

FROM WAR DEPARTMENT

BUREAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR

FEBRUARY 17, 1943

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

LIEUTENANT JOHN H. BOLTON  
COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
PARKER, ARIZONA

ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT PROGRAM IS VOLUNTARY THE COMBAT TEAM  
WILL BE RAISED IF NECESSARY BY DRAFT STOP HOWEVER YOU SHOULD  
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN YOUR QUOTA OF VOLUNTEERS SINCE THE  
ADVANTAGE OF THE VOLUNTARY PROGRAM TO THE JAPANESE AMERICANS  
CANNOT BE OVER EMPHASIZED STOP THEY MUST REALIZE THAT A VOLUNTARY  
COMBAT TEAM CONSTITUTES A SYMBOL OF THEIR LOYALTY WHICH CAN BE  
DISPLAYED TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE  
JAPANESE AMERICANS STOP INVOLUNTARY INDUCTION BY MEANS OF THE  
DRAFT GREATLY DETRACTS FROM THAT SYMBOL.

SCOBRY

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

(SIGNED)

COLONEL WILLIAM P SCOBRY  
EXECUTIVE TO THE ASST. SEC. OF WAR

1943 FEB 17 16 13 3

*9505*  
*342.18*  
*Dep. Com. Gen. J. Bolton*  
*Col. W. P. Scobry*  
*158*  
*Telegram*  
*2-17-43*

Conversation between Lt. Bolton, Poston, Arizona - Colorado River - and Lt. Hughes; 2-17-43; 10:55 A.M.

B: This is Bolton. Things look a little more favorable this morning. No trouble at all. I went out into the crowd yesterday and told them we would take immediate action if there was any suspicion of interference. We ~~didn't~~ won't wait for proof if there was any indication of interference. Consequently, things are much better this morning. Let me read you some of my report: We got a total of 435 yesterday; total of 198 - yes-yes; 158 no-no; many of 158 are men who have asked for repatriation or intend to.

H: How does 435 include 175 revised and other forms?

B: This includes both types. We have not touched 126 revised.

H: Is this 435 just male citizens?

B: Yes. <sup>in</sup> From the list, 26 volunteered. I am going down this morning/just a few minutes, to be there until 12:00 and receive any who wish to change no to yes and receive volunteers.

H: You got my telegram on that?

B: Yes. We are holding these. Haven't send you any out. I have a couple of questions. The Surgeon General send a letter to the dentists dated February 5, saying that they are not receiving any applications for commissions.

H: We are going to work on that. I sent you yesterday special forms for doctors and dentists. Understand that we are working on that, mailing out special forms and I want each doctor and dentist to fill out an application for commission, if they wish. You will get a group of those shortly.

B: Shall I take 304a and application for induction.

H: Yes.

B: I have received a number who wanted to apply for commission and I told them to limit their application for commission.

H: That is all right.

B: And another thing - can you send me a teletype to satisfy these dentists?

H: Yes.

B: I would like a teletype so that I may have something to show them. They asked me to show them something.

45 W  
3 4 2 18  
Pop. Dir. - Long  
Colorado River  
Bolton

X-  
Hughes  
Bolton

2-17-43

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H: Make it clear that we are working on that. We think any qualified doctor and dentist should go in as any other qualified doctor and dentist - have comparable rank as doctors and dentists in Army. We are working on that and we may not get them all as the combat team is limited as to personnel, but we are working on it from an over-all Army point of view. We will send you instructions. Tell them that we are sympathetic and we believe they should be given basis comparable to any other doctor or dentist in the Army.

B: I have the jump on that. I have already told them that.

H: We will send you a confirming teletype.

We moved in on Oila yesterday - had to take some strong steps. 27 were picked up and moved out of the camp. We think the situation will be very much better after that, and you may get a few repercussions after they hear about that. They were definitely people who opposed and obstructed the program.

I will read you a telegram that I am sending - first, one other matter. There are several male aliens of military age who wish to volunteer and execute 304a. We are getting some very touching letters from young Issei boys. We don't know whether we can put that through and don't make any promises, but we are making an effort to work that out.

Now, let me read you a telegram regarding the question that has been raised most frequently by Japanese Americans.

To All Team Captains: The question that has been raised most frequently by the Japanese Americans is: "Why are we being placed in a segregated unit and will there be Caucasian combat teams in the same battle area?" It is only because the War Department desires to aid the loyal Japanese Americans that a separate unit is being formed. Many citizens are not familiar with the Japanese Americans and do not understand that they are loyal to this country. It is only by forming an all Japanese-American combat team on a voluntary basis that the American people can be made to understand that there are loyal Japanese Americans who are willing to fight and die for this country. If the volunteers were spread throughout the Army their enlistment would attract very little attention but the formation of an all Japanese American combat team composed entirely of volunteers will help tremendously to convince the public and those who oppose the Japanese Americans that they are loyal American Citizens. The 442nd Infantry will become ~~an~~ one of the crack outfits of the American Army. It will be adequately trained before entering a battle zone. The 442 Infantry will fight with and as a part of a Caucasian force. The War Department

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has faith in the loyal Japanese Americans. This is their one opportunity to demonstrate to the American People that they have faith in America.

B: That is just exactly what I have been telling them. In a meeting this morning, they asked if they would compose a death battalion. I told them definitely that they would not be a death or suicide unit. Am I 100% right?

H: That is correct. You can make that 110%. Another thing - Japanese officers have same opportunity for becoming regimental commanders both in the ~~line~~ ranks and in the field. The policy will be to advance the Japanese officers as fast as they are qualified. They will have opportunity to move forward into the company and field grades. We are sympathetic on that point and this is no death combat team. They will fight along with Caucasian battalions in the theaters. This is only to convince the American public that they are willing to fight for this country.

B: WRA is asking for a complete report wired to them in Washington daily. Is that o.k.?

H: Yes. That is all right.

B: Next question - can we have authority to announce that any who are volunteering may go to California for five days to look after business. If we can ~~xxx~~ answer that "yes" it will be a decided advantage.

H: We are working on that and think we will have good news. We had to go to "DC and we are working on that from this end.

Dr. Ishimari asked Mr. McCloy if two boys who are in Texas and who want to visit their family at Poston, could be granted permission. Tell Dr. Ishimaru that we are working on that, too and we will have instructions giving permits in time for their furlough.

B: If Tracy is coming down it will take him 24 hours from Topaz. Could air transportation be arranged?

H: We may authorize him to fly from Phoenix. He is not too far along, but we want you to stay there until you finish complete registration.

B: You want me to continue? Under favorable conditions I think I can finish with male citizens by Saturday. We are starting in Section 1 with speeches tonight and following with a question period. ~~Start registration~~ Tonight is the question period of East Section of Camp 1. Tomorrow registration. Finish East side of

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Section 1 by Saturday. Then we start on West side of Camp 1 and continue. It will take about three days for West of Camp 1. I believe we will be finished with Camp 1 on Wednesday.

H: If Tracy gets through I will send him down there for you. Tell Calvin I will send him application blanks. Tell Frank Suikio that we have confidence in him and the loyal Japanese Americans there.

B: Calvin is here now. I'll put him on.

H: Hello, Ralph. I will get you down that application soon. You will get it in a few days. Don't know what we can do but we will do something for you.

Would you like to have us pull in someone from the JACL in Salt Lake City? Do you think it would help?

G: I don't think it would. There is a group here that is at odds with the JACL.

H: Tell Frank Suikio we have confidence in him and all other loyal Japanese Americans. We are fighting like hell for them and expect as much there. I told Bolton that we moved in at Gila and took out 27 so you may get some type of reaction.

G: If we get any reaction, it will be favorable.

H: I told Bolton to get word to Dr. Ishimaru that we have given instructions for those two boys in Texas to visit their parents at Poston during their furlough beginning Thursday. Is there anything else?

G: I would like to put in a good word for the team down here.

H: We appreciate that. Tell them to keep in there pitching and we will do the same here.

B: The 9th Service Command has asked for a report. Can I release any?

H: I think you can cooperate with them.

B: I am cooperating with them, but want to know if I am right in holding figures from them?

H: They want to know approximate amount to get ready for inducting them and set up induction centers. Tell them that you can give them figures but they aren't complete and won't be until after Wednesday.

B: I have been cooperating, but just wondered how much I should tell them.

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B: I will release anything within reason.

H: Make it clear that you will have more volunteers.

B: One other thing - Mr. James the publicity man, has been taking to me about going to Phoenix and making a broadcast.

H: You can do more by broadcasting there in the center than in Phoenix - it would not be worth your time. With the situation developing as it is, stick on the job. Tell James we are sympathetic but at the present time you had better stick at the center. Let us know if you get any changes and information regarding the seven day leave. Let me hear from you if you need any help.