

Box 48
Folder 11
Item 6
Page 1

2 November 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL GERHARDT:

Subject: Induction of Japanese-American Volunteers.

1. The following is an example of the delays we have had to contend with in securing the induction of Japanese-American volunteers:

a. George S. Kawata probably filed his application for voluntary induction in February 1943. On 28 June 1943, after examining his application and background, MIS notified National Headquarters, Selective Service System, that Kawata was acceptable for induction and requested that steps be taken to accomplish such induction. You will note from the attached clipping that Kawata's induction was finally accomplished on 13 October 1943, some eight months after he volunteered and more than three months after Selective Service was notified.

2. I believe that the system, rather than any particular individual, is at fault. After National Headquarters, Selective Service System, is notified of a volunteer's acceptability, National Headquarters must first notify the State Director of Selective Service in the state where the volunteer's original local board is located. The State Director then notifies the original local board who then transfers the volunteer's papers to the local board of transfer. The local board of transfer calls the volunteer for induction.

3. I understand that the above procedure is deemed necessary in order that the original local board may receive credit for the volunteer, but I see no reason why credit cannot be given retroactively after the volunteer's induction. The long delay between volunteering and induction works a hardship on the volunteer - his enthusiasm wanes and he feels unable to accept permanent employment during the interim. More important, spreading induction of volunteers over this long period has seriously retarded the training schedule of the 442nd Combat Team.

4. If Selective Service is reinstated for persons of Japanese descent, the administrative procedure to accomplish induction should

Box 48
Folder 11
Item 6
Page 2

- 2 -

be very carefully scrutinized to eliminate delay. This is a problem to a large extent peculiar to persons of Japanese descent, as only this class has been removed en masse from the area of the local boards at which they originally registered.

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