

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

The Ogden Ordnance  
Depot is currently  
employing 29  
Japanese.

G-2 WDC says.  
(telegram to G-2)  
that these Japs  
did not come  
from WRA Reloca-  
tion Centers. He  
claims that several  
of the 29 have  
spent a time in  
Japan where they  
served in the  
Jap army -

Information from  
Lt. Pierce (G-2)  
Room 2 E 657  
Ex. 5269

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Box 14  
Folder 3  
Item 28  
Page 1

December 23, 1942

Dear Mr. Myer:

Your letter of December 14, on the subject of employing Japanese in the Ogden, Utah, Ordnance Depot, has been received. In reply thereto you are advised that under existing War Department regulations, promulgated on February 9, 1942, no person of Japanese ancestry may be employed in any establishment operated by the Army or any of its agencies. This directive precludes present consideration of your request.

Since this directive was issued prior to consideration of the Japanese problem which led to the development of the War Relocation Authority, I am of the opinion that the situation currently existing should be restudied, and I am inclined to believe that the unlimited restrictions imposed in the order might be revised. Accordingly I am asking the General Staff to restudy the current situation with the view to revising the order.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

Mr. Dillon Myer, Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building, Room 822  
Washington, D. C.

OASW:WPS:MAW

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 7-0062  
Date: 6/27/74

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Handwritten note:* 100-1-1-100

*Handwritten mark:* -P-

*Handwritten mark:* 100-1-1-100

## WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



DEC 14 1942

Mr. John J. McCloy  
Assistant Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

In my recent conversation with you I told you very briefly about the small meeting I had while in Salt Lake City with a representative of the War Production Board and a representative of the arsenal at Ogden, Utah, regarding the possible use of Japanese Americans in the arsenal. I had previously talked with Major Clark C. Witman, Executive Officer, who, I understand, later talked with General DeWitt, and I have had a letter from Colonel Sears.

I realize, of course, that the matter of employing Japanese Americans in the arsenal at Ogden is something for the War Department to determine. It is quite evident there is a drastic shortage of labor in that particular area in Utah. I am sure Colonel Sears feels that at the present moment Japanese Americans are the only available source of labor other than what they have already recruited. The group indicated they would like to use 250 Japanese Americans.

In my discussion with the representative group, I pointed out the policies of the War Relocation Authority regarding the matter of community acceptance in the use of group labor, and told them that under these conditions we would be glad to cooperate if they are interested in recruiting evacuees from relocation centers.

From the standpoint of the War Relocation Authority and the whole problem of public relations, I think it would be helpful to our program, both in relation to the morale of the evacuees, as well as the outside public, if a reasonable number of evacuees were employed by the arsenal. I say this with full realization that the Utah area has now a rather large number of Japanese Americans and is fast approaching the saturation point. Consequently, I am not only willing to cooperate, but recommend that every consideration be given to the utilization of a number of Japanese Americans in the work at the arsenal.



Sincerely,

*D. S. Myer*  
Director