



WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, G-2  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

216

ASW 542.18 J.A. Volunteers

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

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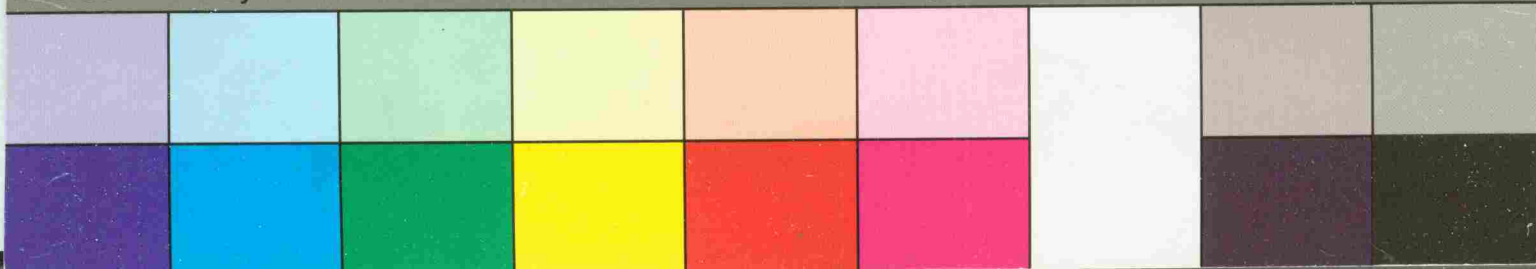
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MID 908 (24 July 1945)

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

*John W. Weckerling*  
JOHN WECKERLING  
Brigadier General, GSC  
Deputy A.C. of S., G-2

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE TRAINING CENTER  
CAMP RITCHIE, MARYLAND

23 July 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commandant

1. The policy of Section IX with respect to the six teams trained during the period of 2 May to 15 June 1945 was as follows:

a. Prior to attendance of classes, all MITU students were given a complete, thorough and detailed orientation as to the purpose, scope and capabilities of a MITU. Included as an integral part of this orientation was the presentation of the demonstration, "A Scrap of Paper" in which three of the characters are Japanese soldiers in uniform. The students were informed that they would participate in this demonstration.

b. During the course of instruction the OICs of each team were required to make recommendations upon the completion of each three weeks of training on the qualifications and attitude of the Nisei personnel on their respective teams.

c. Under no conditions were any Nisei personnel required to remain on a team against their wishes and at all times the privilege of stating desires or preferences was extended to all Nisei students.

2. The policy pertaining to the teams presently in training is the same as outlined for the previous training period with the following additions:

a. Each prospective student was interviewed and screened, procedure for which is based in the following principles:

(1) Explanation by the interviewer of the scope of the MITU program.

(2) Determination of special qualifications of the EM.

(3) Expression of desire by the EM to be selected.

(a) In instances where the EM expresses an aversion to wearing a Japanese uniform an appeal to the individuals' patriotism is made citing examples of similar training for the European Theater wherein American soldiers of foreign descent wore enemy uniforms.

b. The orientation program was enlarged and more detailed, in-

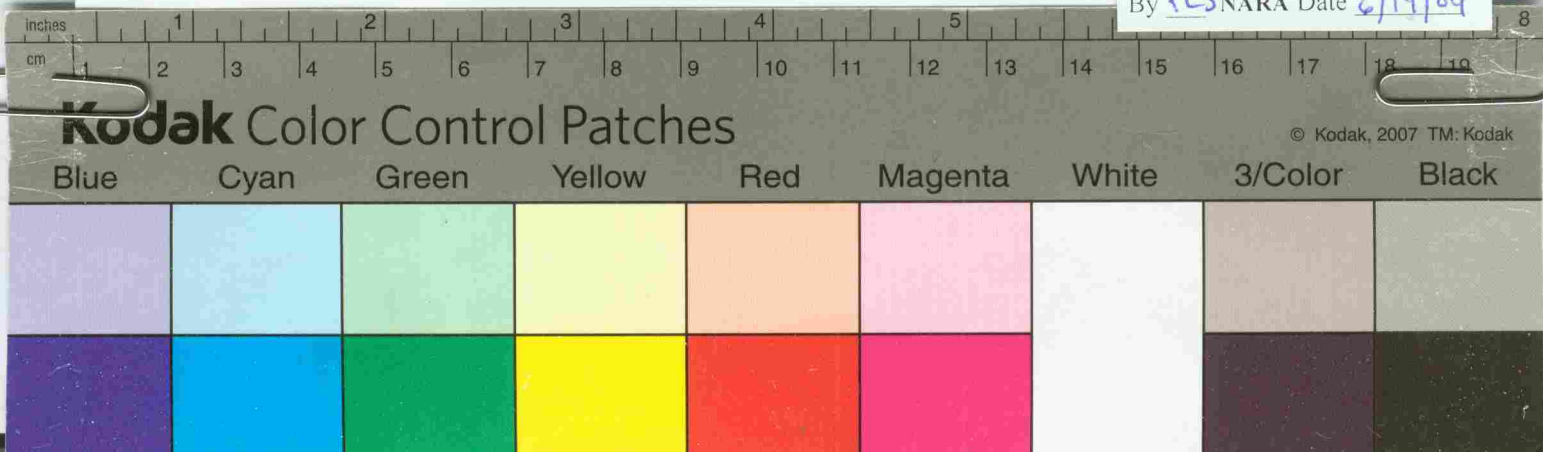
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cluding an orientation talk by the Commandant on the background of MITU and the vital part MITU will play in redeployment training of troops.

c. All personnel witnessed the demonstration "A Scrap of Paper", a Firing Demonstration (Jap weapons), and a Tactics Demonstration (Jap) performed by three of the six teams previously trained. Japanese uniforms were worn in all three demonstrations. It was emphasized that these demonstrations were the result of the course of training. In addition all personnel were informed that if they desired to become a member of MITU they would participate in and wear the Japanese uniforms in these demonstrations.

d. Recommendations of OICs are required upon completion of each two (2) weeks of training.

e. Reference the present ten teams, to date, two (2) Nisei EM have been released from training based on their dislike to wearing a Japanese uniform

3. This report is based on daily personal contact, observation and interviews of Nisei students by this officer in the capacity of Chief, Section IX, which section is directly responsible for the training program of MITUs.

*Robert B. Noack*

ROBERT B. NOACK  
Major, QMC  
Chief, Section IX

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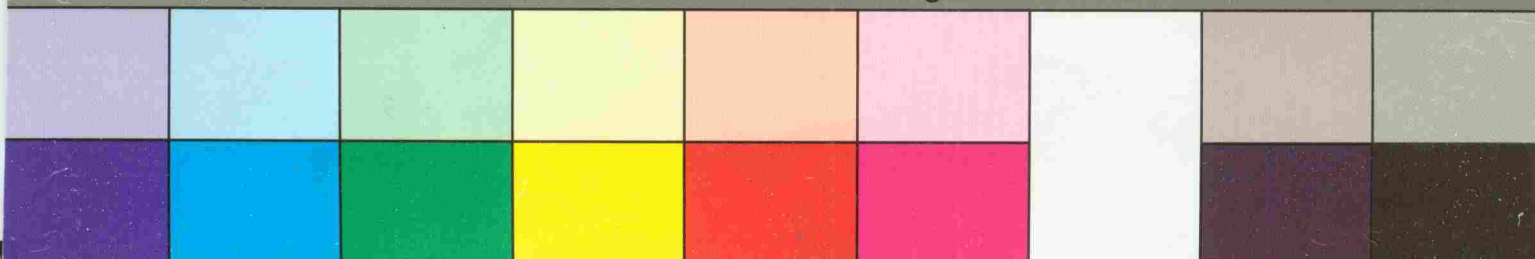
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WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

18 July 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3:

The attached letter from the Director, War Relocation Authority, is forwarded with the request that this office be advised whether your office has knowledge of any "War Department program" of the kind referred to or of such use of Japanese-American troops.

*Davidson Sommers*  
DAVIDSON SOMMERS  
Major, Air Corps  
Assistant Executive

Enc.

Ltr 17 Jul 45 D.S. Myer to Col. Gerhardt.



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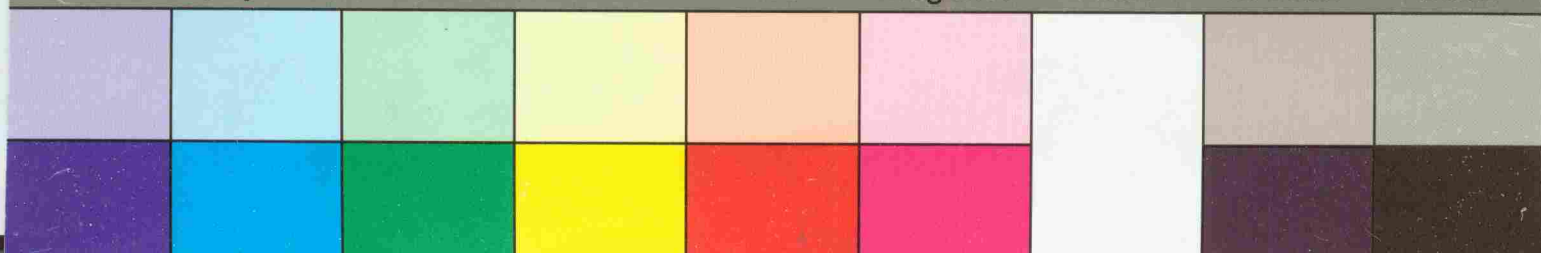
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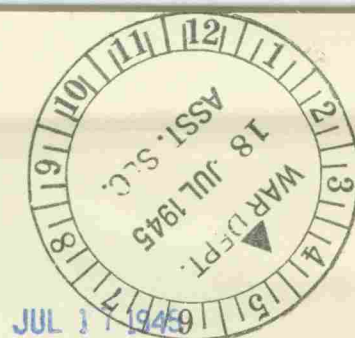
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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



Colonel Harrison A. Gerhardt  
War Department  
Room 4E 886  
Pentagon Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Gerhardt:

I believe that you may be interested in the following excerpt from a letter written by a war correspondent with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team to Secretary Ickes, which has been referred to me.

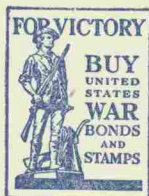
"Regarding the recently reported War Department program of using Nisei troops dressed in Japanese uniforms for training GI's for Pacific combat, nothing I can say could convey to you the feeling of consternation it has aroused in 442nd men. Again I have talked with numerous men of that unit (including some of their Caucasian officers). Their reactions are, briefly, these:

"Many told me they would rather go back into combat—anywhere—than have to dress up in Japanese uniforms and use Japanese weapons in this training program. They said they could not understand why Caucasian soldiers could not do the same training inasmuch as Nisei don't know anything about Japanese warfare in the first place and, therefore, have to be trained by the War Department in such methods. They believe the use of Nisei for such work—particularly when they are required to copy Japanese enemy troops to the exact detail of even dress—will only serve to increase racial antagonism. They think a feeling of doubt and hatred toward Japanese-Americans cannot help but be engendered among unthinking GI's who train under such a program. To substantiate this argument they point out that even in maneuvers between purely Caucasian troops one unit learns to hate the unit pitted against it."

I have somewhat shared the writer's misgivings with regard to this program.

Sincerely,

*D.S. Myer*  
Director



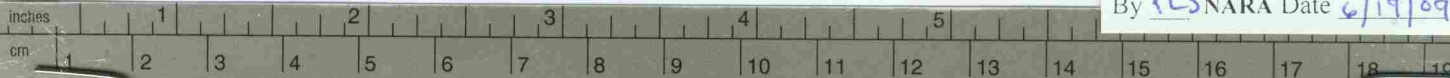
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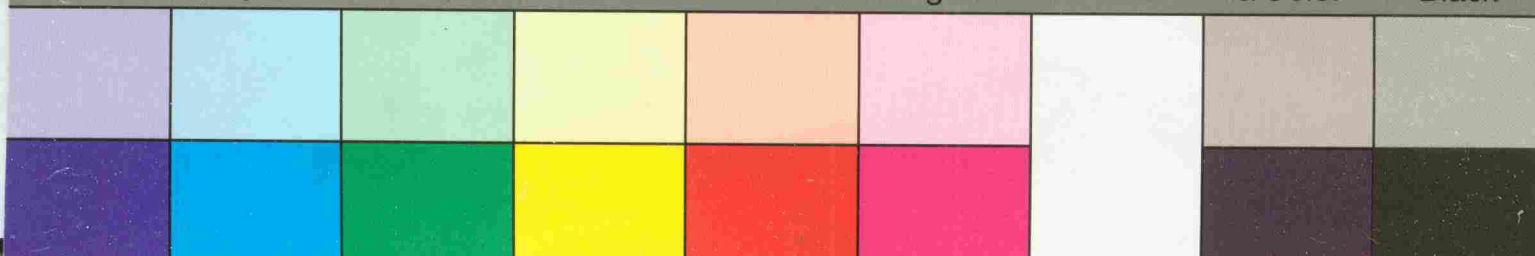
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ASW 342.18 JA Volunteers

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**SIGNED**

DAVIDSON SOMMERS  
Major, Air Corps  
Assistant Executive

Enc.

Ltr 17 Jul 45 D.S. Myer to Col. Gerhardt.

Use of Japanese-American troops dressed as Jap soldiers in order to train GI's.

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3  
Room 2E 940, Pentagon Bldg.

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ASW 353 Army Training

18 Jul 45

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