

INFORMATION DIGEST

No. 41

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For the Use of the WRA Staff Only

INDUCTION OF COMBAT TEAM BEGINS ---

Following upon the announcement that 2600 volunteers for the nisei combat team were inducted in Hawaii, comes word that physical examinations for the relocation center volunteers have been started. Those volunteering from Manzanar and Tule Lake are being examined at each center, while those from other projects will report to the nearest induction centers.

According to an AP dispatch of March 29, the Hawaiian volunteers were given a gala sendoff. Approximately 20,000 people, the largest crowd ever assembled in Honolulu's history witnessed the farewell review before the military governor's mansion.

Festivities have also been in order at the relocation centers for local volunteers. Residents are showing great pride in the boys who are entering the Army.

The official figures of volunteers center by center have not been generally released. The War Department announced that about a thousand had volunteered, but the number is known to have increased slightly since that time.

STAFF INCREASE HALTED ---

At the order of the Bureau of the Budget, the hiring of personnel both for the Washington office and the field has been stopped. The order, received on March 30, placed a maximum of 187 for the Washington staff and 1569 for the field. At the present time the national office is somewhat over that number and the field a few under. However, the budget for 1944 had anticipated an increase to a total of about 3000.

When hearings on the 1944 budget were held before the Bureau of the Budget, WRA presented its justifications for the increase in personnel and was given a sympathetic hearing. Earlier, in reply to a circular sent out by the Bureau of the Budget requesting all department heads to justify the number of their employees, WRA had indicated that the agency was not yet completely staffed to carry out its program. The freezing order was totally unexpected.

Division heads are now making careful estimates of the absolute minimum numbers of persons needed for the successful functioning of the Authority. These figures will be presented to the Bureau of the

Budget in an attempt to receive authorization to increase the staff where necessary. Since the 1944 budget comes up before the Review Committee of the Bureau of the Budget on April 9, the revised figures must be prepared before then.

REPAIRS UNDER WAY AT LEUPP --

Repairs essential to the operating of the isolation camp at Leupp, Arizona, are now being made under the direction of C. H. Powers, head of the Construction and Maintenance Section of the Agricultural Division. The camp is expected to be ready for occupancy in about two weeks, at which time the Moab establishment will be abandoned:

WEBSTER LIAISON OFFICER --

Philip J. Webster of the San Francisco field office has been designated by the Western Defense Command as Liaison Officer between the Civil Affairs Division and the War Relocation Authority. Dr. Webster replaces Major Mark Astrup, who has reported for duty at the Overseas Supply Division of the New York Port of Embarkation, Brooklyn.

AGREEMENT WITH OWI REVISED --

Under a revised agreement with the Office of War Information, the regional and branch office representatives of that agency will hereafter carry out information functions for the WRA field assistant directors, the relocation representatives, and the evacuee property division.

EVACUEE ART TO BE EXHIBITED --

The Friends Center at Cambridge, Massachusetts, has announced an art competition especially for residents of relocation centers. It will be held for two weeks beginning May 15 and will include six classes. Artistic merit will be the sole basis in awarding prizes.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EVACUEES --

Transportation and early living expenses may be paid by WRA to evacuees who leave the project on indefinite leave and who need financial assistance, under a revision of Administrative Instruction No. 45. This will make it possible for many evacuees with limited funds to accept job offers which they might otherwise have to turn down.

The maximum grant will cover coach fare for each member of the immediate family; \$3.00 per person for meals en route for each day of travel; and, to meet initial living expenses at the place of employment,

\$50 for the wage earner plus \$25 for each of two dependents. In making the application the evacuee must state his cash resources and his monthly income for the past six months. When the statement shows that the evacuee has insufficient funds to cover transportation costs, plus initial living expenses, the Project Director is authorized to issue a cash grant to make up the difference.

PENALTIES LIMITED ---

Under Administrative Instruction No. 85 on the trial and punishment of offenses against law and order in relocation centers, the most severe penalty which can be imposed by the project director as punishment for an offense is three months in jail, or suspension of work privilege or other pay privileges for a period of not more than three months, or both.

Any possibility of false arrest or delayed trial is prevented by the regulations set up under Administrative Instruction No. 84. Before a police officer can arrest an offender against the law and order, he is required to secure a signed warrant issued by the project director. The only exception to this is that a policeman may arrest an evacuee for an offense committed in his presence.

Specific procedures for trying cases promptly and for releasing defendants on bond, at the discretion of the project director, are also covered in the new regulations. These procedures correspond closely to those in effect at any city police court, except that an offender may be released on bond while awaiting trial without putting up bail. His personal word that he will report for trial when notified and that he will not leave the project premises is considered sufficient security.

APPLICATIONS SENT TO FBI ---

Last week 12,500 applications for leave clearance were sent to the FBI, making a total of 29,000 which have now gone over. Forty thousand applications have come in from the projects for clearance.

DENVER CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK ---

The conference of WRA superintendents of education will be held next week in Denver as originally scheduled. However, due to the shortage of travel funds, the only representatives from the Washington office to attend it will be John Provinse, Chief of Community Services, Dr. Lester Ade, Education Consultant, and Dr. Joseph Samler, Education Advisor.

NAVAL ACADEMY CLUB SEEKS BOOKS ---

Printed matter on anything relating to Japan and the Japanese is being sought by students at the United States Naval Academy who are organizing a club for the study of Japanese politics, literature, background, and military activities. They would like to have Japanese travel and propaganda posters; Japanese pictorial magazines; primers, or any simple books written in Japanese; travel guides or pamphlets written in either English or Japanese; condensed accounts of Japanese history; books identifying the various Japanese insignia of military rank, and Japanese newspapers. Midshipman J. Gilbert Gallemore, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, is in charge of collecting such material.

MINIDOKA FIRE CREW ORGANIZED ---

A volunteer crew has been organized at Minidoka to help fight forest, brush, and grass fires in the region of the project under the direction of the U. S. Forest Service and U. S. Grazing Service. An education program to train the crew members was scheduled to begin on March 29.

WPB APPROVALS TO DATE ---

Following is a summary of the WPB approvals which had been received as of April 2:

Colorado River: school, hog and poultry unit, irrigation, drainage, and four-family units.

Manzanar: electric ranges, irrigation, clothing factory, ice house, garage, utility extension, carpenter, plumbing and electric shop, hog and poultry unit, barracks' partitions, bakery, and latrines.

Gila River: irrigation, schools and staff housing, ice house, dairy farm, carpenter, plumbing and electric shop, paved road, garage, bakery, pork and poultry unit, hospital air conditioning, stores and warehouses.

Tule Lake: ice house, schools, tent factory, staff housing, furniture factory, hog and poultry unit, bakery, barracks' partitions, irrigation, carpenter, plumbing and electric shop, winterizing food warehouses, fire house tower, stores and warehouses, administration garages, alteration of army warehouses for use as vegetable packing sheds, coal hopper and railroad spur.

Central Utah: schools and staff housing, ice house, bakery, hog and poultry unit, garage, carpenter, plumbing and electric shop, service station, storage building, irrigation and drainage, winterizing food warehouses.

Minidoka: schools, bakery, irrigation, carpenter, plumbing and electric shop, garage, stores and warehouses.

Heart Mountain: sub-flooring for high school building, irrigation, roads, culverts, bridges and fords.

Granada: schools, fish refrigerator.

Leupp, Arizona: reconstruction of Indian boarding school.

1943 AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OUTLINED --

A tentative agricultural program for 1943 has been planned for each project. If the schedule can be followed, vegetable acreage will be as follows: Central Utah, 801; Colorado River, 368; Gila River, 1,466; Granada, 502; Heart Mountain, 1,063; Jerome, 630; Manzanar, 308; Minidoka, 420; Rohwer, 610; and Tule Lake, 1150. Gila River and Tule Lake will be able to ship considerable produce to other projects, while Heart Mountain, Jerome, and Rohwer will ship smaller amounts.

Feed crop acreage: Central Utah, 2,875; Colorado River 100; Gila River, 6,496; Granada, 2,225; Heart Mountain, 850; Jerome, 550; Manzanar, 150; Minidoka, 400; Rohwer, 900; and Tule Lake, 2049.

All projects with the possible exception of Jerome and Minidoka will have poultry, and all but Minidoka will have hogs. Beef cattle will be run at Central Utah, Gila River, Granada, and Heart Mountain. Only Gila River and Colorado River will have dairy herds.

Heavy rains at Jerome have delayed planting. Some early vegetables have been planted and if the rains let up in time for the land to be prepared, planting will get under way again about April 15 on tomatoes, peppers, cauliflower, and cabbage, which were started in hot beds.

Since it was impossible to clear and prepare land at Rohwer in time for vegetable production this season, farm land between the project area and the levee has been rented.

Cropping permits at Granada have been issued on about 1500 acres. This leaves a remainder of about 900 acres which had originally been scheduled for lease, but will be farmed by the center instead.

W. N. Case, formerly with the Colorado Extension Service of the agricultural college at Fort Collins, has been appointed to the Agricultural Division to work with Ernest Reed in agricultural production. Mr. Case was Extension Horticulturist and later, District Supervisor.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED --

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Date Signed</u> |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| 26, Sup. 1, Rev. | Consumer Enterprises in Relocation Centers | 3-31-43 |
| 26, Sup. 5 | Consumer Enterprises in Relocation Centers | 3-26-43 |
| 45, Revised | Payment of Travel of Evacuees Granted Indefinite Leave | 3-24-43 |
| 56, Sup. 1 | Transfer of Function from Reports Division to Community Services Division | 3-26-43 |
| 87 | Vocational Retraining Program | 3-29-43 |

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY --

"Shall the Japanese be allowed to dominate Hawaii?" by John A. Balch of Honolulu. (Privately printed)

Japanese problem in the United States, by H. A. Millis. 1915. This is an old publication, but recently donated to the library. It is considered an authoritative work on the subject.

National resources development report for 1943: Part I. Post-war plan and program. U. S. National Resources Planning Board. January, 1943.

After the war - toward security, U. S. National Resources Planning Board. September, 1943.

Security, work and relief policies, 1942. Report of the U. S. National Resources Planning Board.

USO CENTER PLANNED --

Residents at Rohwer are making preparations for the establishing of a USO center and are now at work on furnishings for the room. Since the Arkansas projects are not too far from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, it is expected that many nisei soldiers will visit them on forlough.

EVACUEES ATTEND CONFERENCES --

Thirty-seven Girl Reserves from Granada attended the mid-winter conference at La Junta, Colorado, on March 20. Invitations were extended to all the girls to spend the week-end with private families.

Representatives from Minidoka and Central Utah attended a YWCA conference in Salt Lake City on March 27 and 28. Delegates from Utah, Idaho, and Colorado YWCA branches were at the meeting.

The Clubs and Organizations Department at Rohwer had a banquet for forty American Association of University Women representatives from all over Arkansas. Plans were discussed for the formation of a chapter at the center which would possibly include appointed personnel as well as evacuees. The national AAUW office has prepared a memorandum of understanding on the procedures to be followed in organizing a chapter.

TULE RESIDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS --

The Eastern Cooperative Wholesale has awarded five fifty-dollar scholarships to residents of Tule Lake to aid them in studying at the Rochdale Institute. In addition to these five evacuees, two more will train at Rochdale in preparation for positions with cooperatives.

SUPREME COURT SENT TEST CASES --

Three criminal cases involving the constitutionality of the evacuation and the curfew orders have been sent to the U. S. Supreme Court by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which refused to render a decision. These cases -- the Yasui, Hirabayashi, and Korematsu -- although originating in different cities, had been joined together for purposes of appellate review, since they were tests of the same orders.

The Supreme Court has a choice of returning the cases to the Circuit Court for decision, and requiring that they be appealed, if at all, in the regular way, or it can decide to ask for briefs and hear arguments. In the latter event, the cases may come up for argument and decision this session, which ends in June.

MEDICAL STAFFS LOSE EVACUEE MEMBERS ---

Evacuee members of the project health departments are leaving for outside jobs, and the problem of replacing them is being given a great deal of attention. Although there are 68 evacuee doctors, including part-time workers, in project hospitals now, as of today only 42 of these and 19 nurses have not yet indicated that they expect to leave. Some of the doctors will go into military service. Of the original 90 student nurses, 17 have not yet planned to go out.

By now, hospitals are almost entirely finished. What work remains to be done is on details. Some equipment is still lacking, but there is sufficient to take care of acute cases. Where proper treatment cannot be given at the hospital, arrangements are made for using outside facilities.

NISEI GIRLS AID BOND SALES --

Seventeen nisei girls now working in the national office were photographed today by newsreel and newspaper services as they inspected the two-man Japanese submarine captured at Pearl Harbor. The submarine is being used in a nation-wide bond sale tour. Toshio Shimabukro, nisei Coastguardsman, who was selling bonds, was photographed with the girls.

INOCULATIONS GIVEN --

Immunization against Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is progressing at Heart Mountain. So far, 183 agricultural workers and ditchmen have been inoculated. Those who are working among the sage and with animals are being immunized first. Bulletins on this disease have been distributed to all the residents of the center.

