

Telephone conversation between Col. Bathurst and Capt. Hall
29 February 1944

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ASW 370.093 Relocation Centers

B: General Emmons believes that an adequate external military guard is essential. With the reduction of other forces on the coast the necessity for a military guard becomes all the more essential. At other places where we are not normally expecting trouble an adequate guard, although that would not have necessarily be military, it could be civilian, but civilian are probably not available. We recommend M. P.'s at all these places in sufficient number. In other words about the same number that we now have at Fale Lake and the lesser number at the places where we expect no trouble for the reason that the civilian reaction, among other things, to a small military guard would be much better than to a civilian guard. Limited service men would be alright for that purpose. There are actually many limited service men in anti-aircraft, and sea coast artillery that we are not turning over to the Army Ground Forces which could be used for that type of work. Prisoner of war camps out here present the same problem. They are now being located by the service forces in our vital areas such as around March Field without the concurrence of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command under an order we have received and they have received which says that all they have to do is notify us. They don't have to ask us. Now we do not consider Italian prisoners of war as particular dangerous but we do think that the Germans should have an adequate military guard. The Commanding General, Ninth Service Command concurs in this I have just talked to them about it. Does that answer your question?

H: Well, Colonel, supposing we compare the forces that are at these relocation centers at the present, would you advocate any further reduction? There has been one reduction or would you keep them just about the way they are now?

B: We would advocate that Fale Lake keep about the guard it has now.

H: Right.

B: However, at some of these other places, on going intent a little more deeply than we have had an occasion to go so far, we would willing to concur in a minimum guard. What that is I can't tell you off hand.

H: Now, that is the difficult thing.

B: But I can find out and let you know. However, the point is this, civilian guards are probably adequate at those places but the difference between a civilian guard and a limited service soldier. The soldier has a much better psychological effect on the population. It would probably a dollar more or probably not as much. He is available, we are turning over hundreds, thousands to the Army Ground Forces now.

H: You probably recognize that this is part of General War Department program to get all soldiers out of continental United States into active theaters.

B: Oh, yes, I know that it is, but when you get a limited service man that you can't well use in an active theater he could well be used here.

H: Yes.

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- B: Or in a civilian, put a uniform on him for the psychological effect.
- H: Right. I think they want to have as large a percentage of the authorized troop basis available for military service outside continental United States and I would not be at all surprised if they might not start discharging limited service and inducting individuals presently deferred than who are physically qualified for general service.
- B: I see what they are after, and if necessary we will go along with civilian guards at these places where we have no reason to expect trouble, but I believe a uniformed guard, the same man as this civilian that we are talking about, would have a better psychological effect on the local civilian population.
- H: Now, when you refer to a civilian guard would you have in mind a civilian hired by the War Relocation Authority or by the Army.
- B: The external guard should be the responsibility of the Army. The external guard is what I'm talking about.
- H: And whether they are troops or civilians.
- B: Whether they are troops or civilians, they should be under Army control in my opinion. I'm talking about external guards, you understand.
- H: That is right. You see, what General Sumervell suggests is that the War Department back out of its agreement with WRA of April 17, 1942 and eliminate its responsibility for external security at the relocation centers. They want the War Department to go to WRA and say, "Well, that was alright back in 1942 but this is 1944. We are now on the offense and we need every soldier that we can lay our hands on."
- B: I agree on the policy of needing every soldier. There is no question about that, but Tule Lake where circumstances are such that a difficulty once arising can easily spread and get to be a major problem. General Emmons thinks that a military guard is necessary. At the other places he is willing to go along with a civilian guard, but I personally think that a uniformed guard for the psychological effect on the civilian would be better. The same man in uniform.
- H: Right, but under the control of the Army.
- B: I think the external guarding of these places should be under Army control.
- H: Right, sir, thank you very much indeed.
- B: Thank you.