hood River Post:

"J. B. Edington, Commander
Hood River Pst #22
The American Legion
Hood River, Oregon

After a thorough investigation of the action of your Post in causing to be removed from honor roll on November 29, 1944 the names of sixteen citizens of Japanese ancestry, and after a review of all of the data submitted by you, I believe it will be to the best interest of the war effort and of the American Legion to restore at once to the honor roll the names of those removed, with the exception of one individual whom I am advised, was dishonorably discharged from the Army. Reports indicate all others whose names were removed are serving honorably in the armed forces, many on overseas battlefields. The action of your post has brought much unfavorable publicity and criticism to The American Legion and your action was officially called to my attention by the War Department. The American Legion has taken a very definite position regarding Japanese nationals, but that has no bearing on the status of these men whose names were removed from your honor roll. I therefore recommend that the Hood River Post reconsider its action and restore the names removed from the honor roll, with the one exception noted. Will you please advise me of the action taken.

Edward N. Scheiberling
National Commander."

Hon. John J. McCloy

-2-

1/19/45

Also enclosed is a statement which I have issued today outlining the position of the national organization of the Legion, with reference to the action of Hood River Post.

I shall be pleased to advise you of the action taken by the Post.

Very sincerely yours,


EDWARD N. SCHEIBERLING
National Commander

Enclosures