

February 23, 1943

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM RE: POLICIES AFFECTING JAPANESE IN THE UNITED STATES.

1. Exclusion from Military Areas No. 1 and No. 2, Western Defense Command.

a. Under Western Defense Command regulations (Western Defense Command Public Proclamation No. 8, June 27, 1942), no evacuated Japanese, citizen or alien, resident of a war relocation center within the Western Defense Command, may leave that relocation center without written authority from the Commanding General, Western Defense Command.

b. Under Western Defense Command regulations (Western Defense Command Public Proclamation No. 11, August 18, 1942) all Japanese, citizens and aliens, are excluded from Military Area No. 1 and the California portion of Military Area No. 2, except:

(1) Those located in relocation centers (Tule Lake, California; Manzanar, California; Poston, Arizona; and Gila River, Arizona) who may not leave the relocation centers without the authority of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, (see Proclamation No. 8).

(2) Those interned or confined in Federal, State, or local institutions.

(3) Those who by written permit from Headquarters, Western Defense Command, are expressly exempted. This latter class covers mixed marriage personnel referred to under paragraph 2 hereof.

As a result of this policy, United States Citizen soldiers of Japanese extraction are not permitted to visit their families in the relocation centers at Tule Lake, California; Manzanar, California; Poston, Arizona; and Gila River, Arizona, unless they have, in addition to the usual furlough papers, written authorization from the Commanding General, Western Defense Command. Besides increasing administrative processing in obtaining this authorization, soldiers of Japanese extraction feel that it puts them in a category different from other soldiers and in a position worse than that of many Italian and German aliens who may travel

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freely without special authority from the Commanding General, Western Defense Command. The Director, War Relocation Authority has stated that this requirement has led to a great deal of confusion and has affected morale in the centers in a very drastic manner.

To be in accord with the Secretary's announcement of January 28, and with the President's letter to the Secretary on the subject of War Department authorization of a Japanese American combat team, it is felt that soldiers in uniform should have the right to return for visits to their parents and families in the above mentioned relocation centers as long as they have in their possession approved furlough papers, as is required of all other soldiers. In fact the officers in charge of the War Department teams now registering military age Japanese American citizens were authorized to state and have stated that Japanese American soldiers would have the right as have all other soldiers, to travel on approved furloughs.

In connection with this matter it has been learned that War Department letter of October 7, 1942 (AG. 220.71 (9-28-42) OR-5-1) specifying conditions under which Japanese American soldiers may return to the Western Defense Command has been the cause of withholding furlough privileges to some Japanese American soldiers. A case in point:

Mrs. Uchida, a Japanese evacuee located at the Poston Arizona relocation center, wrote a letter to the Spanish Ambassador, complaining that her son, Private Yoshihiro Uchida, a soldier in the United States Army stationed at Salina, Kansas, has been denied a furlough to visit his parents at Poston. Her letter requested the Ambassador to intercede to get the necessary authorization for her son to visit his home. Preliminary investigation of this case indicates that the soldiers commanding officer interpreted War Department instructions as denying the soldier the privilege of going into any portion of the Western Defense Command except in cases of extreme emergency.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the War Department policy and the Western Defense Command regulations be changed to:

a. Permit Japanese American soldiers in uniform, upon authorization of their commanding officer, to return to any relocation center to visit their families, relatives and friends on an approved furlough but without the necessity of obtaining authority from the Western Defense Command.

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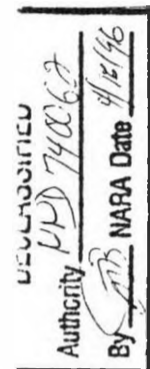
b. Permit Japanese American soldiers in uniform to travel to any locality in the Western Defense Command under appropriate military orders without special authorization and permission from the Western Defense Command.

g. Permit Japanese American soldiers to return to areas in the Western Defense Command, on furlough, except as stated in a above, only under urgent conditions and then only when in possession of special written authorization of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, but without a Caucasian escort.

## II. MIXED-MARRIAGE POLICY

Present mixed-marriage policy of the Western Defense Command is stated in Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt's letter of January 7, 1943 to the Assistant Secretary of War. Under this policy a wife of Japanese ancestry having an American spouse or a spouse who is friendly alien, e.g. Chinese, Mexican, etc., is permitted to remain in Military Area No. 1, provided there be unemancipated children of the union. Where there are no children of the union and the environment is non-Japanese, the wife of Japanese extraction (citizen or alien) is not permitted to return to or remain in Military Area No. 1. Husbands of Japanese ancestry are not permitted within the prohibited areas even though married to a Caucasian woman. This policy affects a number of families and serves to keep apart husbands and wives, where there is no evidence or indication that either is disloyal or potentially dangerous. A case in point:

Mr. Willard V. Pape, a native American, is Purchasing Agent for the city of Seattle, Washington. In World War I he served for approximately two years as an officer in the United States Navy. About 1921 he went to Japan as an agent for the Texaco Oil Company. While in Tokyo he met and married a Christian Japanese girl. He returned to Seattle in 1927 bringing his alien wife with him. They have since resided continuously in Seattle, and according to Mr. C. T. Floyd of Arlington, Virginia, an official in the United States Department of Justice, Mrs. Pape has associated entirely with white Americans and has had no contact with Japanese persons. Rather than be evacuated to a relocation center by military authority, Mrs. Pape voluntarily came to Arlington, Virginia, where she has since made her residence with Mr. Floyd. An application for Mrs. Pape's return to Seattle made by both the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War and by Mr. Pape was denied by the Western Defense Command on the ground that granting permission for



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Mrs. Pape's return would be in violation of the Western Defense Command's mixed-marriage policy, and no exceptions or change in that policy would be considered.

RECOMMENDATION

That the policy of the War Department and the Western Defense Command be changed to:

2. Permit American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are married to Caucasian American citizens to return to and reside in any locality in the Western Defense Command if approved by the War Department Japanese American Joint Board (AW 291.2 (1-19-43) OB-S-F) and provided that such persons formerly lived within the Western Defense Command and were evacuated therefrom, either voluntarily or involuntarily.

III. EMPLOYMENT OF JAPANESE TO PICK COTTON IN ARIZONA

A large amount of high grade, long staple cotton is grown in Maricopa and Pinal Counties, Arizona. These two counties are located in restricted Military Area No. 1, Western Defense Command. A shortage of manpower prevented the harvesting of this cotton last fall. Upon representation of Arizona civic bodies, an agreement was reached between the War Department, the Western Defense Command and the War Relocation Authority whereby Japanese evacuee volunteers would be permitted to leave the relocation centers at Poston and Gila River to pick cotton under military guard. A military guard of approximately 600 soldiers was provided by the Western Defense Command for this purpose, but since only some 200 Japanese volunteered, the project was a failure and was called off. By letter of February 16, 1943, Mr. Richard F. Harless, Congressman at large from Arizona, asked the War Department to change the boundary of Military Area No. 1 in Arizona to exclude Maricopa and Pinal Counties from that area for the specific purpose of enabling Japanese evacuees to harvest the still unpicked and deteriorating cotton in those counties without the military guard, to which the Japanese, especially the citizens, objected. The matter was submitted by telephone to the Commanding General, Western Defense Command. In answer to the query the Western Defense Command (Colonel Bendetsen) replied on February 18, by telephone that the Commanding General would not change the Arizona boundary of Military Area No. 1. The War Relocation Center at Poston is located in Maricopa county and the one at Gila River is in Pinal County.

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