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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

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July 3, 1943



342.189  
A. B. Chandler, Sen. U.S.

Colonel William P. Scobey  
 Executive to Assistant Secretary of War  
 War Department  
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Colonel Scobey:

I am grateful indeed for the letter you sent me on June 30th, which carried along with it a report on Japanese-American Soldiers who have visited the Western Defense Command areas. I can make use of the data.

With good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

*A. B. Chandler*  
 Albert B. Chandler

3 July 43

30 June 1943

Dear Senator Chandler:

When we inducted the *nisei* volunteers into the Army we extended to them the same privileges we extend to any other American soldier. This included the privilege of returning on furlough to the evacuated area of the Western Defense Command. Of course, this is a privilege which no other person of Japanese extraction is given.

When General DeWitt issued Public Proclamation No. 17 authorizing U. S. Soldiers of Japanese ancestry to come into the evacuated area of the Western Defense Command when in uniform and on approved furlough, the War Department was subjected to a barrage of protests with all kinds of dire predictions — that these soldiers would commit all types of sabotage, espionage, etc., and that their lives and safety would be in danger.

Following induction some of the *nisei* took advantage of the privilege and did return to California, Oregon, and Washington. With a desire of finding out just what happened, since no official reports of any incidents were received, I asked the commanding officer of the Japanese American combat team at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to make inquiry of those who had returned as to what their experiences had been. The attached summary of statements is the result.

When I discussed this with Mr. Malone he said he thought you would be interested in it. Therefore, I am sending it for your information, with the request only that the names of the individuals be considered as confidential, so they may be protected against unfavorable publicity.

I would like to add that the information we have here is that this action has done much to encourage and develop a feeling of self respect and loyalty in these young men. Since

*1st copy made  
Chandler, Honolulu, 11/15/43*

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*30 June 43*

we decided to take them and did take them, it seems obvious that the permission granted to them to go back has paid dividends.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBLY  
Colonel, General Staff  
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

The Honorable Albert B. Chandler  
Room 211, Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

D SW:RPS:KDE

Encl.

Cpy of report on Japanese American Soldiers who visited  
Western Defense Areas.