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By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

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291.2 - FILE

Loyalty Investigations of American Citizens of
Japanese Ancestry in War Relocation Centers.

(FIELD REPORTS)

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FIELD REPORTS

Loyalty Investigations of American Citizens of
Japanese Ancestry in War Relocation Centers.

AG 291.2 (1-19-43) OB-S -F-M

February 10 - March 16, 1943

The Provost Marshal General's Office

Washington, D.C.

March 1943.

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C O N T E N T S

Loyalty Investigations of American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry in
War Relocation Centers. - AG 291.2 (1-19-43) OB-S-F-M

Relocation Center Address.

The President's Letter.

Publicity Release - January 28, 1943.

General Instructions to Team Captains.

Questions and Answers.

Gila River Relocation Center..... Captain Norman R. Thompson, C.M.P.
Granada Relocation Center..... Captain William S. Fairchild, C.M.P.
Rohwer Relocation Center..... Captain John A. Holbrook, C.M.P.
Colorado River Relocation Center.... 1st Lt. John H. Bolton, C.M.P.
Tule Lake Relocation Center..... 1st Lt. Evan W. Carroll, C.M.P.
Central Utah Relocation Center..... 1st Lt. William L. Tracy, C.M.P.
Heart Mountain Relocation Center.... 1st Lt. Ray McDaniels, C.M.P.
Manzanar Relocation Center..... 1st Lt. Eugene D. Bogard, C.M.P.
Jerome Relocation Center..... 1st Lt. Eugene Siler, C.M.P.
Minidoka Relocation Center..... 2nd Lt. Stanley D. Arnold, C.M.P.

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CONFIDENTIALAuthority NND 730027
By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AG 291.2 (1-19-43)OB-S-F-M

CJM/em - 2B-939 Pentagon.

January 20, 1943

SUBJECT: Loyalty Investigations of American Citizens of
Japanese Ancestry in War Relocation Centers.TO: The Provost Marshal General;
Director, Special Service Division, S.O.S.

1. A plan has been formulated whereby the War Department will, upon request of the War Relocation Authority, assist in determining the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry under its jurisdiction. The purpose of the plan is to determine (a) loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to permit of their release by War Relocation Authority from war relocation centers, and (b) whether those so released may be inducted into the military service or may be available for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

2. The following administrative procedure is prescribed for accomplishment of the plan:

a. Questionnaires will be executed by American citizens of Japanese ancestry in war relocation centers.

b. The questionnaires will be distributed in war relocation centers by teams consisting of an army officer and three enlisted men, including one Japanese-American soldier of the Nisei class. The teams will assist the War Relocation Authority in supervising the execution of the questionnaires.

c. Personnel for the teams will be obtained by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, and the Provost Marshal General from Service Commands or other sources. The teams will be trained by the Provost Marshal General.

d. The Bureau of Public Relations will have charge of all phases of public relations involved in the accomplishment of the plan. Material for exclusive use in relocation centers will be prepared for the Bureau of Public Relations by Director, Special Service Division, SOS. In formulating publicity plans and working up material, appropriate representatives of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, The Provost Marshal General, the Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority, and Office of War Information will be consulted. No material will be released without the approval of the Deputy Chief of Staff.

e. The execution of questionnaires for male American citizens of

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AG 291.2 (1-19-43)OB-S-F-M (Cont'd)

January 20, 1943.

Japanese ancestry within military age limits who are not in relocation centers and who make application for voluntary induction will be accomplished by the Selective Service System.

f. The Questionnaires executed by male American citizens of Japanese ancestry within the age limits for military service who make application for voluntary induction will be forwarded immediately without analysis or evaluation to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, who will approve or disapprove such individuals for induction into the armed forces. The Military Intelligence Service will notify the Provost Marshall General of the results of its action, and will transmit to The Provost Marshal General questionnaires for those individuals under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority who are not inducted into the military service.

g. Copies of all other questionnaires, together with any information possessed by the War Relocation Authority pertaining to the loyalty of subject individuals, will be forwarded to The Provost Marshal General. A check of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence records and an analysis of the answers given on the questionnaires will be made by the Provost Marshal General except for those individuals inducted into the military service under paragraph f, hereof. In cases where it appears to the Provost Marshal General that an investigation by the Western Defense Command will be of probable assistance, a copy of the questionnaire will be referred to the Western Defense Command for such investigation.

h. A Joint Board which by agreement with the Department of Justice, the Navy Department, and the War Relocation Authority will be composed of a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, and The Provost Marshal General will be created. The Provost Marshal General will transmit to the Joint Board the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence record checks; the analysis of the answers given on the questionnaires; and copies of the reports of investigation made by the Western Defense Command. The Joint Board will:

(1) transmit the investigation reports and copies of the questionnaires to the War Relocation Authority, together with its recommendation concerning the release of subject individuals from relocation centers on indefinite leave; and

(2) will state whether the Joint Board has any objection to the employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort of any of those American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are released by the War Relocation Authority pursuant to its recommendation.

3. To assist in the execution of the plan, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War will coordinate the activities of the

CONFIDENTIALAuthority NND 730027
By KAB NARA Date 9/13/05

AG 291.2 (1-19-43) OB-S-F-M (Cont'd)

January 20, 1943.

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff; The Provost Marshal General, and the Director, Bureau of Public Relations. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of War will also be the point of contact with the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the formation of the Joint Board.

4. To prevent duplication of investigation, except where necessary upon receipt of supplementary information or for other cogent reasons, a list of American citizens of Japanese ancestry recommended for release by the Joint Board and their classification for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort, will be forwarded to the Western, Eastern, Southern and Central Defense Commands, and all Service Commands.

5. The procedure prescribed herein is intended to supplement the leave regulations and Administrative Instructions No. 22, Revised, issued by the War Relocation Authority, and not to supersede those regulations or instructions except as may be ordered by the War Relocation Authority.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO

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

COPIES FURNISHED:

Office of the Assistant Secretary of War;
Deputy Chief of Staff;
Commanding Generals,
Services of Supply;
Defense Commands in the United States;
Service Commands;
Assistant Chief of Staff; G-1, War Department General Staff;
Assistant Chief of Staff; G-3, War Department General Staff;
Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations Division, War Department
General Staff;
Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority;
Federal Bureau of Investigation;
Office of War Information.

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RELOCATION CENTER ADDRESS

We are here on a mission which will be made plain to you within the next few minutes. Some questionnaires are to be distributed among you and what is said here is by way of explaining what use the government intends to make of them.

Our mission is not an experiment but marks the radical extension and broadening of a policy which has always intended that ways should be found to return you to a normal way of life.

Presentations such as this one are being made simultaneously at all of the Relocation Centers over the United States. All citizens in this country who are of Japanese blood are being told the same things.

The effort is not a campaign or a drive but is an attempt to find a workable solution for the acute wartime problem of one portion of our population. Its fundamental purpose is to put your situation on a plane which is consistent with the dignity of American citizenship.

What is done is being done with the authority of the government of the United States and with the approval of the War Department. But whether it is to be successful will depend finally upon the voluntary acts of free American citizens.

You may object that this _____ your life here _____ is not freedom. The circum-

stances were not of your own choosing, though it is true that the majority of you and of your families accepted the restrictions placed upon your life with little complaint and without deviating from loyalty to the United States.

In any time of crisis, however, when national survival presents itself as the all-important issue, the best interests of the few must sometimes be temporarily sacrificed or disregarded for what seems the good of the many. The proof of a nation's good faith is to be found in whether it moves to restore full privileges at the earliest opportunity.

Admittedly this past year has been for you a period of considerable hardship and great anxiety. That was because war came to the United States and imposed extraordinary burdens upon all of its citizens. Our citizens everywhere feel these burdens increasingly.

Your own burdens have differed from those of the majority of our population in kind and in degree, bringing you perhaps greater anguish of mind. The decisions which led to your present situation were studied as carefully as the rush of events permitted, and the steps taken were in the interest of national security and in behalf of your personal safety. You are aware of the reasons for what was done.

Not all Japanese Americans are loyal to their government. Not all members of any group of our population-----even those whose ancestors came here hundreds of years ago-----are fully loyal to their country.

That is so because ours is a free society permitting the individual often to choose in what measure he will contribute to the common good. In all groups there are individuals who will not accept any obligation to the land which gives them their opportunity. Wherever you find them and whatever their blood may be they are the disloyal ones.

When war came between Japan and the United States, there were immediately two difficult problems for our government in connection with that part of its population which is of Japanese blood. The first was how to deal fairly with the loyal citizen who wishes only to serve this country. The second was how to protect this nation from the acts of those who are not loyal.

It would have been a good thing if both of these obligations could have been met at one time. That was not possible because it has never been the practice of the United States to intrude into the privacy of its citizens and to keep track of all of their movements and make a check of their loyalty.

Therefore, until a better way could be found, a general policy had to be followed which in the long run has no doubt tested severely the loyalty of those among you who wished only to serve the United States.

Of that, the government has been aware, but one risk or the other had to be taken, and it seemed best to count upon the continuing loyalty of those whose hearts and minds were with this country rather than to accept the danger from the disloyal acts of those who were not so.

It is felt now that before any change is made and before you are asked to make any new decisions these words in explanation are owed to you. What is wanted by your government is that your strength shall be added to that of the rest of the nation in its present fight with its enemies and that ways shall be found to restore you as quickly as may be to your normal and rightful share in the present life and work of the people of the United States.

This does not mean a promise of any relief from worry and hardship, for these will continue for all of us until the war is won. But it does mean that such hardships as you are now experiencing will be gradually replaced by the same hardships which are now being experienced by other American families ---- the hardships of saying goodbye to family when you leave home to fight for the United States and the hardship of getting along without many things which Americans have always regarded as necessities.

Americans of Japanese blood are wanted to fight for the United States like any other citizens. They are wanted for combat duty where they are fitted for combat duty and for war work where they are best suited for war work. They are wanted because the government and the Army are convinced of their loyalty. And they are wanted not less because of their ability as soldiers and as citizens doing useful work for the American community. You have superior qualifications for the kind of service in which it is intended to use you.

These are among the primary purposes of the questionnaire which is to be executed by you. Those who are willing and are loyal, of military age and physically fit, are being asked to volunteer for induction into the

Army of the United States. Those who are loyal but for some reason are not qualified for military service-----the young men and the young women--- will be given the opportunity to support the war effort by work on the home front.

The major purpose of what is being done here, however, is this: There are some individuals in this center whose ties with the Japanese Empire are such as to disqualify them for positions of trust in this country. This does not mean that they will not be treated humanely, but it does mean that it would be unwise for this government in this time of crisis to give them an opportunity to endanger the national security. Therefore, steps must be taken to determine those individuals in whom the United States can place full trust and confidence. The questionnaire is a means to that end.

Your government would not take these steps unless it intended to go further in restoring you to a normal place in the life of the country, with the privileges and obligations of other American citizens. The invitation to the young men here to volunteer is simply a token of its good faith and further interest.

As was the case with all other Americans of military age who were first given the chance to volunteer for service, and if they did not so volunteer were then inducted into the Army via the Selective Service, it is contemplated that in the normal process of building our Army, those among you who do not volunteer but are of the right age and physically fit will probably be taken into the military service in due time.

That is a part of sharing the lot of the general population of this country. You would not want that you would be treated differently than other Americans. Universal service is now the national policy and in the long run there is no better way to apportion our present military responsibilities.

However, the plan now being contemplated is that Americans of Japanese blood will be formed into their own combat team. You may want to know why it is being done this way. The reason is that if your strength were diffused through the Army of the United States-----as has already been done with many other Americans of your blood-----relatively little account would be taken of your action. You would be important only as man-power-----nothing more. But united, and working together, you would become a symbol of something greater than your individual selves, and the effect would be felt both in the United States and abroad. All other Americans would long remember what you had done for the country, and you would be a living reproach to those who have been prejudiced against you because of your Japanese blood. Can it be doubted that this would mean a greatly improved relationship between you and all other parts of the American population in the post-war period? To the nations abroad, and especially to the peoples of the East, you would provide the measure of the solidarity of people who get together in the name of democracy.

Accordingly, you will be given the same pay and the same chance for advancement as other American soldiers. As you prove yourself qualified for officership, you will be given training for commissioned service and the only limits which will be placed upon how many of you are advanced.

to commissioned grade will be determined by your own willingness and ability. It is recognized that in point of aptitude for military service by reason not only of your natural ability but of your education, many of you are suitable officer material.

It was believed that you would want a straightforward presentation of this new proposal by the government, and therefore the explanation of the plan behind the questionnaire has been made as simply as possible. It is not necessary for me to appeal to the loyalty of those who are loyal.

If there are any questions in your minds with regard to the policy or to the questionnaire, we will try to answer them during our stay here at the Center.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1943

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

This is a natural and logical step toward the reinstatement of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

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 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 glad to observe that the War Department, the Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice, and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest of our manpower is all-important to the war effort.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

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

January 28, 1943

I M M E D I A T E

R E L E A S E

LOYAL AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY
TO COMPOSE SPECIAL UNIT IN ARMY

The War Department announced today that plans have been completed for the admission of a substantial number of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to the Army of the United States.

This action was taken following study by the War Department of many earnest requests by loyal American citizens of Japanese extraction for the organization of a special unit of the Army in which they could have their share in the fight against the Nation's enemies.

The following statement was issued by the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War:

"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."

The War Department announced that the initial procedure in the formation of the unit authorized by the Secretary will be voluntary induction. Facilities for this will be nation-wide, including the Hawaiian Islands and the War Relocation Centers in this country. No individual will be inducted if doubt exists as to his loyalty.

- 2 -

Upon induction the "nisei," as American-born citizens of Japanese parentage are termed, will begin training as a combat team for service in an active theater. This combat team will include the customary elements of infantry, artillery, engineer, and medical personnel. No effort will be spared in developing it into an efficient well-rounded, hard-hitting unit.

The new unit will be trained separately from the battalion of Americans of Japanese extraction---originally a Hawaiian National Guard organization---which is already a component of the Army.

The War Department's action, it was announced, is part of a larger program which will enable all loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry to make their proper contribution toward winning the war--through employment in war production as well as military service.

END

DISTRIBUTION: Aa, Af, Da, Ma, N, P.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TEAM CAPTAINS

1. Members of the teams will not give newspaper interviews on any subject during their tour of duty at the Relocation Centers. This applies equally to the project newspapers within the Relocation Centers and the press of nearby communities or of communities enroute.
2. Where interviews are desirable in extension of the report of the activity of the team within the Center, they will be provided by the WRA project manager. However, it is considered advisable that such publicity material as is given out by the project manager for use in the Center should be reviewed where possible by the team captain, so that its military content will be consistent with the interest and policy of the War Department.
3. No members of the military team will make any radio broadcasts while on this duty.
4. Where there are differences of opinion as to the procedure at the camps, the advice of the project manager is to be given full weight by military personnel. For example, the instruction given that the team will be in the Center for at least two days before proceeding with the mass meeting is a minimum instruction. If for any reason such as work schedules or bad weather the project manager believes that a longer wait is desirable, the team will defer to his recommendations.
5. The personnel of the teams are to be designated at all times as coming from the War Department, Washington, D. C., and are not to be identified in publicity or otherwise with the units wherein they served prior to being detached for this duty.
6. The Relocation Center address is to be delivered verbatim. Whether it is to be used in smaller group meetings following the mass meeting is a matter

to be decided by the teams and the project manager in consultation.

7. If it is deemed desirable by the project manager to hold a preliminary meeting, for example, a meeting of the Center council or of group leaders prior to the mass meeting for the purpose of discussing the plan in general terms and effecting better organization of the meeting, there is no objection to this procedure.

8. When questions are asked which are of a policy nature and the answers are not to be found within the "Questions and Answers" form, they may be referred by telephone or teletype to Captain John M. Hall, REpublic 6700, Extension 4207, Office of the Assistant Secretary of War, Room 4E886, Pentagon Building, Washington, D. C.

A. This instruction applies to questions asked with respect to the Nisei.

B. Questions with respect to the Issei are to be expedited by the personnel of WRA.

9. The project newspaper, and such other publicity means as the project manager suggests, are to be the means of apprising the Center's population of the aim of the mission.

10. In case the team captain becomes ill enroute or before his duty is completed, notification will be given immediately to Capt. John M. Hall. In case of the illness of any other member of the team, the team will carry on with its work.

11. What published use is to be made of the policy statement and the paper of Questions and Answers will be determined by consultation between the team captain and project manager. There is no official objection to the reproduction of either of these documents. The policy statement should be published as a whole. The questions may be used either as a whole or in part. No answer should be published, however, until the specific question has been publicly raised in the Center or is specifically asked by the Center newspaper.

12. Team Captai are expected to cooperate in t. procuring of news and are authorized to clear all such information as they consider helpful to the undertaking through the War Relocation Authority project director and his publicity staff for release to the national press services. If, in the judgment of the team Captain, the response to the questionnaires is so favorable at any time as to be newsworthy, such information may be released to the War Relocation Authority representative even though the completion of the questionnaires is a secret operation. The news originating at the Centers, even when released at the instigation of the team Captain, is to be credited to the War Relocation Authority and not to the War Department. However, in expediting news of the response to the questionnaire, it is proper for the War Relocation Authority to quote the team Captain, as otherwise there would be no explanation of the release of news known only to military personnel.

13. Attention is drawn to the following statute:

"Espionage act: seditious or disloyal acts or words. - Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully make or convey false reports or false statements with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies and whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, in the military or naval forces of the United States, or shall willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service of the United States, to the injury of the service or of the United States, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both." (Sec. 3, Title I, act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 219); 50 U. S. C. 33.

It is felt that it would be undesirable to post this statute publicly, but that it should be conveyed to the people in some other less pointed way, such as by talks or conferences with the Center leaders or block managers. It should not be used as a threat, but merely offered as a piece of pertinent information.

14. The accomplishment of the questionnaires is being ordered by War Relocation Authority. DSS Form 304A, although printed by Selective Service, is in

reality a War Department form. In the event of refusal to accomplish a questionnaire or part thereof, no threats will be made, but the individual urged to comply for his own benefit. If this is unsuccessful, the matter shall be reported to the project director.

15. Many of the details surrounding the accomplishment of the questionnaires will necessarily have to be left for final determination by the team Captain in consultation with the project director after arrival at the Relocation Center. Each Center will present an individual problem, and the team Captain should make every effort to arrive at the most effective solution. Matters left to final determination of the team Captain include: (a) when the speech will be delivered or repeated; (b) the size of audiences; (c) talks to Center leaders and block managers; (d) what groups shall accomplish the questionnaire together. However, the general policy shall be to avoid distinctive treatment of aliens and to handle male citizens of military age simultaneously with some other category or categories.

16. All individuals in the Relocation Centers who had reached seventeen years of age by February 1, 1943 will accomplish some form of questionnaire. Male citizens will execute DSS Form 304-A in duplicate and WRA Form 126a in triplicate. Female citizens and all aliens will execute WRA Form 126 Revised in quadruplicate.

17. Questions 27 and 28 of DSS Form 304A will be executed in the presence of team personnel only.

18. Male citizens who answer Questions 27 and 28 DSS Form 304A in the affirmative will execute, in the presence of team personnel only, DSS Form 165, and where the individual is not registered locally, DSS, Form 154.

19. All questionnaires executed by citizens shall be checked for legibility and completeness by a member of the team.

20. In each case where DSS Form 165 is executed, all pertinent papers will be immediately forwarded by the most expeditious means, by the team Captain, to the Assistant Chief of Staff, Military Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff, Pentagon Building, Washington, D.C. The pertinent papers are as followings; (a) DSS Form 304 A in duplicate, (B) DSS Form 165 in duplicate, (C) DSS Form 154 in duplicate, (D) WRA Form 126a in duplicate, (E) WRA Form 26 in quadruplicate.

21. In all othercases involving male citizens, the pertinent papers will be forwarded by the team Captain, as completed, to the Office of the Provost Marshal General, Munitions Building, Washington, D.C., Attention: Joint Board. The pertinent papers are as follows: (a) DSS Form 304A in duplicate, (b) WRA Form 126a in duplicate, (c) WRA Form 26 in quadruplicate.

22. In cases involving female citizens and sliens, the pertinent papers will be forwarded as completed to the War Relocation Authority, 517 Barr Building, Washington, D.C. The pertinent papers are as follows; (a) WRA Form 126 Revised in triplicate, (b) WRA Form 26 in quadruplicate.

23. Reports. Team Captains will report by telephone, between 0900 and 1200 of the morning following the initial presentation of the prepared speech, to Captain J. M. Hall on the status of the program and render an opinion of the manner in which the speech was received. If an earlier report seems advisable, it should be made.

24. A brief daily report will be rendered in duplicate by air mail, to Captain John M. Hall, which will show the results of the previous day's activity as follows:

- (1) Number of volunteers for induction.
- (2) Number of 304A forms completed.
- (3) Number of Forms 126 Revised completed.
- (4) Remarks to include any other pertinent information.

25. In addition, team Captains will retain appropriate data in order to render a final report to show percentage of completion of the questionnaires, at the time the team leaves the project.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Where will we fight?
 - A. You will be employed wherever your government and the Army of the United States thinks you should be sent. No other promise than that can be given to an American soldier. However, it is not the intention to use you against the Japanese.

2. Is the formation of a Japanese American combat team a type of segregation?
 - A. The organization of your men into a separate combat team is not segregation. It is the means of making the most effective use of your strength for the good of the national war effort and for the ultimate good of all Japanese Americans. There will be other Japanese Americans taken into the Army and they will be assigned in the same way as any other American soldier. The organization of a separate Japanese American combat team has the distinct and very definite advantage and value of bringing the Japanese American question to the attention of the American public and to establish their position as loyal American citizens.

3. What will happen to Japanese Americans already in the military service?
 - A. Some will be assigned as cadres for the combat team. The others will continue in their present duties or be reassigned as the circumstances warrant.

4. Will our candidates be sent to the regular Officers' Candidate Schools, or will they train separately?
 - A. They will go in the same way, and be given the same training, as any other candidate.

5. What about the Japanese Americans who already are reserve officers but have not been called into active service?
 - A. As they are needed, they will be called, provided they are deemed to be qualified for the work at hand. (it needs to be remembered, however, that there are many reserve officers in all groups which have not been called into active service.)

6. Will all Japanese Americans in the Army be formed into the combat team?
- A. No, they will not. The combat team is an exceptional organization. Others may be taken into the Army and will be given assignments on the same basis as other American soldiers.
7. Will the combat team be officered by Americans of Japanese blood throughout?
- A. It is contemplated that at first, your regimental, battalion and company commanders will not be Japanese Americans because of the lack of men who have had training and experience with the higher commands, but that your other company officers will be Japanese Americans insofar as it is possible to supply those who have had the proper training. As Japanese American Officers prove themselves qualified for higher command, they will be advanced in grade.
8. Have Japanese Americans already in the military service been discriminated against?
- A. It has certainly never been the policy of the Army of the United States to countenance discrimination against American soldiers of any race. Where discrimination has occurred, it has been due to ignorance or stupidity on the part of individuals. An Army, in a period of great expansion, cannot take account of all the separate acts of its many individuals. The best corrective is to develop a line of policy which will show the individual what is wanted by his government. That is what is being done in this case. The present course is a direct rebuff to any who have discriminated against the American soldier who happens to be of Japanese blood and will go far toward curbing discrimination against you both in and out of the Army.
9. How will we be treated by other Americans?

- A. A partial answer already has been made to this question. There are many Americans who because of ignorance think of you as a Jap and nothing else. They are aroused against Japan, and they feel hostile toward you simply because you are of Japanese extraction. That is the kind of thing we are working against. No American is in a position to look with contempt or speak slightly of a man who is in the uniform of his country. Therefore, the steps now being taken are the surest way to counter discrimination not only now but after the war. Racial prejudices cannot be removed in a day but they can be reduced by goodwill and intelligent action over a period of time. The best antidote for prejudice against you will be your won conduct and bearing
10. What will happen to those who volunteer for service but are turned down for physical reasons? Will they be returned to the Relocation Centers?
- A. If the loyalty check shows that they have the interest of the United States at heart, they will be given the chance to work in the defense plants. The government cannot promise to find work for you. In some of the plants there is still prejudice against employing Americans of Japanese blood. But skilled workers are needed and the news of the formation of a combat team from among your number will do much to counteract the prejudice already referred to.
11. Besides service with infantry combat forces, can a Japanese American qualify to become an American flier.
- A. It is contemplated that if your willing response and loyal action assures the success of the present undertaking, the other forms of military service may be opened to you. For the present we are seeking volunteers for the combat team only.
12. Can I enlist under an assumed name to Protect relatives in Japan?
- A. If this fear is uppermost in your mind, it would be better not to volunteer at all but to wait and take your chance on being inducted later.
13. What will happen to me if I am captured?

- A. That question cannot be answered, but it is assumed that since you are an American, you will be treated as any other American prisoner.
14. What will happen to our property?
- A. There will be no change as a result of your entry into the military service. The services of the War Relocation Authority will continue to be at your disposal.
15. Why were all the Japanese Americans classified as 4-C?
- A. Because no clear-cut policy for utilizing your services in the Army had been adopted.
16. Why were some Japanese Americans discharged?
- A. Because no clear-cut policy for utilizing your services in the Army had been adopted.
17. How soon will we be inducted after volunteering?
- A. From 30 to 60 days.
18. What provisions will be made for my wife and children?
- A. The regular allowances for dependents will be paid them, the same as paid for any other soldier.
19. Will my family be permitted to return to the West Coast?
- A. Not for the time being.
20. What happens to my father who is not a citizen of the United States?

- A. Like all other persons now in Relocation Centers, he may file an application for leave which will be acted upon by the War Relocation Authority. It is probably fair to say that his chances for favorable action will be better by reason of your going into the service.
21. Is my brother, who is not a citizen, eligible for induction in the Army?
- A. No, only citizens are to be inducted under this present program.
22. Will our dependents, part dependents and immediate families be permitted to leave Relocation Centers to move near or to our quarters?
- A. They will be permitted to leave the Relocation Centers if they are approved for indefinite leave. Local conditions such as housing facilities will determine whether it is practical for them to live near you.
23. May we marry and bring our wives to or near the training centers?
- A. You may marry, of course, as may all soldiers, but local conditions such as housing facilities, will determine whether your wives can live near your training centers.
24. Where will we train?
- A. At regular Army posts in the United States. Present plans call for the activation of the American Japanese combat team at Camps Shelby, Miss.
25. Will this program include American Citizen of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii and outside Relocation Centers?
- A. Yes, a portion of the combat team is being made up of men now in Hawaii and in the United States outside of the Relocation Centers.

26. Will more than one combat team be formed if the number of volunteers is more than sufficient?
- A. That question has not been finally answered but it is a reasonable presumption that if this effort is successful other teams may be formed. However, statistics indicate that there are not enough of your people to form more than one combat team.
27. What will be done by WRA to look after the families of soldiers?
- A. The War Relocation Authority will make all families of soldiers special cases of project interest to the project director and his staff. This will mean health and protection to the families while they remain at the center, and in the event they wish to leave, priorities of employment and every possible assistance in relocation, including cash drafts when necessary.
28. Will persons of Japanese ancestry be permitted to re-enter the evacuated areas?
- A. No, not for the present.
29. How about Japanese Americans outside Relocation Centers?
- A. They can volunteer in just the same manner.
30. If I am wanted not for military but for civilian work, how long will it be before I am granted indefinite leave under this program?
- A. If your application is affirmed, as soon as you get a job. The War Relocation Authority and the United States Employment Service are developing job opportunities as quickly as possible.
31. If I am granted indefinite leave, may my wife, who is not a citizen, be granted leave?
- A. She may file an application for leave under present War Relocation

Authority regulations and if the application is approved, she will be granted leave.

32. Will my movements be free and unrestricted after my indefinite leave from the War Relocation Center?
- A. Yes, except for present requirements by the War Relocation Authority.
33. Will I be permitted to travel throughout the United States?
- A. Yes, except that returned to the evacuated area will not be permitted except on the authorization of the Western Defense Command. Permits for temporary visits will be granted automatically to Japanese American soldiers in uniform.
34. Will voluntary induction confer reinstatement privileges in employment held prior to evacuation?
- A. An opinion of appropriate legal authorities is now being obtained to this question.
35. Is the Army Program in substitution for War Relocation Authority's indefinite leave policy?
- A. No, in addition.
36. Why is it intended not to use the combat team against the Japanese?
- A. For general security reasons. Obviously, it would be hazardous to the team itself and to the Army as a whole to use the team against the Japanese since the danger of the enemy getting within or behind our lines in American uniforms would be a constant risk, hazardous not only to the operation but to every Japanese American in the area.
37. Are Japanese Americans to be permitted to join the Navy?

- A. That matter is under consideration by the Navy at the present time.
38. Will Japanese-American women be considered for enrollment in the WAAC's?
- A. Not at the present time. However this matter is under consideration and a decision will be rendered at a later date.
39. How educated to the Nesei have to be to be acceptable for voluntary induction?
- A. The same educational requirements as exist for all other inducted into the Army, i.e., the equivalent of a 4th grade education.
40. Will the United States Employment Service assist Japanese-Americans who have been granted indefinite leave to obtain jobs? Will any federal agency help to refinance businesses given up when the owners entered Relocation Centers?
- A. Upon release from Relocation Centers, Japanese Americans will be entitled to take advantage of the assistance of all federal agencies in the same manner as other American citizens.
41. Will those who were in the Army in non-commissioned or commissioned class be permitted to have assurance that they will be placed in grade?
- A. The extent and nature of previous military service will be carefully considered and insofar as possible they will be returned to their former status.
42. Will men who have completed ROTC in schools and colleges with commissions and ratings be accepted in this combat team in rank?
- A. Same answer as to previous question.

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Authority NND 730027

By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

Gila River

GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Captain Norman R. Thompson, C.M.P.

GILA RIVER GROUP

March 15, 1943

SUBJECT: Condensed Summary of Events Gila River Relocation Center, Rivers, Arizona, February 6 to March 15, Inclusive.

- February 2 -- Gila River Registration Group consisting of Captain Norman R. Thompson, Commanding, Staff Sergeant John Connolly, Technical Sergeant, Fourth Grade, Edward Aburamen, and Sergeant John Gilloiti, left Washington at 5:15 P.M. and arrived at Gila River Relocation Center 2:30 A.M. February 6.
- February 6 -- Held meeting with the War Relocation Authority staff at 2:00 P.M.; read War Department's speech and the President's letter; and answered questions compiled by Mr. W. E. Williams, Director of Internal Security.
- February 7 -- Orientation of Relocation project in company with WRA officials; meeting of the Military staff in the evening.
- February 8 -- Orientation of Project; held a meeting with Mr. John Landward, Administrative Assistant, nisei girls who were to serve as interviewers; mechanics of registration were explained; held meeting at 2:00 P.M. with the Block Managers and Mr. L. H. Bennett, Project Director, and explained the purpose and principles of registration; addressed meeting at Canal Community in company with Mr. Bennett at Buddhist church at 7:00 P.M.; addressed meeting with Mr. Bennett in Butte Community, Mess Hall No. 51, at 9:00 P.M.
- February 9 -- Held staff meeting 8:30 A.M. Mr. Landward and Mr. LeBaron attended; addressed meeting Canal Community 2:00 P.M.; addressed JACL meeting; also addressed mass meeting at Mess Hall No. 52 at 7:30 P.M.
- February 10 -- Registration of Japanese Americans started 9:00 A.M. Technical Sergeant, Fourth Grade, Aburamen addressed a group consisting of issei, kibei, and nisei; this audience included 300 to 400 issei and kibei and they asked that Sergeant Aburamen be the speaker and speak Japanese; he succeeded in reading a translation of the War Department's letter and the President's letter. He was then subjected to severe heckling interspersed with threats of bodily violence plus obscene and profane abuse. Sergeant Aburamen conducted himself in commendable fashion and maintained the proper dignity becoming a soldier throughout. When it was obvious that order could not be restored the meeting was closed.