

MID 291.2
JapaneseWAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25CI/RB
ABC

10 May 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

Attention: Captain Adrain S. Fisher

Subject: Proposed letter to California
State Chamber of Commerce.

1. Reference is made to the attached letter from Mr. James Mussatti of the California Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco, in which inquiry is made concerning the number of alien Japanese serving in the armed forces. The Military Intelligence Division has no information concerning the exact number of Japanese aliens, although it is believed to be very small. The Office of the Adjutant General is the only office able to supply that information.

2. There is a possibility that some Japanese aliens may have been inducted prior to Pearl Harbor. You will recall, however, that following Pearl Harbor, the drafting of all Japanese citizens and aliens alike was suspended and none were taken into the Army until February, 1943, when American citizens of Japanese ancestry were permitted to volunteer for the combat team, otherwise known as the 442nd Infantry Regiment.

3. The reinstatement of the draft act concerning Japanese went into effect on the first of this year but it applies to Japanese American citizens only. The Selective Service Act was restored to citizens of Japanese ancestry at the recommendation of the Assistant Secretary of War. After a study prepared by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, dated 27 November 1943 and approved by the Deputy Chief of Staff under date of 30 November 1943, recommendation was made that Japanese aliens would not be inducted voluntarily or otherwise. It, therefore, appears that since Pearl Harbor no provision has been made for the induction of Japanese aliens into the Army.

4. The attached communication from the Chamber of Commerce of California was probably prompted by the recent publicity to the case of Noboru Nakamura who attempted to volunteer for the Japanese American Combat Team and who was first turned down by this Division because of his Japanese citizenship, but later received a waiver of his alienage,



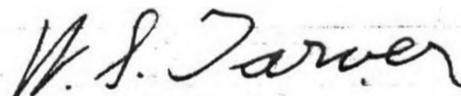
and was subsequently inducted into the Army of the United States. He has recently been naturalized under the provisions of the act referred to in paragraph two of the attached letter.

5. It is believed inadvisable by this Division to reveal the exact number of Japanese aliens now serving in the Army of the United States because it is possible that information may reach the Japanese Government and some retaliatory measures may be taken by that Government. There does not appear to be any security reasons that require this information be kept secret. It is, therefore, recommended that the attached letter be answered as follows:

"Immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor provisions of the Selective Service Act were suspended for all Japanese, both citizens and aliens. Thereafter, no Japanese, either citizens or aliens, were drafted nor permitted to volunteer until February, 1943, at which time American citizens of Japanese ancestry were permitted to volunteer for service in the Japanese American Combat Team, otherwise known as the 442nd Infantry Regiment. Further revisions in the application of Selective Service Act to permit the drafting of American citizens in January of this year were made. Since Pearl Harbor, the policy of the War Department has been against accepting Japanese aliens voluntarily or otherwise and only one or two exceptions have been made to this rule for certain special assignments.

"As a result of the above policy, there are only a very few Japanese aliens in the Army who were inducted prior to Pearl Harbor."

For the A. C. of S., G-2:



W. S. TARVER,
Major, Infantry,
Chief, Review Branch, CIG.

1 Incl.

Ltr from Calif State Chamber of
Commerce 27 April 1944