

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

20 January 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR A. C. of S., G-1:

Subject: Questions and Answers on Reinstitution
of Selective Service for Japanese-Americans.

The following changes in the answers approved by G-1 are recommended;

5. Will an individual of Japanese ancestry who has applied for expatriation be inducted?

G-1 Answer: No.

Proposed Answer: Generally speaking, no.

Reason: A plain "no" destroys flexibility. It also constitutes an invitation to apply for expatriation in order to avoid induction.

7. May an individual avoid induction by changing his answer on the loyalty question or by requesting expatriation at this time? *no*

G-1 Answer: No answer recommended. If answer necessary: This is a matter for decision by the appropriate authority as to whether the individual is acceptable and qualified for service.

Proposed Answer: Attention is directed to provisions of Section 11 of the Selective ~~Service~~ *Training* and ~~Training~~ *Service* Act of 1940.

Reason: If WRA has no answer to this question (which is bound to arise) there may well be a rush of applications for expatriation merely to avoid induction. If, on the other hand, it is made clear that false statements to avoid induction constitute a crime, individuals will be slower to take evasive action.

ASW 342.18 Selective Service (J.A.)

X -

21 Jan 44



10. On what basis does the Army determine "acceptability for service?"

G-1 Answer: The policy used by the Army in determining acceptability for service is classified information.

Proposed Answer: Acceptability for service is determined by checking individual records.

Reason: It is felt that the proposed answer constitutes less of a rebuff, without disclosing any information.

11. Is there any way for a man not included on the list "acceptable for service" to change his status to get on the list?

G-1 Answer: There is no list (of acceptable individuals) maintained by the War Department. Acceptability for service is decided from the facts in each individual case.

It is suggested that since there is no list, the question should be rephrased as follows:

"Is there any way for a man not considered acceptable for service to change his status?"

Proposed Answer: Not at present.

12. How soon will inductees be called?

G-1 Answer: It is impossible to determine the exact time a registrant will be called. However, his call will not be prior to ten days from the time he is found qualified for service.

Proposed Answer: It is impossible to determine the exact time a registrant will be called for induction. An individual considered acceptable for service will first be reclassified. He will then undergo a preinduction physical examination. If found physically qualified, he will generally be called for induction no earlier than ten days and no later than ninety days thereafter.

Reason: It is felt that a fuller response to the question is desired.

*the bill
the case
number
a class
or some
of the
circumstances
to advise
this requires*

13. How many will be called? At what rate?

G-1 Answer: a. The number to be called will depend upon the number of registrants found acceptable, together with the registrant's order number.
b. ~~Same as above.~~

~~Proposed Answer:~~ The number to be called and the rate of call will depend upon local Selective Service board quotas.

Reason: It is felt that the proposed answer is more informative.

14. Will nisei serve only with the 100th Battalion or with the Combat Team? Will other units be formed?

G-1 Answer: They will serve wherever the United States will send them. No other promise than that can be given to any American soldier.

Proposed Answer: They will serve wherever the United States sends them. However, it is anticipated that after completion of basic training ~~many~~ *the majority* of the inductees will be assigned for service with the 100th Battalion or the 442nd Combat Team. ~~It is possible that additional units will be formed, if considered desirable from a military point of view.~~

Reason: The G-1 answer is a dodge on the controversial issue of separate units.

15. Is there an opportunity to get into the Navy? The Marines? The Air Corps? The Tank Corps?

G-1 Answer: Inductions are authorized only for the Army. ~~They~~ will not be assigned to the Army Air Forces (Air Corps) or to the Armored Force (Tank Corps).

Proposed Answer: Inductions are authorized only for the Army. Inductees will not be assigned to the Army Air Forces or to the Armored Force.

Reason: Question should be revised to read: "The Army Forces, the Armored Force," As revised, the proposed answer will be adequate.

24. Will those not "acceptable for service" be notified of that fact?

G-1 Answer: They will not be called for induction.

Proposed Answer: No. Information on this point ~~may be~~ *obtained* obtained from local Selective Service Boards.

Reason: The proposed answer will furnish some guide by which individuals can determine their status.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

20 January 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL GERHARDT:

Subject: Questions and Answers on Reinstitution
of Selective Service for Japanese-Americans.

1. ~~I recommend that the following changes in the answers approved by G-1 be made:~~ *are recommended:*

5. Will an individual of Japanese ancestry who has applied for expatriation be inducted?

G-1 Answer: ~~No.~~

JMH Answer: Generally speaking, no.

6. Will an individual of Japanese ancestry who has been sent to Tule Lake be inducted?

G-1 Answer: No, unless he is one of the loyal American citizens living there.

~~JMH Answer: No.~~

7. May an individual avoid induction by changing his answer on the loyalty question or by requesting repatriation at this time?

ex

G-1 Answer: ~~No answer recommended.~~ If answer necessary: ~~"We do not know."~~ This is a matter for decision by the appropriate authority ~~determining~~ *as FO* whether the individual is acceptable and qualified for service."

~~JMH Answer: Action taken merely to evade induction will receive the attention it deserves.~~

10. On what basis does the Army determine "acceptability for service"?

G-1 Answer: The policy used by the Army in determining acceptability for service is classified information.

JMH Answer: Acceptability for service is determined



However, a man ~~conducted~~ for
acceptable in ~~service~~ will first be
retained. He will then undergo a
physical examination. If
physically qualified, he will be
called for induction within 90 days
thereof, and ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~later~~ ^{later} prior
to 10 days

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PERSONNEL

by checking individual records.

11. Is there any way for a man not included on the list "acceptable for service" to change his status to get on the list?

G-1 Answer: There is no list (of acceptable individuals) maintained by the War Department. Acceptability for service is decided from the facts in each individual case.

JMH Answer: Not at present.

(Question should be rephrased: Is there any way for a man not considered acceptable for service to change his status?)

12. How soon will inductees be called?

G-1 Answer: It is impossible to determine the exact time a registrant will be called. However, his call will not be prior to ten days from the time he is found acceptable. *qualified for service.*

~~JMH Answer: It is impossible to determine the exact time a registrant will be called. However, his call will not be prior to ten days from the time he is reclassified.~~

13. How many will be called? At what rate?

G-1 Answer: a. The number to be called will depend upon the number of registrants found acceptable together with the registrant's order number.
b. Same as a. above.

JMH Answer: The number to be called and the rate of call will depend upon the number of registrants reclassified, together with the registrant's order number.

14. Will nisei serve only with the 100th Battalion or with the Combat team? Will other units be formed?

G-1 Answer: They will serve wherever the United States will send them. ~~No other promise than that can be given to any American soldier.~~

However
JMH Answer: It is anticipated that after completion of basic training, many of the inductees will be assigned for service with the 100th Battalion or the 442nd Combat Team. It is possible that additional units will be formed *if considered desirable from a military point of view.*

15. Is there an opportunity to get into the Navy? The Marines? The Air Corps? The Tank Corps?

G-1 Answer: Inductions are authorized only for the Army. Nisei will not be assigned to the Army Air Forces (Air Corps) or to the Armored Force (Tank Corps).

JMH: Answer: Inductions are authorized only for the Army. Inductees will not be assigned to the Army Air Forces or to the Armored Force.

24. Will those not "acceptable for service" be notified of that fact?

G-1 Answer: They will not be called for induction.

JMH Answer: No. *Individuals considered acceptable for service will be notified of reclassification.*

H

HALL