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Off. by E.H.S.
Reaction to Voluntary Induction

Jan. 29, 1943

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REACTIONS TO VOLUNTARY INDUCTION FOR NISEI

George Yamaguchi: Nisei were talking in Block 5 this morning. They did not show any enthusiasm. George, himself, seemed worried and doubtful. He mentioned the doubts of other nisei. Some were saying, 'What kind of status are they going to give us? ^{we} Will be able to make use of training we have had in aviation or other things?' Others were talking about the possibility of saying that they were conscientious objectors. Some were saying that there would be no exemption because families were being taken care of by the government, hence it would not operate as among Caucasians on the outside. George said, 'They are saying that if we say we are willing to be inducted, the issei will take a different attitude towards us.'

Frank Kuwahara, 39: Frank was talking rather excitedly in council meeting with George Sakamoto about the draft. He said, 'Well now, if they are going to ask a question like Will you be willing to be inducted into the Armed forces? that makes me mad. That isn't all there is to it. You cant answer a question like that. How about working in war industry, are they going to ask if we are willing to do that. A man might be more willing to do that. I cant see what they are going to find out with a question like that.' Sakamoto said, 'Well, all you have to do is answer yes or no and then state all your reasons. But suppose you say are willing to work in war industries, that doesn't mean anything. It's the attitudes of the employers outside that are going to count in that. That's the way that works.' Ted Haas said that Franklyn Sugiyama had indicated to him that he didn't think this new move meant very much so far as re-

storation of citizenship rights goes. 'Aren't we still prisoners here? Dont we still have to have Caucasian escorts when we want to go anywhere?'

Ted Haas also reported that a petition had begun to circulate in Block 11, due to Mich Kunitani's efforts. This petition was a request that Japanese not be segregated in a separate division from other troops. This attitude would only have currency among a very few liberals, like Mich, Ted thought. EC later reported that no petition had been circulated but that Mich was talking about it. Mich himself said 'Hell, I dont want to go over and fight the Germans. I want to get a crack at the damn Japs.'

(EHS)

SELECTIVE SERVICE 180
ALK. MGR. FILE
LIST OF MALE CITIZENS 17 AND UP

February 9, 1943

POSTON #3

SELECTIVE SERVICE LIST
of Male Citizens
17 and up

<u>Block</u>	<u>Number</u>
305	50
306	46
307	58
308	65
309	71
310	13
316	56
317	50
318	56
322	56
323	51
325	57
326	47
327	45
328	45
329	41
330-	<u>61</u>
TOTAL	868

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RECORDS - MINUTES OF MEETING FOR REGISTRATION
MEETING FOR REGISTRATION OF ROKU I

February 10, 1943 S

K
An interested crowd of 300 turned out from Roku I yesterday morning to clarify doubt and obscure points at the question and answer period of the meeting held in Mess 310. These men, a part of the 2,000 who attended the mass meeting Tuesday afternoon to hear Lt. John Bolton's message, are a part of the vital portion of Postonians who are directly affected by this call for enlistment. Present at the meeting to answer the questions were Lt. Bolton, Sgts. Woolsery and Bass, from Washington D.C., and Sgt. Kinoshita, Sgt. Technician 4th Class, from Camp Savage. Sgt. Kinoshita, originally from Bakersfield, has a father and sister in Poston I, the latter who is working in an administration there. An interesting side-note is that enlarged photographs of the 100th Battalion, the all Hawaiian unit, were on display.

With the announcement that the answers he gives would be the official ones that he is authorized to give, and that if he were unable to answer any query, that he would obtain the answer from Washington before leaving this center, Lt. Bolton opened the meeting for questions.

The highlights of this period were:

Q..Is the volunteering for 4 years or for the duration and 6 months after?

A..At present, all men in uniform are in the service for the duration and 6 months after, according to the will of the government.

Q..Is not the Nisei battalion a rank discrimination, to be compared with the negro volunteers in the last war?

A..The official statement is that this is an official combat team not segregation. It is for the ultimate good of all Japanese Americans. Other niseis will be assigned in the same way as

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other Americans. This team will bring the question of nisei to the American public, and will prove our loyalty.

Q..If we don't volunteer, can we expect to be drafted through the selective service into other units for duty?

A..Unqualified yes. However, changes in selective service machinery are so slow that it may be some time before draft begins. Lt. Bolton spoke to Washington yesterday, but found that no definite time can be set.

Q..If one doesn't want to enter the special combat unit, and prefers to go into any other unit, may he do so?

A..The answer is twofold. In the first place, there seems to be a misunderstanding of their mission is to enroll all of the people in the center in expediting clearance from the center (both Issei and Nisei), as well as to OFFER the combat team to make ourselves felt as a unit both now and after the war. No one is going to insist on our joining the team. Ours is the privilege of volunteering or not. They are not here to TAKE men into the army, but to ACCEPT them.

Q..If we volunteer, would our citizenship rights be restored to us?

A..You have lost sight of one essential point. The rights of citizenship have never been taken from you.

Q..But indirectly, privileges have been taken away.

A..(Reference to the seventh paragraph of Tuesday's speech)
It is not the intention of the government to continue abnormal conditions. Their endeavor is to restore all normal conditions.

Q..Would that mean that we can go back to our homes in California after the war? Can we have this assurance?

A..So much depends upon what takes place during the war and after the war that officially, we cannot give such assurances.

Q..Japanese aliens in the last war had to fight for 14 years in order to get citizenship. Then they had to go to the Supreme Court. Clarification desired on this point. Also, the American legion posts in San Francisco and Los Angeles dismissed these veterans.

A..As individual, the Lt. Doesn't know anything about the matter.
(Request given to ask questions, but to be given information)

Q..What assurance have we that similar occurrence will not happen again? Also, request the stand of the American Legion.

A..The American Legion is not a government organization so the gov't cannot take any responsibility of these. What assurance? We can only depend on the good faith of the government after the war. So much depends on how many volunteer now. He feels that it is not an exaggeration to say that this throws a tremendous responsibility on us, that the future of the Japanese Americans lies in our hands today to make decisions as to volunteering.

Q..Will the Issei in the center as well as the Nisei be given a chance to go into war work?

A..Yes. That is an important part of their mission here--to expedite clearances so that most of us can help in the war effort, wherever we are best fitted. This is certainly for Issei as well as Nisei.

Q..Wouldn't the war department have gotten larger number of volunteers if we had been left in our homes?

A..Few of us appreciate reasons for our being moved out of our homes. We probably don't agree, but we were removed from homes for two reasons, both equally important. They are: (1) Military necessity for the protection of the nation; and (2) For our own protection.

Q..Siting the case of Hawaii, martial law was applied, thus there was no necessity as the army was supreme.

A..Wartime brings to all of us, many trials and many problems. These are solved in different ways at different times. He feels that nobody is in a position to compare the solution of Hawaii to the solution applied in the coastal states. It is unfair to compare the solutions for the problem until full information is presented. The main thing to consider is the good faith of government and to quickly attempt to find a good solution for the problem.

(Wade Head Arrives)

Q..We were evacuated for our protection. What assurances have we that we will be protected outside. E.g. the soldier shot in Arkansas

A..Sgt. Kinoshita--this program will be a direct rebuff to those people who do such things in ignorance.

Q..Will those with military training in high school or in colleges be given preferences?

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- A..Yes. Aptitudes, training, etc. will all be taken into consideration. According to military information, the average standing in here is Junior College, while the average outside is 3rd yr. in high school. This war needs smart, trained men, whether we go into the army or into war work.
- Q..What assurance can the government give as to the parents of men who go into the army?
- A..The army is cooperating with the WRA..The WRA will take into consideration in expediting clearance and in conditions, etc., the fact that we are in the army.
- Q..Suggestion regarding insurances and family benefits to be explained.
- A..The men will have the same benefits as any soldier in the army. Insurance is provided the soldiers by the army at very low rates. Family allotments will provide adequate care for the dependents and family.
- Q..If an individual volunteers and leaves his direct family in the WRA center, will charges be made for subsistence, and clothing allowances?
- A..No (Answer by Wade Head)
- Q..If a man joins, how much, in dollars, will he be allotted for his wife?
- A..Soldier contributes \$22 and Government contributes \$28, adding to \$50 for his wife. For the first child, he receives \$12, and for each additional child, \$10.
- Q..How about a wife and mother, both dependents?
- A..Probably, one can't take advantage of a double allotment, but it is not definite. Answer will be obtained before leaving the center.
- Q..Will she get the \$50 plus the regular WRA allotments?
- A..Yes
- Q.. Will the wife be subject to income tax?
- A..Yes
- Q.. If person goes out to defense war work and leaves his family in the center, will he be charged subsistence until he is settled?

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A..No. In fact, the WRA advises this solution because of housing, etc.

Q..Can agricultural experts go to agricultural work?

A..Most productive work is war work so ag. is essential defense work.

Q..Does the army advise ag. experts to remain in the ag. field or to enter the army?

A..The army has taken many men from farms. Few men have been deferred, but the policy has not as yet been established by the War Department.

Information arrives from Ted Haas, Project Attorney

Questions are:

Can a soldier make a will of his property of his father or any close relative who is an alien?

A..Yes, he can make such a will, but the father or any close relative who is an alien must settle two years after he inherits it.

Q..Can a soldier give a power of attorney to an alien father to manage his ranch.

A..Yes

Q..Will men volunteering be able to go back to settle business?

A..If he can justify his going, he may go back. However, this applies to everyone, in the service or not. But probably more leniency will be shown for volunteers.

Q..Why haven't soldiers been able to come to visit this center very easily?

A..From the standpoint of the army, soldiers are subject to furlough restrictions which make it impossible to go where they wish always. First responsibility is to the army, military necessity and orders. From the standpoint of the WRA, no soldiers with sick parents or for funerals have been refused. The specific case called to attention probably occurred because of the commanding officer not knowing the procedure to follow in granting such leaves.

Q..If a man volunteers, will he be put into the division he is most fit to enter, and desires to enter?

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A..Guarantee may not be given on the placement of anyone. The army always considers aptitude and abilities in placing. The infantry, artillery (including the anti-tank), qt. master, medical, ordnance, signal corps, and practically all branches or service are included. Proportionate figures may not be given on these divisions, as he is restricted on giving this information. The air corps is not included in the combat unit, as the land and air corps is not included in the combat until, as the land and air corps are separate. Tanks are usually included in the combat units.

Q..Will the Kibeis also be accepted?

A..Kibeis are included as niseis. Many of these kibeis are much more anxious to get into the combat team than some of the niseis.

Q..If we don't make a good showing in the combat unit, what about it?

A..He can't answer it. From the questions asked at the meetings, he is not afraid of the turnout. He isn't high pressuring. The point is to be stressed that it is out individual choice. Loyalty will not be determined entirely, or not at all, by the turnout of volunteering. No one is to enter this combat unit unless it is voluntarily out of free will.

Q..If we volunteer, is there going to be a physical examination?

A..Preliminary exam is waived. The only one required is the final exam which will probably be given at Camp Shelby, Mississippi where the unit is being formed. Camp Shelby is probably one of the best ones in the US, from what has been told Lt. Bolton and is situated about 100 miles from New Orleans.

Q..If one does not join now, will he have the chance to join later?

A..Probably not. He will be behind in training. Teams are trained as a unit, and after trained, a raw, untrained person would not be able to get into the unit.

Q..If one can't make up his mind now, will he have a chance to say later that he desire to join?

A..Yes, if he declares his intention before the arrival of

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his induction papers, which takes about 20 days. The plan now is to have the first group to move into Camp Shelby on March 1.

Q..How long will be the training period before going to the combat zone?

A..Not before at least 6 months training. Endeavor is to not make the mistake made in the last war of sending in raw men. 6 months is the minimum for troops.

Q..How far will commissioned officers go in this unit?

A..Top is full colonel. Since only a very few officers of Japanese blood are trained above the rank of 1st Lt., higher commissions heads will be filled by Caucasian officers. But as soon as possible, niseis will replace them. There are planning to commission as many men as have the ability, aptitude, training, etc. to justify such action. Uncommissioned officers are now being trained at Camp Shelby, who will assist in the training there. Officers Candidate School is open for all who qualify for it. Selection depends upon very strict qualifications, and needed great abilities.

Q..Will medical physicians, etc. be restrained from volunteering?

A..No, but many are not needed for the combat unit. Therefore they will be considered for other units.

Q..In case too many doctors volunteer, how will the WRA cope with the problem?

A..WRA hopes are that 10,000 people will want to leave the center, leaving about 7,000 residents. Then the remaining doctors will be sufficient. But if the hopes do not become an actuality, doctors will be employed from the outside.

Q..How about the status of persons who have served in the army and were placed in the enlisted reserve?

A..If they wish to get back in, now is the time to do it. Special consideration will be given to the record. The reason this step or this change was made was because of military necessity, because there was no clear cut policy yet adopted.

Q..Who will take care of the parents if the soldier is disabled or killed?

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A..The insurance which can be taken out up to \$10,000 is sufficient to take care of the parents. That will not change social security, etc. Also, several months pay will go to the family in addition to the insurance.

Q..How about the deductions for insurance? And will the soldier automatically receive insurance even though he does not request to take out a policy?

A..Deductions depend on the age of the soldier, and also on the amount of insurance. No, for the second question.

Q..If a soldier dies when not in actual battle, may the insurance be collected?

A..Yes. A soldier is "in action" if he is in uniform.

Q..How are chances of joining the air force?

A..The w r department is now working on the question.

Q..Is there any way of getting into the navy?

A..It is under consideration by the navy at the present time, according to the report from Washington.

With Administrator Burge's announcement concerning the time schedule for the afternoon registration for Roku I male niseis 17 and up, and a brief explanation of the procedure to be followed, the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

First to register in Poston were: George Horibe, 305-5B; Seichi Kiyomoto, 305-14-F; and Kenneth Jiro Kodama, 305-10-C. The number who registered Wednesday from the various blocks and the number who failed to register at that time were:

Block 305	-	33	-	0
306	-	51	-	1
307	-	53	-	6
308	-	63	-	2
309	-	67	-	4
310	-	10	-	2

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MEETING FOR REGISTRATION OF ROKU II

February 11, 1943

S

Introduced by Administrator Burge, Lt. Bolton gave a brief explanation and correction of the article in Wednesday's Chronicle concerning this voluntary induction. The correction that, regardless of age, male citizens 17 yrs and up any volunteer will appear in the same paper.

Q..In regards to volunteering, how are classifications of men with dependents determined?

A..Volunteering is up to the individual, to be left up to our discretion and family status.

Q..What provisions are made for the family?

A..The regular allowance is to be apid just as it is to any other soldier. The rates are as was stated at yesterday's meeting. The wife will get this whether she is working or not, dependent or not. If the mother is to receive an allotment, the soldier contributes \$22 and the government contributes \$15, totaling \$37. However, a soldier may not made allotments to both wife and mother.

Q..If the wife is able to work and if the mother is unable, may the allotment be switched?

A..According to Sgt. Woolsey, yes, with the assent of the wife. However, the best solution would be to let the wife make the changes herself.

Q..If a man volunteers, may his wife go to her home in California?

A..No, because of west coast commandments.

Q..What is Lt. Bolton's status?

A..Everything he say, unless he specifically says "I", are official. The statements are official, making the Lt. answerable directly to the government and to the war department, the latter which is supreme over all now. Anything is official except for the side comments.

Q..Will commissions be given in the medical departments (dental, veterinary, etc.)?

- A..Every case of individuals who apply for commissions will be considered by the War Department and will be given commissions according to education, ability, training, experience, aptitude, etc. The government cannot guarantee commissions to everyone or anyone. You will have to take your chances with the rest.
- Q..If we wish to apply for a commission, do we apply through the Officer of Procurement Branch of that unit?
- A..No. Make a notation in the form 304A, all data on training, application for commission, and in voluntary induction, will be considered as an individual case as in every other case. We don't know the size of the combat unit. And even if we did know, we would not tell, as sizes of military units are not revealed as it is vital military information.
- Q..To expedite matters, may we request to have questions and answers from yesterday read?
- A..Many were irrelevant, but the pertinent questions and answers will be read later.
- Q..If one does not volunteer, would we be considered disloyal?
- A..Unqualified no.
- Q..If one does not volunteer, would we be inducted?
- A..Washington said yesterday that the selective service is planning induction of all suitable for army induction. However, it will take some time to set up machinery so the date cannot be given. But upon insistence, Lt. Bolton was advised that it would be between 6 - 12 months. The selective service machinery is quite cumbersome, so Washington has been working on this change for some time.
- Q..If we volunteer now, do you have a better chance for promotion than if we wait for induction?
- A..Unqualified yes. This war is a war of specialists, of highly trained men. Many men in the last war were sent overseas with very little training. Very seldom, people go overseas in less than 6 months minimum training. This necessary long period training will make possible a chance for promotion.
- Q..Will those who volunteer now be sent ahead to combat or wait for the other inductees?
- A..The combat unit is a team made up to be able to operate by itself. (reading of list of units in the combat units)

it is a self operating, self running unit, complete in itself to keep them in action on combat. There fore this combat unit, as soon as complete and trained, will move into action.

Reading of the most essential questions and answers yesterday by Administrator Burge.

Q..If the war dept. is planning to induct those in the centers, how about those not in the centers?

A..The same applies to those not in the center or with those on leaves. These people out of centers may go to the local draft board now to ask for voluntary induction. The same forms will be used as are being filled now here. The Bureau of Public Relations or the WRA, which is keeping in close touch with those outside, will notify them.

Q..What assurance have we that we will be restored all rights and privileges in all the states, including California?

A..With suggestions from his staff, Lt. Bolton stated that a question of that sort cannot be answered because of the uncertainty of the future. The States and Federal governments cannot speak for each other. Emphasis was placed on the fact that the future is in our hands, on how well we respond, and conduct ourselves. The federal government is not entering on any discrimination of any sort.

Q..Question of deportation, as men are fighting not only for the country, but also for the parents, suggested to be answered.

A..Repatriation is purely voluntary. US citizens may not be deported. There is no intention on the part of the government to deport anyone of Japanese blood involuntarily.

Q..However, a pressure group might start a bill in motion in Congress which might jeopardize us.

A..As a personal comment, Lt. Bolton made a suggestion to educate the people by showing them now. As a minority group, we should appreciate this chance to educate the people. We should make ourselves understood.

Q..Will occupational deferment be considered by the selective service commission? (e.g. agriculture)

A..If we remain in the center, there is no deferment for employment. The deferment depends on the occupation. An important part of their mission here is to provide leave clearances for as many as possible. The selective service has not as yet made or set its policy as to agricultural work.

Q..How about the beet harvest workers who have no work during the winter?

A..Lt. Bolton cannot speak for selective service. Ag work is not exempt work, not acknowledged, as far as selective service is concerned.

Q..Will Japanese workers be able to work in war defense plants?

A..Yes. That is one of the reasons for their mission. That is the reason for leave clearances.

Q..Is it compulsory to fill out forms for leave clearances?

A..Yes, although no one is going to force one out of the center.

Q..As the WRA is caring for the dependents, are those who were thus classified outside still considered dependents in here?

A..Yes, technically and legally (on basis). The status is unchanged if it is the immediate family.

Q..As we are citizens, we should have the right to join the navy. or the air force. Is that possible?

A..He cannot speak for the navy. He cannot commit them. The Navy department still hasn't decided upon their policy. He can only speak for the government and for the war department. Men with exceptional training, experience, and background have been taken in.

Q..Is there a possibility of giving parents citizenship after the war?

A..This program is being carried on in other centers. Nothing can be promised, as almost everything depends on our actions.

Q..Into what combat zone will the combat team be sent?

A..Officially, it is not contemplated at present time to send into the Pacific zone. You will be sent wherever the Govt. and the War Dept. sends you, but it is not the intention to use us against the Japanese.

Q..Has not discrimination already been held against the Niseis already in the service?

A..It has certainly never been the policy of the army to dis-

criminate against anyone. If this has occurred, it is due to ignorance and stupidity on the part of the individuals.

Q..If it is true that the Japanese American soldiers are considered as American soldiers, why can't they go back to anywhere on the coast?

A..The restrictions are there to prohibit them from entering Defense Zone A. Permits have always been given to go to this zone upon justified requests. This is because of the danger of enemies who may be dressed in uniform on the coast. Therefore, this is for protection.

Q..What possibility is there that our parents may be reclassified to friendly aliens when the men volunteer?

A..This depends on the individuals. It is entirely up to us. Each individual issei and nisei will be considered in this leave clearance.

Q..How about boys in the army with fathers in internment camps?

A..More power to the boys.

Q..Would the father be returned if the boy volunteers?

A..No. One can't expect what others aren't getting.

Q..Many loyal niseis (kibeis) are not able to converse in English. Are those acceptable?

A..The present standard for acceptance is the 4th grade.

Q..Will preliminary medical examination be waived for volunteers?

A..Yes. No examination is given until reaching the camp.

Q..In case one is rejected, will he be able to relocate anywhere he wishes?

A..Indefinite leave clearance is obtained before leaving camp. therefore he may relocate anywhere except in Zone A. He may also return to the center if he wishes.

Q..If a nisei is killed in action, will he receive the insurance in lump sum? And if disabled, what provisions are there?

A..The same provisions as for any other soldier in the army will

Be given. Insurance will be paid in lump sum after the war, but if during the war, in monthly payments.

Q..How about debts, mortgages, etc?

Q..Congress passed a soldier's and sailor's relief fund, from which payments may be borrowed. Debts, etc. are not cancelled but extended till after the war.

Q..In case the father is the only beneficiary and is interned, may he receive sums of insurance, etc. in case of death of the soldier?

A..Yes, subject to restrictions of law.

Q..Is a person 17 eligible for draft?

A..Draft age is 18 to 38.

Q..Clarification of question 27 in forms requested.

A..Only an honest answer is asked. An answer of no would not mean that one is not ready to volunteer. It only means would you be willing to serve anywhere if you were in the service. It does not mean you volunteer if you sign yes.

Q..Question 28 explanation requested.

A..Do you consider yourself bound to the US rather than to any other government. Do you consider US supreme over all others.

Q..Is it possible to find out how many volunteered?

A..Figures and numbers are kept entirely a secret. The figures are in Washington now.

Q..When are the volunteer group going out?

A..Deadline for the 1st reception is March 1. Last date for reception is April 1. Volunteers are being taken only during their stay here. War work is open for us. (Attempts are being made to open unions? question asked). The government has no jurisdiction over private organizations. However, you will not be sent where unions will not accept you.

Q..In case the number of volunteers are not sufficient for combat unit, will draft board take part and being in enough?

A..Officially, we are depending on your loyalty and your desire to take part in the service, that we have not taken up the consideration of not having enough. This is to be appreciated as the future of the Japanese Americans in the US depends upon our choice, individually. Your patriotism is at a test.

Q..Will Caucasians have a better chance to get employment after the war?

A..No guarantee can be given.

Q..How much education is the public getting concerning this volunteering now?

A..Clippings from papers, substantial sources, etc. show publicity.

Q..How long ago did this begin?

A..2 to 3 weeks off hand, off the cuff. The El Paso paper also had pictures, etc. concerning this. The details of the plan were a military secret until their arrival at the camp. The details are now released through publicity which is being given through all substantial sources.

Q..After their leave here, can they volunteer for any other branch of service?

A..No. No volunteering is being done now anywhere. This is voluntary induction. Only induction is being held.

Schedule for the afternoon, number who registered, and the number who didn't.

<u>Time</u>		<u>Block</u>		
2 p.m.	-	325	-	58 - 9
3 p.m.	-	317	-	48 - 2
4 p.m.	-	318	-	56 - 0
5 p.m.	-	316	-	53 - 3
7 p.m.	-	326	-	48 - 0
8 p.m.	-	327	-	47 - 0

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2-23-43

Via Letter to Iwao Ishino while at Window Rock, Arizona:

February 18, 1943
Poston, Arizona

Dear Iwa,

Just received your letter. Thanks. You are probably anxious to hear the latest developments on the volunteering question, so I'll get this letter off immediately.

For nights on end I went sleepless debating this grave and momentous question over in my mind. I felt that I should stick by my family, and then too, I felt that I should prove my loyalty to the United States. After four days, I came to the conclusion that there only one honorable thing a fellow could do; that this was no time to be playing with sentiments. I volunteered.

The number of volunteers is supposed to be a military secret for the time being, so no one knows just how many fellows volunteered. I think that the number averaged close to five or six per block. Our block had the most with 12 volunteers. They are: Alfred, Bill, Walter, George Obayashi, Togo Yamauchi, Shorty Fujita, Tets Hiraski, Min Kushino, George Tajiri, Hidi Take-shita, Bob Karasaka, and myself. George Suzuki and Joe Tanabe also. From the San Diego side about 30 volunteered, but the showing was very bad in roku I.

At the present time the military team is in Camp I, and volunteering will continue throughout this week. All agitators there have been rounded up for safe keeping while this is going on.

We will leave for Camp Shelby, Mississippi about March 1. Rumor has it that we will get inducted at Salt Lake City, take our physical there, and then continue on to Camp Shelby. This outfit will be composed solely of volunteers and will be a complete fighting unit, and will be known as the 442nd Inf. I believe it will be crack, hardfighting outfit, one that the whole nation will be hearing of very shortly.

All the dependents of the volunteers will be adequately taken care of,

and can stay in the relocation center, and able to draw monthly allotments from the government. It was definitely stated that this outfit will not fight the Japs. According to the Colonel, who just flew here from Washington, the army really don't need men so badly that have to draft us Japs. He stated as far as manpower was concerned, we were just drops in the bucket, but that this is just a chance for loyal Japanese-Americans to show their true colors. I believe him.

Farewell parties are being thrown right and left. This is really a sad and depressed camp now. Hitherto we've been living with the war so far away, it's hard to realize that the war is now layed on our laps. Everywhere the topic of discussion is about who and who is volunteering. All the young fellows who have been so carefree and happy are all walking around with long, sad, and serious faces.

Johnny Ono is in Poston on furlough. It seems that many niseis will be going over seas very shortly. There are quite a few soldiers here on their last furlough.

I'm glad to hear of that opportunity you have to further your education. Perhaps you had better wait for eventual draft to catch up with you instead of volunteering. Also according to Washington, all niseis eligible men will be drafted again as if they were on the outside, but that the selective service machinery is so cumbersome that it may be from six months to one year before things can be revised so that Japs can be reinducted.

That's how things stand here in camp. War is hell!!

S/ Dave

P.S. Latest news,

Joe Hara volunteered today. Says army officials told him volunteers for Poston far below expectations. Immediate draft a possibility.

Aiji leaving tonight for Carleton College.

Paul Nagano volunteered on condition he gets to be a chaplain.

(Via II - only Nisei pastor in Unit 3.)

(II)

SELECTIVE SERVICE 180
PERSONAL JOURNAL - ME
SENTIMENTS --- VOLUNTEERING FOR THE ARMY

MARCH 5, 1943

S

KJ
One mother of an volunteer was heard to say, "I have had no moment of happiness since my son volunteered, until last night when a church service was held in Parish II in honor of the volunteers. I have been so unhappy because many of the women have been making unfavorable comments to me directly and indirectly. Another lady said, "I think it would be absolutely dumb for my to volunteer for the army when my husband is interned. I can never allow my son to volunteer as long as my husband is interned." This same lady added, "I dislike Mrs. _____, whose son volunteered, because she acts so proud about the whole matter." (The speaker is a woman who loves to gossip and devotes a great deal of her time at this art.) One mother was heard to say, "Although I'm not happy about the idea, if it is my son's wish to volunteer, then it is up to him to go ahead with his plans, because after all, it's his life, not mine."

March 9, 1943

A VOLUNTEER SPEAKS

The following is a resume of what a volunteer for the army thought-----his sentiments and attitudes as he expressed them during a conversation with him. It is not an exact wording. This lad is 18 years old and the eldest son in the family. He is formerly from Central California.

My folks were first ashamed that I had volunteered for the army. They were ashamed because here I was of Japanese descent and I was going to fight against them. However I had never been to the old country and don't know a thing about it. All I know is America, where I was born and brought up.

I talked it over with my folks before I went to volunteer. They were opposed so I went to Camp I to volunteer. I didn't want to volunteer in my block because my folks were opposed to it and I didn't want to create a lot of excitement and fuss. I hoped that as soon as my folks saw the many fellows volunteering from our block, they would come to see my view point.

Since I volunteered, my folks have repeatedly asked me to withdraw my decision. They even said that they would ask one "big shot" to withdraw my name. However, they nor anyone else could stop me from volunteering-----they could not withdraw my name. I had definitely made up my mind to volunteer and nothing was going to stop me.

Even now when I go home, my parents tell me how they have worked ever so hard to raise me to what I am now. When they start that, I just walk out because I hate to create such hardships on them. It is hard on them but I can't help it. I figured that I don't want to stay in this camp and since I will be drafted anyway, I might as well go now. I feel that I'm doing the niseis a lot of good as well as the isseis. I'm going to fight for the principle. I've made up my mind and I'm going through with it.

(MF)

March 10, 1943

A VOLUNTEER SPEAKS

The following is a resume of a conversation which took place during the dance in honor of the volunteers for the army from San Diego.

The volunteer is the fourth child in the family, the third son. One of his brothers is now a Staff Sergeant in the army. His other brother is a newspaper man. This lad is approximately 18 years old and has great artistic ability. He is formerly from San Diego.

The following is what he said---not exact wording:

I had planned to volunteer for the army before this special combat unit was formed. Consequently, I volunteered when this news came.

I want to leave camp so this is an opportunity. I think there's a future for me in the field of art. I plan to continue my art in the army, sketching and drawing. I want to go into the Camouflage painting department while in the Army. Yes, I think there is a good future for me in that field.

My brother is at Camp Shelby now, so I'll be able to see him there.

(MF)

180 SELECTIVE SERVICE
PERSONAL JOURNAL mf.
SENTIMENTS - VOLUNTEER

March 18, 1943

In a jokingly manner, a volunteer for the new Combat Unit stated,
"I'm never going to leave this place. I'm giving up hope. The rest may
go but I'm staying." These remarks were stimulated by the long period
which they had to undergo before leaving.

180
K

S

3/2043

Volunteers

via Mrs. Y.

Bokusui kai

Returning from the mess Mrs. Y. said, "I wonder when the volunteers are leaving for induction."

X replied: Gerodomo ga itsu deyo to kamowan."

(It doesn't matter when the _____ leave.)

Y: "Gerodomo to wa anmari hidoi."

(That's too bad an appellation for them)

X: "Onna no kuse ni anmari meshabari sugiru."

You talk ^{too forward} too much for a woman. We have a club called the bokusi kai which takes care of Issei who have such views."

X (X also had threatened an Issei leader for having said, "We are proud of the volunteers.")

Another member of the block was nearby and called X's bluff by saying, "Try and beat her."

X went away.

Mrs. Y. says that if he had done her bodily harm it would have ~~been~~ had serious consequences.

~~PIE~~ People of the block wonder if X isn't a little off since the strike. Yet he was the first one from the block to go to work in the g net factory. He claims to have ulcer of the stomach and is quite careful of his food.

Selective Service.

Conversation. with Tom Kasai, T.S.

U.S. Army.

C.R. 32. Fire Department.

82. Public Health.

On my way to work this morning I passed the 46 Mess Hall where a group of isseis and niseis were busily taking down the chimneys to clean them out. This activity was noticed in several other places where the crook in the smokestack was not as yet taken out. I noticed a fellow throwing rocks in my general direction, but ignored them until the pitcher called me by name. Then I noticed that it was Tom Kasai, Corporal in the U.S. Army.

After exchanging greetings, he began talking about the mess hall here. "The cleanest kitchen in camp wouldn't pass the poorest Army inspection. In the army, we clean, and scrub the floors about 5 times a day, and you can almost eat off of the floor. Here, especially in this block, the mess hall is so filthy that it is almost like a pig-pen. I wonder why they can't do something about it. I work in the mess hall; an easy job, I get up at six o'clock, go to work at 8, and then quit at 10. Two hours, and then I go home to take a shower, and spend the rest of the day at home. But it gets monotonous. You're tied down, and there is no future in it. I was a "Machine-gunner" before, but they transferred me here. I've got a sharp-shooter's medal, but slingin' hash is what I am doing now."

"I'm telling you Tom, it's tough. A Jap hasn't a chance in this white man's army. At a dinner given for the officers, there were about 7 Japanese, including the head cook who were given transfers because the officers' wives told their husbands to discharge them. They said that they were afraid for their husband's life. That the Japs would probably stab them in the back."

"These guys at Camp Savage, they are corporals, until they are shipped overseas, then they are promoted to the rank of Technical Sergeants. I guess they don't expect them to live too long, and also, whether the boys get their money or not, is another question. I guess the government figures that if the boys are sent overseas, they won't have to pay them."

"Being a corporal doesn't mean much, especially if you work in the mess hall. But it does mean an increase in salary, and you are given an apartment in town, so that you can live with your wife."

MAY 12, 1943

S

Today, the the first group of volunteers left after about two months of waiting for the induction. Of the approximately 200 volunteers, 45 fellows from the entire project were the first relieved of the suspension. Unit III lead the other two units with 19 volunteers. Each volunteer was given truck to have his family and friends join him to the Unit I Volunteers' program. The trucks, most of them were packed with the volunteers' friends. Each truck after having picked up the volunteer and his friends, drove to the 310 Shibai stage where a special low platform was constructed for the occasion. This was late afternoon about 6:00. (Most mess halls served their meals about half an hour earlier than usual for this special occasion.) There were about 300 people mostly Niseis and Issei women, but the majority of the people were on the trucks.

Before the trucks arrived the Public Address system was set up and the national martial music was echoing throughout the block. This was one of the very few official occasions; Mr. Burge, the Administrator, the Councilmen, the Issei Advisors were all present. The ceremony was very simple without any speeches or program as most of the people had expected. Mr. Burge, Mr. Takashima, Council chairman, Pete Furuta, Misses Nagano, Yamashita and Yoshioka were on the platform. As the trucks drove up to the platform, the volunteer was introduced and presented with lei of blue, white and red crepe paper floral lei by the girls and also presented with a big lunch. As he left the platform he shook the hands of those on the platform

MAY 12, 1943 (2)

and received words of congratulations and good luck. The mother or the wife of the volunteer, in the most cases mother, was introduced and presented with a ~~h~~apel poppy and an emblem of service.

As each volunteer was intorduced there was an applause from the audience and hurrhas were heard from the trucks. There cere-
mony took more time than was expected because as the volunteer got off the truck to approach the platform he saw many friends with whom he desired to grip hands, to bid goodbye. In the eyes of some of the volunteers and the friends, there were tears; tears of sorrow and joy.

The mothers, who are Isseis, when called, very humbly approached the platform and received their flowers and emblems. Some bowed very low and humbly, ala Japanese. The chairman of the Council handing out the emblem also bowed low to them and said, "Omedeto gozaimasu" (Contratulations) to each. After this simple ceremony, the people sang "Auld Lang Syne" with Pete Furuta leading the congregation.

Then, the procession of volunteers' trucks were led by the Police truck, Mr. Burge's car, and Mr. Wumino. Following after them were the trucks with local representatives, the Block Managers, Councilmen and the Issei Advisors. Some of the trucks had red, white and blue streamers for decoration. Some of the sentiments heard after the ceremony were: "With all the young men leaving there will be only the old Isseis and young childred remaining; it will be lonely." "This is America,

MAY 12, 1943 (3)

but in Japan the women have no place in such ceremonies."

"The final music was unfit for such an occasion; there should have been martial music or national songs, "God Bless America" of the National Anthem. The closing was very poor."

180 SELECTIVE SERVICE
Observation, EC
Volunteer Farewell

6/25/43
(Typed 6/26/43)

14 Entertainment
133 Christian

Tonight came the send-off for 14 more volunteers. This time (the third send-off) the farewell program was held at Poston 3, for all 3 units. The program was held at the 310 stage and was scheduled to begin at 6:30. As EC came near the 310 area at that hour, could hear music from the loud-speaker "A Life on the Ocean Wave" blaring out, but turning corner of the building found noone there except a few men with trucks bringing straight-backed/ch backed chairs to the stage, a few children gathering their stools for the movie later that evening at 305, and Mrs. Potts and Miss Waterman sitting on the porch of one of the buildings watching. They say they thought it was to start at 6:30, but they aren't missing anything this time. The stage is already decorated with a large American Flag stretched across the back, and the rest curtained off to form a background — then the row of chairs and finally two microphones in the foreground of the stage. Below on the East side are several rows of wooden benches roped off as though reserved. Otherwise the space is vacant. We sit and wait and gradually the space begins to fill, at first with middle aged women who start gathering about the porch where we sit, then others. Probably by about 7:30, there is a good crowd there. Estimate probably about 600 or so. However these seem to stand in two groups: one immediate to the stage where the program is given, the other over toward the movie area. May be wrong in this, but from where I stood there also seemed a different age distribution in the two groups—the first being largely middle aged or elderly, the other young. There was some mixture of course, but predominantly there was that character. Also got the impression that more issei there than at the first send off given by Camp 3 — then had the feeling that the crowd almost exclusively young nisei.

6/25/43

A man, George Ikuta (Block Manager 325) came over to where we were, gave Mrs. Potts a number of red and white and blue paper leis and told her to go up on the Platform now. She walked off with him, but did not come out on the platform for some minutes. Shortly after this, trucks began to arrive, open and filled with people. One had a large American flag floating above it. The flags drew up, and from one out poured the Boy Scouts of Camp 2, in full uniform. They gathered in a block over in 305. About the same time saw Mr. Head and Mr. Gelvin standing on the east side of the stage. Then people began to come out on the stage and there was some slight applause from the crowd. Mr. Head came first followed by Mr. Burge -- gradually half the chairs were filled: Mr. Head, Mr. Burge, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gelvin, Mrs. Potts, Miss Barley, Jimmy Takashima (Chairman of Council in Three), Rev. Imai, Paul Nagano, Kuroda of One, Uyeno of Two, and a nisei girl from One.

Ikuta came to one microphone and said that they were going to start the program. (Shortly before he had made two announcements -- one asking the volunteers to assemble -- the other asking parents and wives of volunteers to come forward and sit in the reserved space below the platform) Then he announced the names of the volunteers, asking them to come up on the platform. He called first the names of those from 3 and as they came up, Mrs. Potts stepped forward and placed the leis around their necks. They then went over and sat down in the chairs close to the center of the stage. Next he called the names of those from II, and they came up with leis already around their necks (indicating probably that Camp II had given them a send-off of some sort already). Then he called the Camp I names, and introduced the nisei girl as the one to give them leis. They came up, were given leis, and sat down -- one extra chair having to be produced from somewhere.

6/25/43

The volunteers seemed to be dressed in suit pants, but few of them bothered to wear coats. A few (Camp I) were wearing bright Hawaiian print shirts. Noticed in the crowd, people with suitcases so gather that their families had brought the luggage with them up to Three to be placed on the bus to take them to the station. The boys sat quietly on the platform, mostly looking at the floor, though some of those from Camp I -- on the far end were turning around to look down over the side of the stage apparently talking to some friends. Towards the end, one of the Camp I boys pulled out a package of cigarettes, flourished it, lit one and sat there smoking through the rest of the program. From where I stood, the boys seemed quite young for the most part. Heard a woman near me in the crowd murmur "But they're so young."

After the volunteers were introduced, Ikuta announced that there would be "a presentation of the colors by the Boy Scouts of Camp II". Immediately the scouts started to march forward and grouped themselves beneath the stage. They were hidden by the crowd, but apparently no further ceremony was enacted. (Before the program started, constant playing of records, martial music and football songs -- all of it band music. But as soon as the guests came out on the stage, this was turned off.)

Ikuta said, "Well, we'll push right along in our program now. Mr. Jimmie Takashima who will introduce the guests to you." Takashima came forward and mentioned the names of the guests, starting with "Our beloved Project Director, Wade Head. Mr. Head." Then mentioned "Our Unit Director, Mr. Burge" and so on down. Each rose and bowed and sat down. Takashima made no further speech.

Ikuta said he was going to ask Mr. Head to speak to them. WH arose, came to the microphone and adjusted it, stood there smiling at the crowd. Looked at volunteers, then down and said, "I hope you don't mind, but now I

6/25/43

want to speak to the Mothers and fathers and sweethearts of the volunteers," Turns to the row ~~and~~ of benches saying, "Mothers, Fathers, Sweethearts, Wives, Sisters, Brothers of those on this platform. I know you are proud of them just as we are proud of them. Proud that they have volunteered to serve their country" Says that he has been feeling discouraged and was feeling that way when he came down here, but now he looked at all these people and knew that there were no finer people. Immediately adds that sees this fine boy scout troupe from Camp 2, and knows they are all fine loyal Americans and he wishes that the other two camps could have such troops too. Then turns to volunteers saying that he hopes ~~we~~ we can all meet again under happier circumstances when we can be "just friends." Says that for months now have been saying how much we think of the volunteers and how proud we are of them, so don't need to go further into that. A few more words and he sits down. (EC thought it a rotten speech — he probably didn't know what he was going to say before he got there, and wasn't thinking about much except to get over with it while he was making it.) Next Mr. Burge introduced, he also speaks to "Volunteers, friends, wives, sweethearts, fathers, mothers, etc. and all others here". Says that as Mr. Head said so many ~~speeches~~ times already have the volunteers been told that we honor them, he doesn't want to make a long speech. But we are proud of them, and wish them good luck and gospeed.

(Right after boyscouts presented the colors, Ikuta announced that Miss Barley would lead all in singing "The Star Spangled Banner." She came forward and started it, everybody rose — had risen on the platform when flag brought up, except for three of the Camp 1 volunteers who sat on after all else were standing until prodded or happened to notice what was happening, then grinned and rose and looked self-conscious. Could hear faint murmurs

6/25/43

of laughter from the crowd at the boys. When the anthem started, could hear a few people near me singing or rather humming just under their breath. Soon most of us gave up, and only two people near me were making any effort—one Mrs. Kubota, an issei woman, and the other a young boy.

Then Rev. Imai was asked to lead us in prayer. Everyone stood silent, seemed to have heads bowed pretty consistently while he talked about how we would "all play for the boys", asked "our father" to give them faith, to fight for democracy and "this our great country." Referred to the fact that they were nisei, and returned to "faith" again. His prayer lasted several minutes. When he finished, heard the issei women behind me expell their breath in long "ah". Did it so synchronized that suspect it's pattern followed in church. — Think that after this comes the speech making)

Following Mr. Burge, Mr. Ikuta introduces Kuroda of One, as a man who needs no introduction. (Hear a couple murmurs about of "who is he"). He makes a long and rambling speech about the volunteers going out to fight for their country, the nobility of their action after being shut up in the camp for a year. Then comes Mr. Uyeno of Camp Two, who makes an even longer speech on the same subject — stressing pride in volunteers who are going to fight for their country and for democracy and how they will not let down the other Japanese-Americans whom they represent. Then Paul Nagano who says he speaks "as a Christian minister". He compares the volunteers to Christ in that they are substitutes for all of "us", representing "us" in the battleground. They are doing this to earn a better place for the others, so that there will come a time when there will be no such thing as discrimination against "us." (One of previous thinkers, believe Uyeno has said that no such thing as racial inferiority or superiority, quoting Roosevelt on "no race with mission to rule all other races.") Gives a long-drawn out story to push home the point "that it's up to you" now what the country thinks of

6/25/43

"us." He is proud of them and tells them that they should have faith that they will do their duty. Ends by saying that "those of us who are Christians will be praying for you."

This ends the speeches, and immediately Ikuta says "well, we'll push right along in our program." Introduces two harmonica players from Camp III who play "Ald Lang Syne". Then a girl who sings "My Buddy." The microphone does not function efficiently most of the time she is singing, so he calls her back for an encore and she sings "From Taps to Revelry." Following this come a couple entertainers from Camp 1 -- a man and then a girl. They sing Japanese songs. One is Roy Matsumoto who sings in Japanese, and notice Mr. Head trying to find out on the platform what the song is about. Then Ikuta says that the Matsumoto Mandarin band will play Ald Lang Syne and then the volunteers will come down to go to the bus. Someone interrupts him and he apologizes for forgetting Camp 2 entertainers. "Aloha." Then comes an accordian player and a girl who sings "When the Lights Come on Again All Over the World." Then he repeats his announcement about the "Mandarin Band" and out comes about 8 young fellows with Mandolins. One however, mandolinless, stands at the microphone and sings Ald Lang Syne in Japanese. When they finish, they start to leave the stage, but Ikuta calls them back saying "Miss Barley will lead us all now." They hesitate, look bewildered, but return and start. Miss Barley comes forward, starts the song, and there is a faint response from the crowd. Then those on the stage come down, the grey bus drives over to the road between 305 and 310, and waits there. Charley Nakamura (brother of one of the volunteers) is driving.

For about ten minutes there is general confusion, slowly the volunteers start coming forward, shaking hands with those along the way. See

6/25/43

many who look as though they have been weeping --eyes and face puffy, eyes red. This true of both sexes, and of some of the volunteers. See one volunteer remove his wreath and place it around the neck of a girl about 13 or 14. Notice several other young girls wearing the wreaths -- and not all the volunteers are wearing them -- can see marks of the dye on their shirts where the perspiration has made the color run. Then the bus is filled, and moves off heading the procession. The trucks loaded with people start to follow. Hear someone telling the council to get into their truck. Mr. Head and his car go by, and the Burges in their car. The crowd either breaks up or turns its attention to the movie which will shortly begin.

Have the feeling that less enthusiasm than for the first send off. Some applause, but perfunctory rather than felt. Suspect strongly that if the movie had not been scheduled there, the crowd would have been much much smaller.

(Notice in these things, that Christian ministers invited to participate but no Buddhist priests there. Should check to find out if they were not invited, or felt would rather not take part.)

375 Registered For Selective Service

"Although I personally doubt," said T.H. Haas, Project Attorney, yesterday, "whether the Nisei in this camp will be called into the Army, at least for the present, I do not know what action will ultimately be taken. Their work in this camp will be a contribution to this nation."

Registration of Nisei between 18-20 years, however, was duly carried out here as elsewhere in the U.S., June 30. About 375 registered for the selective service and about 91 of this age group failed to show up, many of whom may have registered elsewhere. Under the present legislation, the young men between 18-20 were required to register, but are not subject to call, until they reach the age of 20. The suggestion as to the desirability of younger men was made by some Army officials, because of the good health, enthusiasm, courage, lack of career, and lack of family obligations.

Official Daily PRESS BULLETIN
VOL. II, NO. 27 - July 12, 1942

375

180 Selective Service
Mass meeting at Block 4 stage by AHL
Volunteers leaving for induction

5-10-43

C.R. Christians -133
Local Administration -35
Entertainment -12

About 7:00 p.m. over 30 trucks and cars came up the road from Units II and III, flags flying and horns blowing. Their rumble and their appearance and the crowds aboard was all impressive. It moved me very much and made me feel that maybe the Nisei were getting some spirit of active unity. I was walking by the hospital as they were going by on the road and an old man, a patient, standing out back was watching too with a bright smile on his face. He bowed to me and waved at the procession saying, "Nice, isn't it?" with excitement and enthusiasm in his voice.

At block 4 stage was the largest crowd I have seen in Poston except for the strike on the last night. It was however, only a little large than the usual Shibai crowd. My guess would be 3-4000. As we were waiting for things to get started, some boys in two different groups were shouting back and forth to each other. They were from different blocks and each was jeering the other's block. The crowd was mostly Nisei. I walked around from one side to the other and counted five samples of ten each. These came out with 2, 6, 4, 0, 0 number of Issei respectively. I made no sample counts but I have an impression that there were more Issei women than Issei men.

On the platform, there appeared and sat in a circle, L. Nelson, Rev. Morikawa, W. Head, N. James, M. Burge, J. Crawford, F. Sugiyama, George Furuta, George Takaoka of Camp 3, George Kurata, Mr. Maeno and an army captain (M.P.?). All sat next to each other in an arc, the residents scattered among the appointed personnel except F. Sugiyama who sat with an empty chair between him and Mr. Burge and also a little

back from the circle in one corner of the stage. The others were all dressed up in their best clothes, but F. Sugiyama had on his every day khakis. He leaned back in his chair with bare arms folded across his chest and smiled a good deal.

133 N. James had a marked stage manner, swaggering and tossing his head. He made many jokes and over-dramatized the situation. He began by saying this was Poston, U.S.A - Part of America and so on. Then he called Rev. Morikawa to give the invocation. This he did stressing that service to God came before service to country, praying that these 47 boys would do well and honorably represent the people of Poston. (There were actually 35)

Mr. Takaoka (whom W. Head says is the vice-principal of Camp III) talked at great length in a very tense and hi-pitched voice and very earnestly. Toward the end it seemed as if he didn't know what to say, but also didn't know how to stop. He began by saying that he had never done what was expected of him since he came to Poston, but tonight he was going to do what was expected. He urged the volunteers to be a credit to their parents in many long phrases. He urged them not to think narrowly of loyalty to the Nisei or even to this country, but fight for tolerance and a great ideal.

John Maeno spoke for Camp II and broke the tension that I felt had been mounting in the audience as a result of N. James' inept allusions to patriotism and Takaoka's nervous and never-ending intensity. John Maeno was very matter of fact, joking about what a place Poston was (like an axis-concentration camp) and what would General DeWitt think if he saw this crowd now sending off the volunteers. At this point, he turned and said, "Eh Captain" to the Captain. He complimented

the volunteers on joining after such treatment. He got a number of laughs from the crowd which I thought discharged some aggression and reaction feelings. George Kurata spoke for Camp I. He was also somewhat matter of fact - down to earth.

35 W. Head sat in the middle of the circle. He was one of the first speakers. He said at the start he had had many disappointments in Poston and he knew the people had too, but this moment made up for all that. He ended by saying he wished he was going with the boys.

12 The "vaudeville show" was awful, except for the mouth organ players who were at least average. One couldn't hear the singers well and they were off key and the dancers were lousey. The crowd got very restless.

W. Head said later that the reason F. Sugiyama was over to one side from the others was that he got up there first and got in the shade. "He was the only smart one".

Actually, it was a balmy, not hot, evening.

COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Registration

Poston, Arizona

February 11
1 9 4 3

TO: JOHN BAKER, Chief WRA Reports Division, Washington

FROM: Norris James, Reports Officer, Poston

SUBJECT:

VERBATIM REPORTS OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING FIRST
THREE DAYS OF SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION AT POSTON

1. Attached is draft of verbatim report prepared by Reports Division, Colorado River War Relocation Project, for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 9, 10 and 11.
2. Selective Service registration was completed in Poston III this afternoon. The Army unit moves tomorrow to Poston II and will probably be there until Tuesday.
3. Lieut. John Bolton, in command of the unit, tells me that War Department rulings prevent him from disclosing the total number of volunteers to date.

/s/ Norris James

Norris James

COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Poston, Arizona

Norris E. James, Reports Officer

February 9, 1943

TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ASKED LIEUT. JOHN BOLTON,
U. S. ARMY TEAM, AT MESS HALL NO. 310, POSTON III.

o

Following instructions which had been given yesterday afternoon at the Unit III Mass Meeting by Administrator Moris Burge, male citizens of draft age assembled in Mess 310 at 9:30 a.m. today. They were briefly addressed by Mr. Burge, who then turned the meeting over to Lieutenant Bolton, who invited questions from the floor.

Q. If one volunteers for the army is it understood that the term of enlistment is for four years, or for the duration of the War and six months thereafter.

A. At the present time, all men in uniform are in the army for the duration of the war and six months thereafter, according to the will of the government. That is, the government can discharge you before the six months is up.

Q. Many of us American-Japanese have landed property in California. If they volunteer can they assign this property to their alien parents.

A. That is a question for the WRA. The War Department will seek an answer to that.

(Mr. Burge broke in to remark: The Project attorney last night was requested to prepare a ruling on that point. We expect to have that for you soon.)

Q. If a Nisei were killed in action, what would happen to his property.

A. Any answer I might give you would, again, be subject to check by the WRA.

Q. We feel it is a rank discrimination to form an All-Nisei battalion. This seems to be the biggest issue.

A. I presume you mean to word your question: Isn't this a form of discrimination. (Here Lieut. Bolton read the Official Answer and the Answer to Question No. 6 of the War Dept. Answers)

Q. If we don't volunteer at this time, can we expected to be drafted thru Selective Service and put into units for duty.

A. The answer is an unqualified "Yes." However, it may be six months, it may be a year before Selective Service calls you. We don't know.

Q. I don't particularly care to go into the Combat Unit. Could I go into a regular army unit.

A. I think the answer is two-fold. We have a dual purpose here. We are here to assist WRA in its Mass Leave Clearance program. May I repeat the Combat Team is an offer to you, to make yourself felt as a unit both now and after the war. No one is going to assist in your joining the Combat Team. We are here not to take men into the army, but to accept you into the army.

Q. If we volunteer into the Combat Team, will our citizenship be restored to us.

A. I think you have lost sight of one essential point--that your citizenship has not been taken from you. (Here the Lieutenant reads from Paragraph 7 of his speech).

Q. On that basis, can we feel assured that after the war we can go back to California to our homes.

A. So much depends upon what takes place during the war and after the war that we officially cannot give any such assurance. Actually, however, the War Department is sure of one thing--that your rights as citizens will not be impaired in any way. It is up to you.

Q. In line with that, I should like to point out that aliens of Japanese ancestry who fought for the United States in the last war required ten and even fifteen years for them to get their citizenship, even though it had been promised them. In fact they had to go to the superem court. Also why was it that the two Japanese American Legion posts in California have had their charters taken away from them.

A. The American Legion is a private organization. The government can take no responsibility for the acts of the American Legion, just as it cannot assume responsibility for the acts of the Elks Club, the CIO or the AF of L. We can only depend on the good faith of the government. So much depends on what you do in volunteering for this Combat Team.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to say one thing---the future of the Japanese American people lies in your hands today, in the decision you will make as to whether you indicate a desire to volunteer or not. However, I do not want to appear to be high pressuring you.

(Here, Lieut. Bolton read that Paragraph in his speech ending "... in the name of Democracy.")

Q. Will the people in here--Isseis and Niseis--be given a chance to get into war work.

A. Yes. That is a very important point of our mission here--to expedite leave clearances, so that all of you here at the Center may contribute to the national war effort to the best of your ability.

Q. Has the War Department considered the fairness of asking us to volunteer for this Combat Team after many of us have lost everything due to our evacuation from the Coast.

A. Gentlemen, I believe the questioner meant: "Wouldn't the War Department have gotten many more volunteers if you had been permitted to

stay in your homes on the Coast. Well, you were removed from your homes for two reasons, both equally important. One, it was a matter of Military Necessity--for the protection of the nation. Two, the other was just as important--for your own protection. War time brings to all of us many trials, many problems. These are solved in many ways. I do not believe any of us are in a position to question the good faith of our government.

Q. Why were we moved from the Coast, when other Japanese were permitted to stay in Hawaii.

A. I do not believe any of us are in a position to compare the problem of Hawaii with that of the Coastal states. I think the thing we should be interested in here is the good faith of the government to solve the problem now! And I think all of us should bear in mind that the good faith of the government is keeping faith with you now.

Q. One reason for evacuation involved our own safety. What assurance have we that our safety will be preserved if we re-locate in the Mid West.

(The question was re-worded by Sergt. Kinoshita from the back of the Mess Hall, but was inaudible. It apparently referred to an Arkansas incident involving a Nisei soldier and a shooting fracas).

A. I do not think we are justified in drawing a parallel with this Arkansas incident. This program of the Combat Team and all it implies will be a direct rebuff to ignorant persons. I don't anticipate any difficulties once you are cleared from here.

Q. Will those of us who have received military training in high school or college be given preference.

A. Definitely, yes. Your aptitudes, your experience, your training will

be wholly evaluated. You are exceptionally smart. I understand the average here goes way over high school attendance. That is ~~it~~ way ahead of the rest of the country. This war is a war of specialists, a war which requires experts in action.

Q. What assurances can the government give the men as to their parents.

A. WRA has a Leave Clearance system. We are cooperating with them.

WRA will give special consideration to parents of Nisei soldiers.

(At suggestion of Mr. Head, the Lt. continues on new track) Regarding Insurance and family benefits you will have the same benefits as any soldier in the army has. Family allotments will be made. You will have adequate care provided for your family.

Q. If an individual is married and has a family and he volunteers, will his dependents, if they stay in the Center, be charged for subsistence or Clothing Allowance.

A. By Mr. Head). No charges will be made by WRA.

Q. If a man joins the Army, how much will his wife receive.

A. I'll ask Sgt. Woolsey to answer that.

A. (Sergt, Woolsey) A soldier contributes \$22 a month, and the government matches that with an allotment of \$28 a month. For the first child, there is an allotment of \$12, and \$10 for each additional child. If a man is a private, he still has \$28 a month for himself for cigarettes, etc.

(Laughs)

Q. I have a wife and also a dependent Mother. Will my mother get an allowance, too.

A. I do not believe so, but I'm not sure. However, we'll get an answer for that before we leave the Center.

Q. Would a wife in this category pay an income tax if she stayed here?

A. Yes, I think so. (Mr. Head) Yes, she would definitely pay on the cash received if her total income comes within the Income Tax brackets.

Q. How about those men who go into defense work. Can their families remain behind in the Center.

A. (By Mr. Head) Yes, we are urging them to do that. Until he can make arrangements to properly house and feed them.

Q. Will people who are especially trained in Agricultural work go into Agricultural work.

A. Most every type of production work is war work. Farming is certainly essential.

Q. A second question: Does the War Department advise Agricultural experts to stay in Agriculture or go into the Army.

A. So far, many men have been taken from Agriculture into the army. So far, the War Department has not yet made a complete decision on the deferment of Agricultural workers. There is little place in the army--in uniform service--for agricultural workers.

Q. Can a soldier make a will on his property, leaving it to his father, an alien.

A. (By Mr. Burge) Yes. I have here a list of opinions just received from Mr. Haas, the Project Attorney (reads these opinions)

Q. In the event a man volunteers, will he be permitted to go to California to settle his business affairs.

A. (By Mr. Head) This is in the hands of the Western Defense Command. Such a man can go now. If he can justify the importance of his business, his request will be granted.

Q. Why haven't Nisei soldiers been permitted to come to the camps.

My brother several months ago tried to come to Poston to attend my father's funeral but they stopped him.

A. Soldiers are restricted by Army regulations in their movements.

Q. (By Mr. Head) No soldier has been refused permission by General DeWitt to attend his sick parents or to come here for funerals.

(Mr. Gelvin and the questioner, here, discussed this particular case. It was shown that a Guard Escort Company in Illinois, apparently stopped the questioner's brother en route to Poston. The incident occurred in September).

Q. Is the Air Corps included in the Combat Unit.

A. No.

Q. How about the Tank Corps.

A. Yes, The Tank Corps is usually included.

(Here, Lt. Bolton launched into a brief discussion of the various arms of the Combat Team).

Q. Will Kibei be included among the volunteers. Do you know the term, Kibei.

A. I know the term Kibei very well. I will not use it. There are only Isseis and Niseis, to me. I have discovered that there are many of what you choose to call Kibei, right here in this camp, who are most anxious to join the Combat Team.

Q. If we don't make a good showing in volunteering for this Combat Unit, what about it.

A. I can't answer that. I may say that on the attitude you have shown, I'm not afraid. I am not, however, high-pressuring you.

It is your own individual choice. Loyalty will not be determined by whether you join the Combat Team or not. You may feel that you are not qualified for the Combat Team. This is your choice.

Q. In case we volunteer, are we going to have a physical examination or are we going as we are. (Laughs).

A. I think I know what the gentleman has in mind. The preliminary examination is waived. The regular army examination is the only one you will have. The probability is that it will be given at Camp Shelby, Miss. where the Unit will be trained. It is about 100^{miles}/from New Orleans.

Q. If I fail to volunteer and Selective Service calls me, can I then volunteer for this Combat Unit.

A. The probabilities are you will not have an opportunity to join the Combat Unit. This Combat Team is trained to operate as a team you would be behind in your training. This is like a football team. You don't bring a raw, untrained player into your lineup.

Q. If I cannot make up my mind to Volunteer today, may I do so later on.

A. Yes. You will be able to volunteer later, as long as we are at the Center. Conversely, if you do volunteer today, and desire to change your mind before we leave, you may do so. However, we are going to have the first men moving to Shelby by March 1st.

Q. How long will a soldier be trained before going into the front.

A. We don't call it "the front" today. It is the Combat Zone. A soldier in this war generally has not gone to the Combat Zone until he has had at least 6 months training. We are not making the same mistake we did in the last war of sending raw, untrained men into battle.

Q. How high will commissioned officers in this unit go.

A. The top rank will be Colonel. At first, since there are no War Department records showing officers of Japanese blood higher than the rank of first lieutenant, Caucasian officers will fill the higher ranks. They will be replaced as rapidly as possible. For those of you who are interested, the War Department plans to commission as many men as the Combat Team will require. A training cadre is now at Camp Shelby preparing for the Team.

Q. Can Japanese Americans attend Officer Candidates Schools.

A. Yes. Japanese Americans will attend the same schools as Caucasians, upon strict qualifications. Many of you have these special skills, special abilities.

Q. Will WRA restrict camp physicians and surgeons for volunteering.

A. I looked to Mr. Head for that answer. He says: No. However, I must point out that there are only a limited number of opportunities for doctors and dentists with the Combat Unit.

Q. What is the status of a person who served in the Army, received an honorable discharge into the Reserve, then an honorable discharge from the Reserve.

A. If you wish to get back into the Army, this is your opportunity to do it. We are to make a special notation of your military training.

Q. If too many doctors volunteer, how about the medical staff at the Center.

A. (By Mr. Head) I think there are two answers to that. First, with this new leave program there will probably be 10,000 persons who will want to go out of here. If this should happen, there will be sufficient number of doctors remaining to take care of ^{over} you. According to the per capita figures--taken for the country--
Poston actually has more doctors than the average per capita for

the whole United States.

Q. If there is only man in a family, and he is killed in action, who will take care of his family.

A. The same process applies here as to any American soldier. He will have his insurance--in amounts up to \$10,000--which will be quite a sizeable amount to take care of his parents.

Q. If a Nisei is qualified will he be taken into the Air Corps.

A. The War Department is working on that right now.

Q. Is there any way of getting into the Navy.

A. I don't know anything about the Navy. I believe it is under consideration by the Navy Department.

(Here, Mr. Burge took over and explained the schedule for the afternoon.

Registration	Block 305	2 p.m.
	Block 306	2:45
	Block 307	3:30
	Block 308	4:15
	Block 309	
	310	5 p.m.

The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. Following an introduction by Administrator Moris Burge, Poston III, during which Lt. John Bolton was greeted by applause the leader of the U. S. Army Team drew on questions and answers from the previous day's meeting. Then, the meeting resolved itself into fresh inquiries:

Q. Is the War Department planning to induct those who are not in the Relocation Centers.

A. I presume you mean those who have already left here on Indefinite Leave. Yes, the same thing holds true for those who are not now in the Center,--those, too, who were never in the Center, those who have two kinds of leave, short-term and Indefinite. May I enlarge on this. For those who are not in the Center, they may go to their nearest Draft Board if they want voluntary induction into this Combat Unit. You may write to your friends in this category and tell them that. The Draft Board will fill out for them the same two forms you are to fill out here.

Q. ~~Is~~ Is any system being worked out to let those on the outside know about this Combat Team and our volunteering.

A. I have no answer to that. Perhaps Mr. Burge has.

(Mr. Burge says that WRA is taking steps to inform Japanese Americans on the outside.)

Q. What assurances have we that we shall have all the rights and privileges in all the states and California if we volunteer.

A. (After consultation). My staff suggests I bring this idea to your attention. That question cannot be answered one way or another. The Federal government cannot speak for the states. Nor can the states speak for the Federal government. The states have certain rights reserved to themselves. But,--may I emphasize this point--

the future is in your hands! The answer you seek depends on how you react here, how well this program goes over. The Federal government has never entered upon a program of discrimination.

Q. How can we be assured we won't be deported after the war is over.

A. I wish you would stick to the point. You can't deport American citizens.

Q. We aren't fighting only for ourselves, our American citizenship. We are fighting for our parents. What about them.

A. Remember this. There is no involuntary repatriation--or deportation if you wish. Repatriation is purely voluntary.

Q. A pressure group in Congress might start a bill which would jeopardize our position. What about that.

A. There is a great deal to be done in this country in educating the people. You people are very smart people. ~~My~~ I speak, not as a representative of the War Department. May I suggest to you as members of a Minority Group that you join in this program for educating the American people. I think, up until now, you have more or less "missed the boat" by neglecting to educate America. Any minority group should make itself understood throughout the country. I can't speak on this officially. That's my personal opinion, however.

Q. Quite a few of us had occupational deferment before. Will Selective Service recognize this now.

A. The basis upon which Selective Service is being set up, is, of course, not based upon what you are doing here, or what you were doing at the time of Selective Service on the outside. May I go back to a second phase of our mission here, that is to assist in WRA's Leave Clearance program so that you may engage in important war work.

Q. In other words, there is no such thing as occupational deferment in the Center.

A. I think you are right. If you remain in the Center, I think you do not get deferment.

- Q. How about those who go out to the beet harvests and then return to the Center when harvesting is over.
- A. As I understand it, Selective Service does not have a general policy of deferment for Agricultural workers. But don't miss the point--no one is going to force you out of the Centers. Selective Service, however, knows nothing about you, I can't speak for Selective Service. They will learn about you from the machinery--the forms--we are setting up here. (Consultation) The Sergeant (Bass) suggests I make it clear that Agricultural work is not a basis for exemption. There are many farms in Illinois which have been stripped of their workers and hands.
- Q. Say, will a Japanese American be able to work in defense plants.
- A. Yes. That is an essential part of our mission here. We want to clear you for that very thing.
- Q. Is it compulsory to fill out both the Selective Service and Leave forms.
- A. Yes, But may I make it clear again that no one is going to force you out of the center.
- Q. In regards to the dependents. Will they be classed as such while we are in the Center and eligible for exemptions.
- A. That is a question which technically and legally should not bother you. Of course, they are still dependents.
- Q. (Additional answer by Sgt. Woolsey). If your parents are here and are taken care of by WRA, Selective Service will determine whether you are eligible for the draft. I am not an expert on Selective Service, but am drawing on the experience of friends. It is always a question of fact--that is, how much contribution you are actually making toward your parents.

Q. What branches of the service can we go into. The Navy.

A. No. We can't tell you about the Navy. We understand that the Navy department, however, has this under consideration.

(Here Lt. Bolton made it clear he could not speak for the Navy Dept.)

Q. Is there a possibility of granting citizenship to our parents.

A. This program is being conducted in all the centers. What further things can be done depends upon how the program is received. I can't prophesy what will happen. I wish I could.

Q. Can you give us information as to what Combat Zone this Combat Team will be sent into.

A. It is not contemplated at the present time that the Combat Team will be sent to the Pacific Zone.

(The Lt. then read from the Official Answers).

Q. It is our understanding that members of this Combat Team will be given opportunity for rapid advancement. How about fellow Nisei-soldiers, already in the army. Will they be given the same opportunity. Won't that be fair.

A. I think I can rephrase that question: Have soldiers of Japanese ancestry been discriminated against.

(Lt. Bolton reads from Official Answers)

Sergeant Jim, perhaps you would like to discuss that.

A. (Sgt. Kinoshita) On the whole, I think I can speak for a number of fellows like myself. The treatment has been very good.

Q. You said Japanese American soldiers would rank equally with Caucasian soldiers. Why can't they go back to work any place on the Coast as they please.

- A. (Given by Sergt. Kinoshita and repeated by Lieut. Bolton over the loudspeaker) The restrictions are definitely there against Japanese American soldiers entering Military Zone "A". But I think I ought to make this clear. Because of the dangers of the enemy putting men into American uniforms and enabling them to move around at will the Army had to take steps to prevent possible sabotage. Is that clear.
- Q. Have you any information as to the reclassification of alien parents where a son volunteers.
- A. That is a question which, of course, has to be settled individually. Very definitely the War Department will consider the case of your parent for the most favorable classification if you volunteer. It is up to you therefore. The whole success of this program depends upon your acceptance in complete good faith. I mean that very seriously.
- Q. There are cases where the father is in an interment camp and the son is in the army. What about the father. Will they let him go.
- A. I say more power to the son! We have many cases of Americans of German descent whose fathers are behind bars. Don't ask for something more than someone else is getting.
- Q. Many Kibei's, who are loyal, are unable to talk good English. Are they acceptable.
- A. The Army's present standard of education for acceptance is a fourth grade education. (laughs)
- Q. Will preliminary medical examination be waived for volunteers.
- A. Yes. Medical examination will not be given until the applicant arrives at the point of induction.
- Q. If he goes to Camp Shelby and is rejected because of physical defects, can he go some place and get a job.
- A. Yes. Before he leaves here, he will have secured Indefinite Leave Clearance and he has the choice of either relocating or returning to the center.

Q. This question is in two parts. If a soldier is killed in action will his beneficiary receive the insurance in a lump sum. If he is disabled, What compensation will he receive.

A. My answer to both questions is: The same provisions apply here that apply to every other American soldier. I have a "Manual on the Personal Affairs of a Soldier and His Dependents." I'd be glad to consult it with you. The same rules of procedure will apply to members of the Combat Team as to all men wearing the uniform of an American soldier.

Q. Will a moratorium be placed on mortgages, private insurance debts, etc.

A. The Congress of the United States a little more than a year ago passed an act making provision for a Moratorium on Debts. I shall ask Sgt. Woolsey to briefly explain it.

A. (By Woolsey) This act, known as the Soldiers and Sailors Act enables the government to make loans for the payment of insurance premiums and mortgages. Incidentally you can even get a moratorium on your income tax, on all obligations like that which can be put over until after the war.

Q. In case my father is the only beneficiary. If he is an alien, can he receive the same benefits as any other beneficiary.

A. The answer is yes, subject only to the law relating to the receipt of money by those who are interned.

Q. Is a person 17 liable to the draft.

A. Not at present. The draft age is 18 to 38.

Q. In looking over the questionnaires No. 27 seems to be confused. Will you explain it please.

A. Yes. I realize Question 27 may confuse some of you. But there is no trick to that wording. By no means. I had an answer to that question from a fellow yesterday, and it read: "No. Unless I get into a non-

weapon bearing unit." He was a Conscientious Objector. I liked that. I appreciated his position. What we want, is honest answers.

Q. That Question--Question 27--does not mean: Are you volunteering.

A. No. It does not mean "Are you volunteering?"

Q. I'd also like to have you read Question 28 and explain it.

A. Very well. (Reads question). Now the word so many people seem to trip over is "forswear". There is no single substitute, no synonym for it in the English language. It means literally "to swear against." I don't know of any equivalent word. It means do you feel in your own mind that the government of the United States is supreme over any other government.

Q. Is it possible to know how many volunteered from yesterday's group.

A. No. The figures are kept entirely secret. I know, but I don't believe the sergeants here know. That is an official secret. I wish I could give them to you. Those figures are in Washington now.

Q. I don't say you are wrong. But on the outside they always print the figures--and the names--of those enlisting in each town. Why should we be any different. Why can't we do the same.

A. There is one essential point. I don't think any of you who are loyal quite appreciate it. And that is: that in these centers we have people who are definitely disloyal. And for your protection and for the protection of the country, we have to do things that we don't do elsewhere!

Q. When will volunteers be leaving.

A. From March 1 to April 1 volunteers will be received at Camp Shelby.

Q. What should be taken along.

A. You will be given instructions upon receipt of your orders of induction.

Q. I understand you are taking volunteers only while you are here.

A. That is correct. Did all of you hear that?

Q. Is any attempt being made for those who are going out into War Wrok to be taken into labor unions.

A. You will not be sent into areas where labor unions will not accept you.

Q. Lieutenant, just in case the number of volunteers is too small to form the Combat Team, what will be the procedure. Will draftees be sent to the Combat Team.

A. Officially the position is this. We are depending upon your loyalty and your desire to join the army. We have not considered that point. It depends upon you. We are not planning now to draft Japanese Americans for the Combat Team. I do not think you fully appreciate that the future of Japanese American people in this country may be assured if you wholeheartedly support this program. But it depends upon your choice. You are still free American citizens. Remember that the solution of after-the-war problems depends upon this matter before you now. It is more vital than any of you, I am afraid realize.

As it was now approximately 12 o'clock noon, the meeting adjourned with registration scheduled to start at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting opened at 9:45 a.m. Following an introduction by Administrator Moris Burge, Poston III, Lieutenant Bolton drew on questions and answers from the previous two days' sessions.

Lt. Bolton - We have some pictures of the 100th Battalion over there on the wall. That is the Hawaiian National Guard group. That is a top outfit. They're just tops.

Q. Like you say, if we go into an all Japanese unit, we may make a record/ as good fighters. But will be segregated after the war.

A. You aren't going to be put off in a corner. You'll have exactly the same privileges as all other soldiers. Sgt. Kinoshita can tell you about that.

Q. Does that mean the Combat Team is going to fight as a unit alone-- or is it going to be backed up by other regiments.

(loud laughs)

A. I'm afraid that question is not as foolish as it sounds. No one ever fights alone. No officer ever puts his unit out alone.

You are not going to be put out on the front and have everyone else walk out on you. (LAUGHS) The point is that it takes at least \$2000 to train a single soldier. If I know my government, it is not going to train a soldier and then throw him away.

I'll even revise my figures and say with equipment the cost would be closer to \$5000.

Q. You were talking about the good faith that comes out of the Combat Team. Does that mean that the government is going to have a publicity campaign. I've never seen any pictures of Japanese soldiers in the photo sections. I've never seen anything about that Hawaiian soldiers.

// (Here Lt. Bolton pointed out that the War Dept. has sanctioned

such publicity. Drawing from personal knowledge, he cited an article in Reader's Digest, news accounts in the Washington Post, January 29, The El Paso Times and the Phoenix Republic and Gazette.)

Q. After the Combat Unit is formed, if you are drafted 10 months later, can you transfer to the Combat Unit.

A. No. There can be no assurance on that. I should say there would be a strong possibility, however.

Q. I have some brother in the Army and they have not received furloughs as others soldiers have.

A. I was talking to a amn who was in the Army 18 months and who has had only one furlough. Sgt. Bass here says he has had only one furlough in 20 months and that for only 10 days. Sgt. Woolsey has had a furlough in 12 months, but he's married.

Q. If you send us ^{to} the the European front, what close contact would we have with our parents.

A. No more, no less than any other American soldier. I talked with a Lieutenant in maneuvers near Parker, who got his first letter from his wife six weeks after she'd mailed it. But the War Department is speeding up soldier's mail. You'll get the same treatment as everybody else.

Q. Am I correct in assuming that Japanese Americans who want to serve in other than the Combat Unit can do so through the draft.

A. Yes. The only difficulty is we don't know when Selective Service will take care of you.

Q. Could I write to my Selective Service Board and ask for voluntary induction later.

A. Yes. (Sgt. Woolsey suggested this statement be checked.) We have the whole month of March to move the Combat Unit to Camp Shelby.

I should say you would have to take your chances with your Selective Service Board.

Q. Will there be any restrictions on Japanese American soldiers in uniform visiting their parents in California on a furlough.

A. If you have a good reason for going into Zone A, you will be granted a permit. There are, however, restrictions against ~~anyone~~ everyone entering that Zone.

Q. In the discussions of the past two days Question 27 seems to be of paramount interest. Can you clarify that, sir.

A. (The Lieutenant reads the question and gives conventional answer).

Q. What constitutes a Combat Team.

A. This is a self contained team. I can't give you the figures but I can give you that much. The Sergeant calls to my attention that a little of Non-Coms and Commissioned officers will be procured from the volunteers insofar as possible.

Q. Will there be any restrictions against any of us going into other branches of the service, such as the air force or tank corps.

A. I should say you would have to take your chances with everyone else on transfers, since the Combat Unit does not include the air branch.

Q. Are there any young Japanese Americans in the Air Corps or Tank Corps.

A. I don't know. (Sgt. Woolsey says there are in the Tank Corps)

A. (By Sgt. Kinoshita) I Believe there are some exceptional cases, sir. I remember reading about it in the paper.)

Q. How about those Japanese Americans who served in the last war and had to wait 14 years for their citizenship. How about those negroes who are being sent to Africa. I don't see any publicity about

them.

A. (By Sgt. Bass) In filling out 27 and 28 yesterday and the day before, some boys brought out that question for personal reasons. (Cites reasons).

Q. Supposing we are drafted and do not serve. What happens. Why were we discharged before.

A. There were two reasons for your discharge. Military necessity was the first. The second was that there was no clear-out policy for utilizing you in the army.

Q. Right now there are relatives and friends serving in the Army. Does the War Department plan to incorporate them in the Combat Unit.

A. A few of them are being taken to Camp Shelby as training cadres. It is necessary to have trained men to train you. Several men here has already told me there brothers have been transferred to Shelby.

Q. This question may be for WRA. In case the Father and Mother are separated by his internment would it be possible for a volunteer to see them united.

A. (By Mr. Burge) That would depend upon several things. First, if the Mother wants to go to visit her husband or to stay with him. Second, how much time the Army allows for furloughs. WRA, however, is making special dispensations for volunteers. We have not, however, any control over the wishes of parents.

Q. Another thing that carries a lot of weight is the internment of our fathers. In my case, my father served 14 years in the Navy. Still he's in an internment camp.

- A. The War Department policy will be to give special consideration to parents of men who volunteer. We realize you are so loyal you have differed with your parents. I should be very glad to discuss individual cases as individual cases. However, I can't go off the record here. I'm speaking for the War Department here.
- Q. I was asked to ask this question. About this WAAC business. It may be something to think about. Can a Nisei girl join the WAACS if her husband joins the army and she is left at home with nothing to do. (LAUGHS)
- A. When we first went into conference in Washington, some officers of the WAACS were there. I'm sorry we were unable to bring into the Center a WAAC representative. You may inform your wives--and lady friends--that WAAC representatives will be here just as soon as they can train people for this mission.
- Q. Is it true that no one has dependents in this Center.
- A. No, this is not true. You have dependents here just as anyone else has.
- Q. I have a brother in the armed forces. My father is interned because of no obvious reasons. They won't give us any reasons for his internment. Why not.
- A. I can't answer that. All I can say is that a definite policy was formed quite recently.
- Q. How about debts. Will they be postponed.
- A. Congress has passed a Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, providing a moratorium on contracts. You should consult an attorney, however, before applying for benefits under this Act, if you volunteer. By and large, however, payments are suspended while the war is continuing and you are in the service.
- (Here Mr. Burge took over and announced the afternoon schedule

for registration.)

Selective
Service Registration

Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

March 4, 1943

Blk. 213-14 vol.
Roll 6 - 50

Here is a list of the blocks in the order of the number of volunteers from each block. I want to congratulate, not only the volunteers, but the parents, wives, and sweethearts as well ~~on~~ all those who are going. Particularly do I want to commend the blocks who have made the best showing in this very important contribution which the volunteers are making, not only to the nation, but to the welfare of the entire Japanese American group as well. Hats off especially to Blocks 28, 11, 46, 2, and 32.

There is still time for volunteering. The army team is located in Recreation Hall #31 and will remain on the Project until March 10.

Block #28	6
11	} tie 5
46	
2	} tie 4
32	
5	} 3
14	
15	
16	
17	
19	
22	
31	} 2
35	
42	
6	
27	
30	} 1
45	
53	
47	
3	} 1
13	
21	
26	
36	
38	} 1
59	

HOW DOES YOUR BLOCK STAND? LET'S ALL DO OUR PART!

John G. Evans
Assistant to the Project Director

March 5, 1943 - ([REDACTED])

-44-

Just came across following info (confidential); re: selective service registration:

Total registrants	3321
Total registrants refusing to register	None
Registrants replying "yes" to question 26	84
Registrants replying "No" to question 28	513
Registrants not replying to question 28	107
Registrants replying "Yes" to question 27	2111
Registrants replying "No" to question 27	1203
Registrants replying "Yes" with qualifications	7
Number volunteering in Army	191
Total eligible for filling 304-A	3321

Group A1-- 17 to 37 inclusive	No to 28	No reply
Number registrants with one or both parents interned	25	9
Registrants with either father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter in Japan	213	51
Registrants who traveled in Japan three years or more since 1934 and attended school two years or more	162	42
Registrants now registered with Japanese citizenship. Question 25 "yes" and question 25a "No."	89	21
Registrants who have requested repatriation Question 26 "Yes"	77	6
Registrants who have requested repatriation and who are on any list furnished as coming from the State Dept.	None	None

Group B1 -- 38 and above		
Number registrants with one or both parents interned	None	None
Registrants with either father, mother, brother, sister, son, dtr. in Japan	5	None
Registrants now registered with Japanese citizenship. Question 25 "yes" and question 25a "No."	9	None

(This group answered "none" for all other questions, which are identical with the ones above, in group ~~IA~~ A1)

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER ADDRESS

Feb 14 1943. 8'
Lt. Bolton's speech
delivered in Camp 2
Same delivered on Feb. 4
Jibai stage 2/17/43

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 circumstances 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 hundred 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 ^{your} 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 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 officer-ship, 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 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.

Amacé, Colorado
Selective Service Registration

The results obtained up to the 18th of February presents a very unsatisfactory reaction of the evacuees toward the enlistment program. At that time only 37 had volunteered, mainly from the education department and fire department.

A second effort was made to register volunteers who have changed their mindss about the questions 27 and 28. However, the b volunteers in this second effort were registrants from the ducation and fire departtments. It may perhaps be assumed that the majority of office workers and teachers and others from the education dept. who compose the neucleus of the volunteers are the intellectual group who fully realize the significance of this program.

The preliminary steps taken toward the clarification of the voluntary enlistment program began on Feb. 8, 1943, and continued for t~~wo~~ days. All those 18 to 38, male and female, were compelled to attend this meeting held in Terry Hall. In order to facilitate the carryin out of this program, the center was divided up into various blocks. There was a slght fhange made in including those 17 to 38 ~~on Feb. 1, 1943~~ but only those 18 to 38 on Feb. 1, 1943 were recorded in the figures of the combat team, and sent to Washington.

There are in this center 7,213 evacuees. Out of this number, there are approximately 1,200 who are between the ages of 18 to 38. It is shown that there are 42 eligibles in each block for 29 blocks. These are figures released by Mr. Walter Knodell, placement officer.

Beginniing on Feb. 8th and closing on Feb. 9th ghe following sppech was read to the residents 15 times, by Capt. Fairchild and Sergeant Davis. After each reading, various questions were brot up for discussion (same speech delivered in Poston).

Now ket us see the reaction of the Nisei toward the formation of a s4parate combat team. Several questions were asked in the discussion period, amd the most important was why should we have a separate combat unit composed of all Nisei? Why not let them undergo training with all the rest of the American soldiers? Would we not feel that we are being discfiminated from the American soldiers under such a program?

these questions were answered by Capt. Fairchild and also by Sgt. Davis, and in a speech given by Superintendent of Education, Paul Terry in the second meeting to encourage voluntary enlistment. (Questions asked same as those asked at Poston).

On Wed., Feb. 10, registration of men, 17 to 38, was started on its way and was completed at noon ? taturday, Fe. 11, 1943. By noon, Wed., there were only 13 voluniteers and thereafter the writer has not been able to obtain any statistics because the figures were considered a military secret. However, from a reliable source, he received information that that there were only 37 volunteers upon the completion of the first registration.

This result indicated a very, very poor reaction on the part of the Nisei. The tabulated figures were for only those from 18 to 38. Those 17 years old were not included.

From the comparative reports of the other center, it was discovered that this center had the worst showing, despite the fact that up to date, it had been the most peaceful relocation project. Because of this unfavorable reaction and attitude of the Nisei, the Granada Relocation Council had scheduled the second meeting of all Nisei, 18 to 38, in order to clarify certain questions which may have been misunderstood by the registrants. Second meeting begun on Feb. 19th and completed on Sat., Feb. 20.

It was pointed out very clearly that the answer "No" to question 28 was three times greater than the number of volunteers. This question and its possible answers were explained by Capt. Fairchild (i.e. 27). He pointed out that it could be answered: "Yes", "Yes, if drafted.", "No", and "No, with qualifications". If the answer was "Yes" then a separate form of voluntary application would have to be filled out. The majority answered, "Yes, if drafted". He emphasized that the draft would eventually come to you. The answer "No" could ~~be~~ not be interpreted otherwise. "No" with a qualified answer indicated not disloyalty, but would be considered for the ministers, the physically disabled, and the conscientious objectors.

He reiterated that the responsibility of voluntary enlistment was for each one to decide for himself. That the combat team would be formed regardless of the showing here. He also emphasized why this particular program was being carried out by the War Dept. It was because the 4C classifications by the Draft Board had brought thousands of letters to the War Dept. requesting some ways by which they might be reclassified and be given the opportunity to serve in the U. S. forces. The response to these letters was the formation of the separate combat team to be composed entirely of Nisei.

Mames, Lindley, project director, elaborated upon the seriousness of question 28 more than question 27. "The success of this enlistment program would have a tremendous effect upon the War Relocation resettlement program. Why so many Nisei answered question 28 "No" is unbelievable. He emphasized that if this program failed, "We all might as well look for drastic changes".

The most convincing speech was presented by Paul Terry, superintendent of education. He expressed himself as an average American looking at this voluntary program with a broad perspective. He said that the evacuees still have that feeling of resentment because of this evacuation and because of being placed in relocation centers; yet they have been evacuated from your homes into relocation centers. But this is your opportunity to show the American public your loyalty. You have been educated in the institutions of the West Coast. You Nisei are considered the selected group, yet there have answered "No" on question 28 to one volunteer. If this selected group says "No" then what would the American public think about the rest of the evacuees? Do you not sense the seriousness of the question?

in that region that brings forth this

"What would they think about the one-third of a million dollars being spent for the machine school buildings? If this program proves successful, then the public will immediately recognize your loyalty. But if it should prove a failure, then they will say, 'I told you so.' They belong right where they are." The responsibility lies with each of you."

After these speeches had been given by the various speakers, Walter Knodel announced that registration would be opened till Wednesday, 4:00 P.M., Feb. 24, 1943. All those who cared to change their mind about the answers to questions 27 and 28 would be accepted. For those who had volunteered it was announced that notice would be sent by the Selective Service Board informing of their induction date.

Why program was unsuccessful according to writer: It must be understood that the majority of the citizens have answered, "Yes, if drafted." It is my firm conviction that this is the prevalent answer in all the relocation centers. There is no question that if one be drafted there is no alternative but to go.

The much discussed problem of whether or not the government was justified in evacuating all the Japanese from the West Coast only leaves hurting memories of the past. They have left so much behind them. This predominant thought is in the mind of the evacuees. While there are those who have taken advantage of this opportunity to show the rest of the American people by volunteering, there is the feeling of resentment toward the evacuation, which cannot be concealed. Much emphasis has been made in the speeches given in this Center to extricate this sentiment of the people.

There are others who have been influenced by their parents not to volunteer. A striking example of this case is shown by the registration of two brothers who have answered "No?" to both 27 and 28. They have been questioned whether they had done the right thing and the answer is uncertainty. They must perfectly realize the validity of the questions. They outwardly claim they are Japanese.

Here is another example of a Nisei who said, "I answered No to both questions. Why should I volunteer and swear allegiance to this country? If I were given equal opportunities like the rest, sure, I'll volunteer."

Take some others of the Delta Region of Northern California where environmental factors have played such a tremendous role in their daily life. That influence is brought with them to this center.

The Japanese pupils attend a separate school from the Caucasians. Youth in quest of learning have not been given the opportunity to go to school with the rest of the Americans, and thereby have been deprived of the association which plays such a vital role in the progress of society. How detrimental this educational background is has been clearly shown in this center. Their attitudes toward registration, especially a certain block in this center, proved that influence. They are more Japanized than Americanized.

The schools here bring out the fact that though the evacuees from the Delta region understand English, they try not to use it. They speak largely Japanese, yet they are attending American schools. Their cooperative spirit is lacking. It is the education segregation

3/ in that region that brings forth this very poor attitude from them. How poor it is is shown by the results up to the close of the 1st registration. There has been no volunteers from that block. It cannot be denied but that in this group parental influence has played an important part,

Another very interesting case is: "What will the govt guarantee after the war?"

Another has declined to volunteer because he cannot apply for the merchant marine. He says, "If I can get into the merchant marine, I'll volunteer right away."

This has been made clear in the discussion preliminary to registration. The same thing holds true for those who want to get into the Air Corps.

There are others who try to take the easiest way out, so they just wait for the draft to catch up with them.

Clarence Nyematsu
Documentation Section
Reports Office
March 1, 1943.

Final Statistics

Total number of eligibles — (18-38) — 1244
Total " " volunteers (15-39) — 124

Total # of Nisei — 120

Total # of Kibei — 3

Total # of Issei — 1

Total # (single) — 109

Total # (married) — 15

Total # of single (18-38) — 97

" " " married — 14

15 years old — 1

16 " " — 1

17 " " — 9

39 yrs. old — 1

alien (married) — 1

Volunteers from assembly centers.

Santa Anita — 63

Merced — 58

Transfers — 3

Transfers —

Religious affiliation

Christians — 80

Buddhists — 18

Unclassified — 26

March 25, 1943
Amache, Colorado

Typical answers given for changing answers
to question no. 28 from no to yes.

There were originally 106 who answered "no" to question 28, and thereafter 92 changed to "yes". Out of the 106, 47 were Kibei and 59 were Nisei. Fourteen of this total number still left it "no". Seven of the 14 "nos" asked for repatriation.

Majority answered "no" to 28 because of
misunderstanding.

Volunteers in Age Group

15 years old - 1	27 - 7
16 " " - 1	28 - 2
17 - 9	29 - 3
18 - 18	30 - 1
19 - 11	31 - 1
20 - 16	32 - 2
21 - 13	33 - 1
22 - 8	34 - 1
23 - 9	35 - 1
24 - 5	36 - 1
25 - 6	37 - 1
26 - 5	38 - 0
	39 - 1

Note: More than 50% of the eligibles (18-38) are in the age group of 18-21 inclusive. Out of the total of 111 bet. the ages of 18-38, 58 volunteers are in the age group of 18-21.