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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

May 17, 1943

MEMORANDUM

To: Relocation Supervisors

Subject: Special Relocation Efforts for Volunteers for Japanese-American Combat Unit not Accepted because of Age, Lack of United States Citizenship, or Physical Reasons.

Reference is made to the Director's memorandum of April 28 on Army volunteers, the Director's memorandum of May 8, 1943 to Project Directors on the subject of "Issuance of indefinite leave to evacuees to go to specified localities on request of relocation officers prior to definite job offers" and Mr. Holland's memorandum to Relocation Supervisors of May 6, 1943 on the same subject.

It is suggested that whenever possible you request these Army volunteers not accepted for military service to come to a designated relocation office to secure employment with your assistance.

(signed) Donald R. Sabin

Donald R. Sabin
Acting Chief
Employment Division

cc Project Directors

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

MEMORANDUM

April 28, 1943

To: Project Directors

Subject: Volunteers for Japanese-American combat unit
rejected for physical reasons or age.

The War Relocation Authority and the War Department are particularly interested in assisting volunteers rejected for physical reasons or age to find other relocation opportunities as promptly as possible. This memorandum covers various procedures for obtaining this objective.

1. Limited Military Service. The question will naturally be raised as to whether persons rejected for the combat team may be inducted for limited military service in other branches of the armed forces. The War Department has just lowered the eye and ear standards for acceptance in the combat team, and in view of this fact it appears unlikely that men will be accepted for limited service. Persons already given physical examinations who were not accepted because of eyes and ears will be reexamined.

2. Lists to Relocation Supervisors. Each Project director shall make up a list of the volunteers from his project who are not accepted for physical reasons or over age, the reason for not being taken (such as myopia, heart disease, etc.), age, family status, and occupation. Five copies of this list shall be sent to the relocation supervisors in Salt Lake City, Denver, Kansas City, Chicago, Cleveland, and New York City, with a copy of Form WRA 26 (revised) for each individual on the list. Five copies of the list (but not of the Forms 26) should also be sent to the Chief of the Employment Division in the Washington office. Relocation Supervisors will make a special effort to find employment for these men in employment for which they are qualified.

3. Eligibility for Work in War Plants. Volunteers not accepted for the combat unit for physical reasons or over age will be given first priority by the Joint Board in the War Department to establish their eligibility for employment in war plants. As this eligibility is established, Project Directors and Relocation Supervisors will be advised.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

May 8, 1943

To: Project Directors

Subject: Issuance of indefinite leave to evacuees to go to specified localities on request of relocation officers prior to definite job offer

We have been advised by some of the relocation supervisors that it would be possible for them to assist more evacuees to find jobs in their areas if the evacuees were on hand in the community and were available for personal interviews with prospective employers. These relocation supervisors have suggested that an additional number of evacuees be allowed to come into their areas prior to the securing of a definite job and, with the assistance of the relocation staff, to get placed after arrival.

We are aiming to make our relocation procedures as simple and flexible as possible and the step suggested appears to be an advance in that direction. It would permit additional evacuees to leave the projects with reasonable assurance of securing employment because of the definite concern which the relocation staff would have in the placement of these evacuees upon arrival. We have already authorized this sort of thing in connection with the hostels and the offering of individual hospitality to evacuees. Up to date these methods have proved successful in assisting some of the evacuees to leave the projects prior to securing jobs and in rendering them assistance in securing jobs after arrival at their destination.

The method now being proposed for expediting relocation is nothing more than an extension of present practice. It means simply that an additional number of people should be enabled to depart from the projects without securing definite job offers in advance of their departure. An evacuee departing in this way would, of course, have to be eligible for indefinite leave in accordance with existing instructions. They would be eligible for travel assistance just as if they were taking a job. In fact, the whole transaction should be handled just as if the evacuee did have a definite job in advance of departure.

The relocation officers are being advised to get in touch with you on this matter whenever they are in a position to assist in the placement of an additional number of evacuees who would leave the projects and come into their areas without previously

4. Preference on Employment Opportunities Coming into Projects. In addition to having the relocation officers making a special effort to find employment for these men, preference should also be given to these men as jobs from other sources come into the project.

5. Evidence of Volunteering. The question has been raised by some volunteers who have not passed the physical examination as to whether some kind of certificate could be issued to them stating that they volunteered for the combat unit and were not accepted because of physical reasons or age. This question is being studied by the War Department and the War Relocation Authority, and there is some possibility that some kind of certificate or letter will be developed.

/s/ E. M. Rowalt

Acting Director

cc Relocation Supervisors

having secured a job. In his communication with you the relocation officer will state the number of evacuees who probably could be placed within a given time and will convey information about the type of jobs that are available, wages, housing, cost of living, and other pertinent information relating to employment opportunities and the community.

You are authorized, upon receipt of such a communication from a relocation officer, to issue indefinite leave to evacuees who are interested in going to the area in question.

Director

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

Memorandum

May 8, 1943

To: Relocation Supervisors
From: Thomas W. Holland, Chief, Employment Division

Lately some of the relocation supervisors have suggested that they could handle more people than are now coming into their areas and assist these people to get jobs after their arrival. It is, of course, a much more expeditious way of placement if the evacuees can be in the community and ready for interviews with employers in person. Our objective is to open up this type of relocation method as rapidly as we can possibly do so. Step by step we have been going along in this direction and the suggestion now made is simply one more in the direction we want to go.

It is, of course, up to the relocation officers in any area to determine whether or not they are in a position to take any of these people prior to their securing definite jobs in advance. Whenever a relocation officer decides that he is in a position to do so he should write to the project directors indicating the number of persons who could be handled within a given period, the localities in which they could be placed, the types of jobs available, and other pertinent information about the jobs and the community.

It would be possible simply to set a quota for a given number of people to come into a specified place under the system proposed. I would like to suggest that somewhere in the field we experiment with this quota idea and find out whether or not we could assist in locating in the area a given number of persons who would arrive from the projects within a given time. However, at the start anyhow, the relocation officers will probably want to specify the type of jobs open and try to get particular kinds of skills rather than commit themselves to the placement of a given number of evacuees upon arrival.

Enclosed is the letter from Mr. Myer to the project directors authorizing them to carry out the suggestion made by the relocation supervisors by granting indefinite leave to evacuees who may be interested in departing without a job in advance. I presume that the suggestions made are not particularly feasible in the Salt Lake City and the Denver areas. I would expect that

May 6, 1943

this sort of thing might become an important procedure in the middle west and eastern areas.

Please write to me if you want to have advice or clarification on this problem and whenever you are ready go ahead and communicate with the project directors about starting some people your way for placement in jobs upon arrival.

/s/ Thomas W. Holland

Attachment

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

Handwritten signature

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April 21, 1943

MEMORANDUM for all Relocation Supervisors:

Attached is a list of the field offices of the Office of War Information.

In accordance with the recent letter which you received on the subject of working with the Office of War Information field offices, you may wish to have your field staff get in touch with the appropriate officers listed in the attached list.

Fraser

Robert W. Frase
Assistant Chief
Employment Division

Attachment



RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

E 2,46
Japanese Relocation Papers
Bancroft Library

May 19, 1943

Memorandum To: Relocation Officers

Certain newspapers have recently criticized the action of Secretary Ickes in employing several Japanese-Americans on his farm. The following information is for your use in answering press queries, in giving talks, and is provided for your general guidance.

These editorial attacks fail to distinguish between internees and evacuees. Internees are aliens of enemy nationality who have been found guilty or are suspected of acts or intentions against the United States government. Such aliens are confined at internment camps under the jurisdiction of the War Department or the Department of Justice, and are not permitted to leave such camps.

Evacuees, on the other hand, are persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the West Coast to inland relocation centers operated by the War Relocation Authority. They are not interned. They have not been charged with crimes against the national security. Nearly two-thirds of them are American citizens, born and educated in this country. Most of the others have spent practically all their adult lives in the United States but are not permitted to become citizens under our naturalization laws.

Early in 1942, they were allowed to move inland under a program of voluntary evacuation, but because of antagonism expressed toward them, this program was discontinued and it became necessary to resettle them in temporary relocation centers until such time as they could take up employment elsewhere.

They are now leaving these centers to take jobs in agriculture and industry and to help relieve the nation's manpower shortage under a program which has the approval of the War Department, the Department of Justice, the War Manpower Commission, state governors, leading citizens and national organizations.

The essential loyalty of a majority of Japanese-Americans in this country is attested by the fact that there are more than 7,000 of them in the United States army. More than 1,200 of those of military age at relocation centers volunteered for military service without waiting for the draft. In Hawaii, 10,000, or more than 40% of the male citizens of Japanese descent of military age, applied for voluntary induction into the military service. American soldiers of Japanese ancestry at Camp Shelby bought more than \$100,000 worth of war bonds in the two-day period following the announcement of the execution of American flyers by the Tokyo government. Yet newspapers frequently make no distinction between these loyal Americans and our enemies in Japan.

President Roosevelt, in a letter to Secretary of War Stimson, declared that "the proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry has my full approval — Americanism is a matter of the mind and the heart — not of race or ancestry."

The editorials referred to imply that Mr. Ickes in some manner took unfair advantage of his position as a government official to employ these people, and that the same opportunity was not open to other employers. As a matter of fact, some 10,000 Japanese-Americans worked in agriculture for thousands of individual farmers during the harvest season last fall, and among other

things harvested sugar beets which have been converted into the yearly sugar ration for 10,000,000 people this year. Hundreds of Japanese-Americans are making a special contribution to the war effort by devoting their knowledge of the Japanese language to instructing military personnel, propaganda broadcasts to Japan, translations, and in various other ways. Thousands are employed by individual employers, small and large, all over the country.

It is estimated that there is a labor force of 40,000 workers among this evacuated group. Rather than keep this force immobilized at relocation centers in the face of the nation's need for workers in agriculture and industry, the War Relocation Authority in co-operation with other agencies of the Federal Government is assisting all evacuees (except those with questionable records) to take jobs in private employment where they can make a contribution to the war effort, and reduce the expense of maintaining relocation centers. Recently after an investigation by a Senate Military Affairs Sub-committee, it was recommended that this movement be expedited so that relocation centers might eventually be closed.

Sincerely yours

Robert W. Frase

Robert W. Frase
Assistant Chief
Employment Division