

Nisei

MID 908

21 July 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

SUBJECT: Use of Japanese-American Soldiers in Training.

1. Reference is made to:

a. Letter from the Director, War Relocation Authority to Colonel Harrison A. Gerhardt, Office of the Assistant Secretary of War.

b. Memorandum from the Office of the Assistant Secretary to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3.

2. There are being organized, trained and equipped at the Military Intelligence Training Center, Camp Ritchie, Maryland, for the Army Ground Forces, twenty-nine (29) Mobile Intelligence Training Units. Each MITU consists of two Caucasian officers, two Caucasian enlisted men, and fifteen (15) enlisted Americans of Japanese ancestry.

3. The MITU's will be used by the Army Ground Forces in re-deployment training, putting on demonstrations for all troops being redeployed. The demonstration is broad in scope, and one of its phases is a presentation of Japanese squad tactics. In this demonstrations, the Nisei wear Japanese uniforms and use Japanese weapons.

4. Those few Nisei who had no interest in this type of duty were relieved. Today six units have been trained and are in the field, and ten more will complete their training on 15 August. The enthusiasm with which the soldiers of Japanese ancestry are working; and the fine spirit of cooperation between the Nisei and Caucasian personnel, refutes the implication of the war correspondent in Europe. The Nisei "Japanese squad" does not act as the "enemy" in maneuvers against troops. The MITU is a demonstration team. The alleged feeling of the Nisei in Europe that doubt and hatred would be engendered can only be due to the fact that they have no conception of the MITU. Some former members of the 442nd Combat Team now are in training with the teams, and more will be used on

RG Entry Stack Row Comp Shelf Box-Folder

165 208 390 35 26 2-3 320-9

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 758 0122

By JLV NARA Date 10/7/10



Kodak Color Control Patches

Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black

© Kodak, 2007 TM: Kodak

subsequent teams. These men have not incurred the hatred of Caucasian troops; they have won their respect and admiration for the fine job they are doing.

5. It is suggested that the Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, may welcome the opportunity to comment.

CLAYTON BISSELL
Major General, GSC
A. C. of S., G-2

RG	Entry	Stack	Row	Comp	Shelf	Box-Folder
----	-------	-------	-----	------	-------	------------

165	208	390	35	26	2-3	320-9
-----	-----	-----	----	----	-----	-------

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 758 0122

By JLK NARA Date 10/7/10

Kodak Color Control Patches

© Kodak, 2007 TM: Kodak

Blue	Cyan	Green	Yellow	Red	Magenta	White	3/Color	Black
------	------	-------	--------	-----	---------	-------	---------	-------

ASA
MID 908

24 July 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

SUBJECT: Use of Japanese-American Soldiers in Training.

1. Reference is made to:

a. Letter from the Director, War Relocation Authority to Colonel Harrison A. Gerhardt, Office of the Assistant Secretary of War.

b. Memorandum from the Office of the Assistant Secretary to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3.

2. There are being organized, trained and equipped at the Military Intelligence Training Center, Camp Ritchie, Maryland, for the Army Ground Forces, twenty-nine (29) Mobile Intelligence Training Units. Each MITU consists of two Caucasian officers, two Caucasian enlisted men, and thirteen (13) enlisted Americans of Japanese ancestry.

3. The MITU's will be used by the Army Ground Forces in redeployment training, putting on demonstrations for all troops being redeployed. The demonstration is broad in scope. One of its phases is a presentation of Japanese squad tactics. In this demonstration, the Nisei wear Japanese uniforms and use Japanese weapons. Another is an orientation play in which three Nisei play Japanese parts, and one plays the part of an American (Nisei) interrogator. One of the lessons of this play is that Nisei in the American Army are Americans--as American as those of German, Italian, English or any other ancestry.

4. Those few Nisei who had no interest in this type of duty were relieved. Today six units have been trained and are in the field, and ten more will complete their training on 15 August. The spirit which the soldiers of Japanese ancestry are showing; and the fine cooperation between the Nisei and Caucasian personnel, refutes the implication of the war correspondent in Europe. The Nisei "Japanese squad" does not act as the "enemy" in maneuvers against troops. The MITU is a demonstration team. The alleged feeling of the Nisei in Europe that doubt

RG Entry Stack Row Comp Shelf Box-Folder

165 208 390 35 26 2-3 320-9

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 758 0122

By JLN NARA Date 10/7/10

Kodak Color Control Patches

© Kodak, 2007 TM: Kodak

Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black

MID 908 (24 July 1945)

and hatred would be engendered may be due to the fact that they have no conception of the MITU. Some former members of the 442nd Combat Team now are in training with the teams, and more will be used on subsequent teams. These men have not incurred the hatred of Caucasian troops; they have won their respect and admiration for the fine job they are doing.

5. It is suggested that the Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, may welcome the opportunity to comment.

CLAYTON BISSELL
Major General, GSC
A. C. of S., G-2

RG	Entry	Stack	Row	Comp	Shelf	Box-Folder
----	-------	-------	-----	------	-------	------------

165	208	390	35	26	2-3	320-9
-----	-----	-----	----	----	-----	-------

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 758 0122

By JL NARA Date 10/7/10

Kodak Color Control Patches

© Kodak, 2007 TM: Kodak

Blue	Cyan	Green	Yellow	Red	Magenta	White	3/Color	Black
------	------	-------	--------	-----	---------	-------	---------	-------