

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
HEADQUARTERS THIRD SERVICE COMMAND
Baltimore 2, Maryland

SPHIB III - 136322

14 June 1945

SUBJECT: Japanese-Americans
TO: Commanding General, Army Service Forces
Munitions Building
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: The Provost Marshal General
Japanese-American Branch

Inclosed as a matter of interest to your office is Memorandum Report covering recent expressions of opinion by Japanese-American soldiers on possible terrorism against their families upon return from evacuation.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl: Memo (as above)
/s/ F. S. DOLL
Colonel, GSC
Dir., Intelligence Div

DECLASSIFIED
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EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION BY JAPANESE-AMERICAN SOLDIERS ON POSSIBLE TERRORISM AGAINST THEIR FAMILIES UPON RETURN FROM EVACUATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

In the course of lengthy interviews with American soldiers of Japanese ancestry during the past six months, particularly during recent interviews, it has been brought to the attention of this Agent that these soldiers are greatly concerned over conditions which will prevail in the three Pacific Coast States, particularly in California, when their families return to their former homes now that the exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from these States has been modified.

All persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from California, Washington and Oregon beginning in March 1942 and since that time most of them have been confined to Relocation Centers with a gradual release of some to take up normal lives in parts of the country other than the Pacific Coast. All persons of Japanese ancestry who were residents of these three states are aware of the recent declaration of the War Relocation Authority that all Relocation Centers are to be closed as of 1 January 1946. This means that those who remain in the Centers at the present time must leave within the next six months.

Most, if not all families, are desirous of returning to their former place of residence even though many of them did not own real estate. In the interim some may have disposed of their real estate and household goods. The Japanese-American Press and other publications have carried stories of rowdiness and terrorization toward some of the few families who have returned to their former home towns in recent weeks. Some of the incidents reported told of shootings against the families of Japanese-American servicemen.

Knowing that their families must leave the Relocation Centers and that they would prefer to return to their original home locations, it is apparently a great source of worry to these Japanese-American soldiers when they anticipate what their families may have to face when they take up their old residences. The fact that these soldiers cannot be with their families during such a period of trial is an added factor of unrest. The servicemen also aware that their families possibly cannot hope to establish themselves anywhere except in their original home areas.

Some of these Japanese-American soldiers have openly expressed to this Agent that the War Department, in the interest of the morale and efficiency of Japanese-American troops, many of whom are overseas, should take some effective steps to protect their helpless families from racial discrimination which is developing into incidents involving personal threats, physical violence and vandalism.

Eugene F. Jendrek, Special Agent, SIC, III SC

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