

Feb. 6
1943

COMMUNIQUE

No. 35

Official Bulletin of Jerome Relocation Center, Denson, Arkansas

U.S. ARMY TEAM ARRIVES TO BEGIN COMBAT UNIT SIGNUP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Following is the text of a letter received by the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, from the President:

February 1, 1943

My dear Mr. Secretary:

"The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

"This is a natural and logical step toward the reinstatement of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

"No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution--whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort.

"I am glad to observe that the War Department, the Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice, and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort.

"Very sincerely yours,
"/s/ FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

Taylor Voices Gratification

Addressing a meeting of the Center's appointed personnel this afternoon, Project Director Paul A. Taylor expressed his personal gratification over Secretary Stimson's announcement that loyal nisei will be given an opportunity to serve in the Army.

He agreed with Dillon S. Nyer, national WRA director, that the announcement had made Jan. 28 the most significant date of the past 10 months for persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States.

He called attention to the fact that the President has given his full approval to organization of the announced combat team. (The President's statement is in the adjoining column.)

The meeting was called as part of a two-day Center-wide educational program planned to familiarize each resident with all of the facts concerning the registration, which will probably begin Tuesday or Wednesday.

Taylor stated that the War Relocation authority has been working with War Department and other interested officials for several months in an effort to return to Japanese Americans
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Details On: VOLUNTEER COMBAT TEAM

Further details concerning the establishment of the Army combat team composed of American citizens of Japanese ancestry were announced by the War Department.

All American citizens of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty has been satisfactorily established, who are 18 years of age and not over 37, who meet physical requirements for general military service, and who speak English, are eligible for the combat team. Representatives of the War Department will shortly arrive at each relocation center to explain the program in detail and to receive applications for voluntary induction from individuals residing there.

American citizens of Japanese ancestry

who are not residents of War Relocation centers should make application for voluntary induction through their local Selective Service boards.

The combat team, to which qualified volunteers will be assigned, will have the customary infantry, artillery, engineer, and medical components, and will be trained for combat service in an active theatre. Company officers will be of Japanese ancestry, to the extent that men with the requisite military experience can be found. From time to time their number will be augmented by graduates from officer candidate schools. Opportunity for attendance at service
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Project Head's Announcement

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 their right to fight for their country.

The registration, Taylor said, will be Center-wide, including all persons 17 and older excepting those who have requested repatriation. He made it clear that the War Relocation authority is not going to force people to relocate when they do not want to be relocated. But he pointed to the registration as an opportunity for greatly accelerating the leave clearance program.

At the time it became known that the War Department would make the registration of draft-age nisei men, it was decided by the WRA to include all adults in the registration, he explained.

"Not only will it speed up our clearance procedure," Taylor added, "but it will also provide a pool of workers available for placement by the War Relocation authority and the Manpower commission in a much wider field of private employment. In addition to the

NISEI SERGEANT AIDS TEAM

Technician Fourth Grade Kazu Yoshihata, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Kunosaki Yoshihata of 14-9-D, arrived last night from Washington, D.C., with the staff of Army officials who will aid in the registration of all evacuees, 17 to 38 years of age, and also to recruit volunteers for the combat unit of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Just three days before the Pearl Harbor attack, Yoshihata entered the U.S. Army and was stationed at Camp Roberts. After 13 weeks of basic training, he was transferred to Camp Robinson for four months.

Transferred to Camp Savage for Military Intelligence service in April, 1942, he was graduated Nov. 31, 1942. Since his graduation, he has been stationed at Washington, D.C., from where he was ordered to accompany the Army team to this Center.

ARMY REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT MEETINGS

Army representatives will conduct meetings in eight central dining halls Monday before launching the program of obtaining questionnaires from all male American citizens of Japanese ancestry between the ages of 17 and 38 years on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

(Accompanying chart shows time, division of blocks with the meetings to be held in the circled blocks.)

Lieut. Eugene Siler, head of the Army team, said a message particularly prepared for the male citizens in this age group would be delivered at the meetings.

Although the public is welcome, these meetings will be primarily for this particular group because of hall accommodations.

Lieut. Siler and Staff Sgt. James B. Davidson will conduct meetings simultaneously so that the entire Center may be covered in a day.

For the information of the issei, the series of meetings will be repeated in Japanese as soon as translations arrive, Lieut. Siler announced.

Project Director Paul A. Taylor said that employees will be excused from work to attend the meetings.

opportunity of serving in the Army, some citizen evacuees will be certified by a special inter-departmental board, composed of representatives of the Army, Navy, War Relocation authority, and FBI as eligible for work in war plants."

Taylor told his staff that this registration

8-9:30 a.m.:	28, 35, 38, (39), 46
9:30-11 a.m.:	40, 43, (44), 45
1-2:30 p.m.:	31, 32, (41), 42
2:30-4 p.m.:	19, 20, 29, (30)
8-9:30 a.m.:	6, (7), 18, 17
9:30-11 a.m.:	5, 8, (9), 16
1-2:30 p.m.:	1, 2, (3), 4
2:30-4 p.m.:	11, (12), 14, 15

would be given priority over all other Center activities. "We have an opportunity here to render a valuable service both to the Army and to loyal American citizens who have pleaded for their chance to share in the fight against the nation's enemies."

He said he and other members of the appointed staff would meet with many groups during the next few days, as will the Army team sent here to conduct the registration. He cautioned that the registration will be a tremendous task and that it will necessarily require several weeks. He felt sure that volunteers in this Center would not fall below the numbers who will volunteer at the other projects.

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Signup Details

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 schools and for promotion to higher grades will be open to all enlisted and commissioned personnel on the same basis as for the rest of the Army.

If found qualified, the individual may expect to be inducted from 30 to 60 days after volunteering. Those rejected for physical reasons will be given assistance in getting jobs in war plants.

Prior to joining the Army, Yoshihata was engaged in strawberry farming with his parents and brothers in Florin, Cal. His brothers are Sokume, 20, and Yoshio, 13.

The combat team composed



of Americans of Japanese ancestry has been considered the best means of presenting proof to the general public that the nisei are loyal to the United States, according to Yoshihata.