

Box 48  
Folder 7  
Item 9  
Page 1

18 J. A. 100th Battalion

17 August 1944

Major General Charles H. White  
Hqs. Infantry Replacement Training Center  
Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas

Dear General:

Thank you for your note of August 15, 1944. The record of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Regiment has certainly shown that their training fitted them to meet the severest tests in combat, and all who had a hand in their training should feel proud of their excellent performance.

Sincerely,

J. McCLOY

John J. McCloy

X-1

17 AUG 44

Box 48  
Folder 7  
Item 9  
Page 2

HEADQUARTERS  
INFANTRY REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER  
CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, ARKANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

August 15, 1944



Honorable John J. McCloy,  
Assistant Secretary of War,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

In 1941 I had the pleasure of meeting you in San Francisco at a dinner given by General DeWitt at the Club opposite to the Fairmont Hotel. At the time I was in command of the 7th Division.

A year ago, with Corps Headquarters at Camp McCain, the Japanese-American 442d Infantry Regiment was at Camp Shelby and in my command. I became conversant with your interest in that unit and made a report on it. Copy inclosed.

We have heard of the fine record of the 100th Battalion, also Japanese-Americans, at Salerno, and now in the August 25th issue of YANK both of these units come in for favorable attention.

It must be a source of great satisfaction to you, and I congratulate you for your foresight and interest in them.

Very truly yours,

*Charles H. White*  
Charles H. White,  
Maj. Gen., U.S. Army.

Incl.

Box 48  
Folder 7  
Item 9  
Page 3HEADQUARTERS IX CORPS  
Office of the Commanding General  
Camp McCain, Miss.

Copy of Report with I.G.

2 October 1943.

Subject: 442nd Combat Team (Japanese-American).

To: Commanding General, Third Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

1. Herewith is the report on conditions on above subject. It results from a letter of September 23rd from Assistant Secretary of War McCloy, a letter of September 25th from General McNair, and Wrapper Indorsement from Third Army dated September 27th. I have approved the report.

2. Briefly, the situation at Camp Shelby with regard to the relations between the Japanese-American soldiers of the 442nd Infantry Combat Team, the white American soldiers and the civilian community is excellent. Such frictions as have occurred have been minor and few - three in the month of September for instance. In Mr. McCloy's letter is the statement: "In fact the situation may not be as bad as I am led to believe it is." I am sure that it is not as bad as he may think it to be.

3. Any unit needs some time to shake down in a new place; it is uncertain of itself, like a cat in a strange garret, and unhappy in some degree until it establishes itself in the new surroundings. This is what has happened to the 442nd Combat Team. Conditions have been steadily getting better. This is the opinion of good responsible officers of experience both in the Combat Team and others in the camp. Also the same opinion is held by a woman censor who has read 33,000 personal letters from Japanese-American soldiers over the space of several months. Especially since the 100th Battalion of Japanese soldiers left Camp Shelby and their influence was removed, has the condition improved.

4. The citizens of Hattiesburg, while not cordial, are decent enough since they have had a chance to size up the Japanese. Except in the public schools, the Japanese are welcomed in every other public place: in churches, theaters, stores, hotels, eating places, public transportation, etc., with the white soldiers. The Mississippi law forbids the Japanese children in public schools with whites and the authorities have refused to budge from that law.

5. In my judgment, the Japanese-American soldiers are getting as square a deal as they can expect from any American civil community, or from the military in any other camp. I think it would be a mistake to transfer them to another camp. They would again go through those throes of getting established and being accepted that they have experienced at Camp Shelby. Here, the situation has been steadily improving and still is according to good, honest men who are in close position to know.

Box 48  
Folder 7  
Item 9  
Page 4

5. I do not mean to say that everything is now perfect and nothing is to be done to improve things. After spending three days nosing into the situation with officers of the camp, including the 442nd Combat Team, there was a conference in my quarters. Present were: Camp Commander (General Halloran), C.G. 69th Division (General Bolts), C.G. 65th Division (General Reinhart), C.O. 1st Special Headquarters Third Army (Colonel Pendleton) and IX Corps Inspector (Colonel Stewart). The situation was discussed. My instructions were that they were to indoctrinate their officers and through them their men that since the Japanese were an extremely thin-skinned race, our white soldiers would be compelled to be courteous toward Japanese; not to taunt them or call them disparaging names; to be sportsmanlike in their attitude and remember that these same Japanese men were soldiers in uniform and some day would be stopping enemy bullets; that this indoctrination, or education, would be continuous and necessarily so because of the constantly changing personnel being received and departing. All conferees readily saw the point, in fact they had been operating on these principles. The C.O. 442nd Combat Team (Colonel Pence) was on detached service. However I had gone over the case with his Executive and will see Colonel Pence on his return.

6. Illustrative of conditions which I personally observed I will state:  
In the dining room of the main hotel in Hattiesburg I saw Japanese dining with white people.  
In Camp Exchanges both Japanese and American soldiers were being served and there was nothing unusual about it.  
On the camp bowling alleys (10 alleys) the 3 center alleys were being used by Japanese while those on either side were used by white soldiers. No attention was paid by either group to the other.

7. While this report tells an honest story, it is recognized that reports do not thoroughly convince. Therefore I recommend that Mr. McCloy, or someone in whom he has implicit confidence, go to Camp Shelby and live in the atmosphere a few days or as long as he desires. The Camp Commander, Brigadier General Geo. M. Halloran, would like this very much and extends his personal invitation to whoever could make the visit.

C. H. WHITE  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

Incl - 1  
Report