

Letter

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
PERSONNEL DIVISION G-1
WASHINGTON

WDGAP 291.2 Jap
(23 May 45)

16 June 1945



MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:
(Attention: Colonel Harrison A. Gerhardt)

SUBJECT: Policies Regarding Japanese-Americans In The Army

1. Reference is made to Memorandum for the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, from the office of the Assistant Secretary of War, dated 9 June 1945.

2. Induction and assignment.

a. Japanese-Americans who hold American citizenship are inducted subject to screening as provided under b below. Authority is Memorandum for the Chief of Staff, WDGAP 291.2 Japanese (26 October 43), 27 November 1943, subject: Induction of Citizens of Japanese Ancestry and Alien Japanese.

b. Individuals of Japanese nationality who volunteer for induction are authorized to be inducted subject to clearance in each case by the Provost Marshal General in the United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico and by the military intelligence in the Territory of Hawaii. Authority is letter AG PR-I-A 327.31 (1 July 44) 11 September 44, Induction of Japanese.

c. No personnel of Japanese ancestry will be assigned from the continental United States to the Pacific and Asiatic Areas except specially trained language and intelligence personnel and limited assignment personnel who originated in the Territory of Hawaii who are being returned thereto for further assignment therein or discharge.

Otherwise Japanese-Americans may be assigned in the same manner as any other American replacements, either general service or limited service.

3. Use in the Pacific War.

As indicated in paragraph 2 above personnel of Japanese ancestry will be utilized in the Pacific and Asiatic areas as specially trained language and intelligence personnel.



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Otherwise they will not be utilized west of the main Hawaiian Island Group. In the Hawaiian Island Group they may be utilized in any type service unit.

In this connection the future use of the 442d Combat Team (Japanese-American) has not yet been determined. However, its use will be in conformity with the above principles.

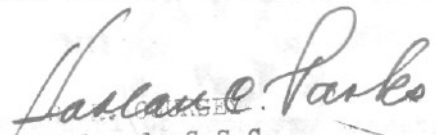
4. Disclosure of information.

Information in regard to units and individuals is governed by provisions of Circular 111, War Department, 1944. Paragraphs 4a(2) f, g, j, and k are applicable to individuals. For operations paragraphs 4a (3) c and d apply. Paragraph 4h prohibits the disclosure of information with respect to military intelligence or signal intelligence activities.

Since to date the only Japanese-Americans assigned to the Pacific and Asiatic areas are intelligence and specially trained language personnel, no information can be disclosed with respect to their activities in the prohibited classes. If, in the course of the performance of their duties these individuals have had unusual or interesting experiences they were, as individuals, under the provisions of paragraph 4f, "Individuals Returning from Overseas", permitted to disclose these experiences provided they were not related to intelligence or signal intelligence. The Department of Interior Bulletin attached seems to cover the activities of Japanese-Americans in their individual capacities. Paragraphs indicating that these assignments have generally been in the capacity of interpreters and related activities have been marked in red.

There has been no disclosure of intended use of numbered units, Japanese-American or other, in furtherance of the general policy of not making public this type of information except in a broad sense. For example, press releases stated that the 1st Army was moving to the Asiatic area.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1:


Colonel, G.S.C.
Executive, Personnel Group

American Friends Service Committee

Philadelphia  Pennsylvania

National Office

Chairman: Henry J. Cadbury
Executive Secretary: Clarence E. Pickett

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH

1830 Sutter Street
San Francisco 15, California
Telephone . . . WEst 7873

Northern California Branch

Chairman: James A. Hull
Executive Secretary: Joseph W. Conard



June 16, 1945

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

Dear Mr. McCloy:

I am writing on behalf of a committee whose members feel a deep concern for the well being and safety of the Japanese Americans who are returning to the West Coast. In view of the fact that many acts of overt violence and intimidation have been committed against returning Japanese Americans by an uninformed public, we would like to ask that more Japanese American veterans be stationed on the West Coast where their presence would be a living advertisement of the loyalty and devotion of this whole minority group.

The government has a responsibility for the Japanese American veterans and for their families--and to the public which does not yet know the part these veterans have played. We feel that the Army can do much to help if it will make available to the West Coast more Nisei personnel. Just to see many Japanese Americans among the service men here will go far toward allaying the fears of the public that they are disloyal. There are also many groups to which Japanese American veterans might speak to great advantage for public relations.

The participation of S/Sgt. Paul J. Sakai, 32002988, Presidio of Monterey, California, who appeared before the Ways and Means Committee of the State Legislature as a witness at the hearing for the State Fair Employment Practices Bill, was an example of the effective use of these Nisei boys.

Democracy is threatened wherever one, perhaps seemingly small, act of intolerance takes place. There have been many such acts here and we feel keenly that the government, the army, and all groups should do all they can to prevent the repetition of such incidents.

Sincerely,

Naomi McLane

Naomi Wood McLane
Secretary Japanese American
Resettlement Committee of the
American Friends Service Committee

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x- HAG

19 June 1945

Miss Maomi Wood McLane,
Secretary, Japanese-American
Resettlement Committee of the
American Friends Service Committee,
1830 Sutter Street,
San Francisco 15, California.

Dear Miss McLane:

Mr. McCloy has asked me to thank you for your letter of June 16, 1945, and to assure you that your suggestion regarding assignment of Japanese-American veterans to stations on the West Coast will be given thorough consideration by the War Department.

The War Department, through the Secretary, has expressed its concern at the incidents of violence that have taken place on the West Coast, and its hope that returning evacuees will be given the consideration to which they are entitled as loyal citizens and law abiding residents, and your suggestion will be viewed in that light, subject, of course, to the prime consideration of making the best use of our available strength for the Pacific war and the very complicated redeployment operations.

Sincerely,

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

6-20-45

Dispatched
Regular mail

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x- AG
x- Defense Commands, WESTERN (C.G)
WACS

021/ Japanese Americans

DC/dmk/4112

AG 220.71 (4-16-43)PE-A-OPD

22 July 1944.

Subject: Assignment of Military Personnel of Japanese Ancestry to Stations in Western Defense Command.

To : Commanding General,
Western Defense Command,
Presidio of San Francisco, California.

10 July 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Assignment of Japanese American Members of the Armed Forces to the West Coast.

1. Confidential letter from The Adjutant General AG 220.71 (16 Apr 43)PE-A/OPD, dated 19 April 1943, subject "Circulation of Soldiers of Japanese Ancestry in the Western Defense Command", is rescinded in its entirety.

2. All previous restrictions on assignment of military personnel of Japanese ancestry to stations in the territory of the Western Defense Command, and movement of such persons into that area on leave, pass or furlough, while in uniform, are likewise revoked.

By order of the Secretary of War:

At the present time there are enroute en furlough status to stations in the Western Defense Command, 181 soldiers of Japanese ancestry graduated from I. A. S. C. at Camp Blantyre; an additional group of approximately 500 will depart in similar status later this month.

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FOR INFO

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E. W. 2nd



Original sent to OPD, with attached papers. (Noted ASW, 15 July 44)

Noted - Deputy Chief of Staff