

GALEN M. FISHER
11 EL SUENO
ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

Box 14
Folder 13
Item 5
Page 1



January 22, 1943

Colonel W.P. Scobey
Executive Officer, to the Assistant Secretary of War
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Scobey:

You will not remember me, I suppose, but about two months ago I had the pleasure of talking some time with you at your office, particularly with reference to the Japanese evacuees, and opportunities for some of them to help relieve the labor shortage around the Ogden Arsenal. You also introduced me to the Junior Officer who has been clearing the colleges for receiving Nisei students from the Relocation Centers.

At the close of our conversation you asked me what definite steps I would suggest toward improving the situation among the evacuees, I replied that, in addition to accelerating the release of worthy nisei on indefinite leaves, it was exceedingly desirable that a pronouncement be issued by the President or some one in high Government station, to the effect that the evacuees were neither criminals nor prisoners of war nor proven dangerous or suspicious persons, but were merely victims of an emergency situation for which, so far as has been shown, they were not responsible. Thereupon, both you and the Junior Officer, said, "It's on the way." I did not press you to explain the remark, but I have been eagerly awaiting some pronouncement of that sort. Meanwhile, as you know, the morale of many evacuees seems to have been deteriorating, leading some even among the citizens, veterans of the A.E.F., to become so embittered that they have lost their confidence in the justice and democracy of our Government and people.

Sincerely yours

Galen M. Fisher

(Research Associate in Pol. Sci. in University of Calif. ; Adviser to Institute of Pacific Relations.

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ASW

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Permits & Leave
(Employment)

January 29, 1943

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 22. Of course, I recall your visit here and my talk with you about the Japanese problem. I also recall the statement which you attribute to me. It is correct. I will admit that the announcement by the War Department was a long time being publicized but I am sure by this time you have seen it in the daily papers; and for your information I transmit the mimeograph press release which was issued on the date of its announcement by the Secretary of War.

I suppose you are familiar with the general interest that is being displayed in the Japanese question at the present time. In addition to the War Department's action in organizing this combat team, the War Relocation Authority is, I am advised, moving with some speed on the problem of segregation. In addition, the subcommittee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee is conducting hearings on a bill which proposes to transfer the administration of the centers from the War Relocation Authority to the War Department.

With all of this activity going on it seems certain that some material developments for the good of the loyal Japanese will be forthcoming. While, of course, the War Department is primarily concerned with the development of its combat team, nevertheless, if you will note in the last paragraph of the press release, other considerations affecting the Japanese are also being implemented.

I feel that you and your organization may be able to furnish assistance in this problem by wise counsel to the Japanese.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBZI
Colonel, G. S.

Mr. Galen M. Fisher
11 El Bueno
Orinda, California
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Conversion

1-29-43

MID 291.2 Japanese
(1-8-43)

January 19, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Office of the Assistant Secretary of War,
Attention: Captain John Hall

Subject: Release of Citizens of Japanese Ancestry
in War Relocation Centers

As a result of conferences between representatives of this Division and representatives of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, the following time schedule for the release of publicity and the execution of the administrative procedure regarding the plan for the release of citizens of Japanese ancestry from War Relocation Centers and voluntary induction into the Army is hereby suggested:

- January 25—Military personnel report for instruction in Washington, D. C.
- Week of January 25 to January 30—Instruction of military personnel regarding procedures to be followed in the various War Relocation Centers.
- January 28—Initial publicity released during press conference of the Secretary of War.
- January 30—Military personnel depart from Washington, D. C. for the War Relocation Centers.
- February 3—Press releases in the centers through the periodicals published by the various centers.
- February 4—Arrival of military personnel in the various centers and commencement of the administrative procedure of individual contact and the completion of the questionnaires.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

I. CRIST,
Colonel, General Staff,
Acting Executive Officer, MIS.

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Permit to Leave
for Europe

January 21, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL CRIST:

The attached time schedule seems to fit the needs of the situation. It practically duplicates one, independently prepared, suggested by me, of which Major Lansdale has a copy. However, provision should be made for nation-wide press releases on or about February 3rd to cover American citizens of Japanese ancestry outside of relocation centers who wish to volunteer for the Army by applying to their local boards.

(SIGNED)

JOHN M. HALL
Captain, P.A.
Assistant Executive

Colonel W. E. Crist
Room 2-E 666
Pentagon

Enc.
Memo 1-19-43 Col. W. E. Crist to Capt. J. M. Hall
re; release of citizens of Japanese ancestry
from relocation centers.

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Jap War

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

January 12, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in reply to your letter of January 4 requesting information on the number of persons of Japanese ancestry who have been granted indefinite leave from relocation centers and an estimate of the number who may be granted such leave in the next six months.

A total of about 900 persons have been granted indefinite leave to date. Of this number 350 have been students; about 75 have been the wives of American soldiers who have been granted leave to join their husbands and frequently also to take employment; and the remaining 475 have been persons going into employment and their dependents.

In addition some 2,000 of the 10,000 evacuees who worked in the harvest this fall in several western states have secured more than seasonal employment and are not expected to return to the relocation centers. These people are on group-work leave which involves assurances of law and order by State and county officials and restrictions on their movement. This group of 2,000 is now being processed for indefinite leave.

In the next six months we estimate that indefinite leaves will be granted to an additional 150 students, perhaps another 100 wives of soldiers, and possibly 10,000 (including both workers and dependents) who will take employment. These estimates, especially with respect to indefinite leave for employment, are quite tentative at this time. We have not had enough experience in any field except seasonal agricultural work to predict with any accuracy the employment demand which will develop for these people.

Sincerely,

/s/ D. S. Myer

Director

SUBJECT: Policy and procedure regarding utilization of American citizens

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 2962

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January 14, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR LANSDALE:

These indefinite leave figures are probably high as a substantial number suitable for indefinite leave will doubtless be inducted into the Army.

(SIGNED)

JOHN M. HALL
Captain, FAA.
Assistant Executive

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Lansdale & Lane

Enc.

1. Cy ltr 1-12-43 D.S. Myer to J.J. McCloy

OASW:JMH:MGB

Copy sent to Col. Miller PMGO

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SUBJECT: Policy and procedure regarding utilization of American citizens

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 3982

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