

OASW:HAG:MAW

Box 48
Folder 7
Item 17
Page 1

342.18 J. A. - 100th Battalion

24 June 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3:

As I indicated in a recent memorandum, the feeling has been expressed by some members of the 100th Infantry Battalion that they desire to retain their unit designation and not be absorbed into the 442nd Combat Team. I understand that action on the redesignation of this unit has been suspended until comments have been received from the field.

The 100th Battalion was activated with a two-fold purpose. Firstly, to bring into the combat forces and make available a portion of the manpower of the nation which was not being used, and secondly, to secure evidence that at least a portion of the population of Japanese ancestry were loyal and willing to fight for the country. Since its commitment to combat, the record of the 100th Battalion has been excellent and has played its part in establishing a more rational attitude towards the Japanese minority problem. That problem is as yet not completely resolved. I believe, therefore, that subject to over-riding military considerations, the 100th Infantry Battalion should retain its present designation so that its high morale, excellent fighting qualities, and pride in organization will remain unimpaired. The record which these units make in combat will be a great factor in easing the tension incident to a return of the Japanese to evacuated areas of the United States.

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X -
342.18 J. A. - 442nd Combat Team

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

JOHN J. McCLOY
Assistant Secretary of War

24 June 44

AC OF S, G-3
Rm. 2E 940
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*See confidential file
in 100th*