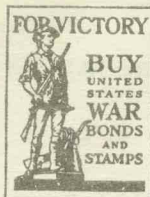


File - Seaman



HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
Office of The Provost Marshal General
Washington 25, D. C.

14 March 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR Colonel Alton C. Miller.

Subject: Employment of Persons of Japanese Ancestry as Seaman.

1. The dual authority or responsibility existing between the United States Coast Guard and the Transportation Corps of the Army pertaining to the removal of individuals suspected of subversive activities from ships, port areas, ports of embarkation and ships allocated to the Army, has presented some difficulties:

a. The Transportation Corps removes individuals classified as subversives from ports of embarkation and War Shipping Administration vessels allocated to the Army, berthed at Army piers.

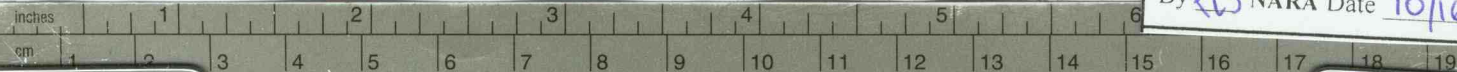
b. The Coast Guard removes subversives from ships and port areas under their jurisdiction.

c. It appears possible that an individual may be permitted access to Coast Guard installations, but may be disapproved or considered undesirable for work on Army vessels and at ports of embarkations.

d. Dual authority or responsibility appears when persons approved by either one of the services, and disapproved from their area of responsibility by the other, comes in contact with a ship or installation under the protection of the service denying consent or ordering removal.

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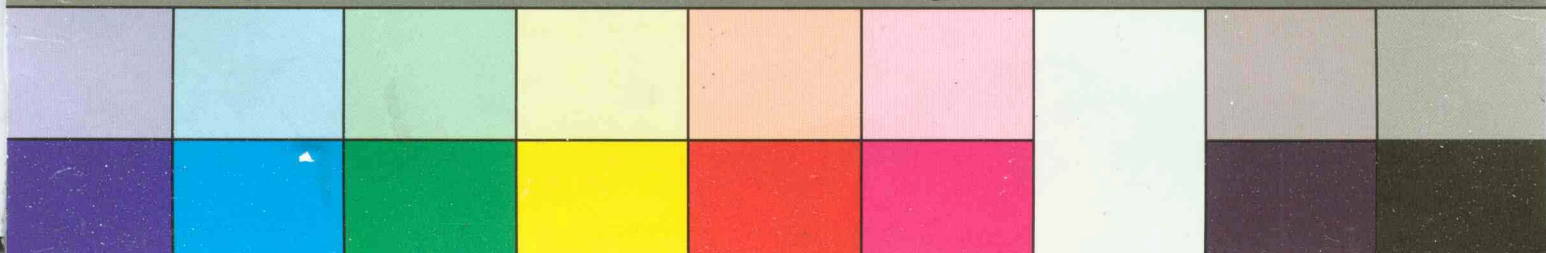
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2. Under date of 14 December, the Secretary of Navy addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, suggesting a meeting of representatives of the various agencies concerned to discuss the problem and formulate a policy on the employment of persons of Japanese ancestry as Seaman.

3. On 20 December 1943, a meeting was held at the Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D. C. Vice Admiral A. A. Waechie, Commandant, United States Coast Guard, presided as chairman of the meeting. The following agencies were represented.

Department of State
Department of Justice
Treasury Department
Navy Department
United States Coast Guard
War Shipping Administration
War Relocation Authority
War Department

4. The views of each agency represented were discussed at length. It was a consensus of opinion of all persons present that a standard policy should be adopted with one agency charged with the responsibility of determining the eligibility of United States citizens of Japanese descent as Seaman.

5. A sub-committee consisting of representatives from the Navy, Army and the Department of State, was appointed to further study the subject and render a report with their recommendations to the full committee.

6. The report of the sub-committee was rendered on 6 January 1944. The sub-committee recommended:

a. The United States Coast Guard will be charged with the responsibility of determining the eligibility of United States citizens of Japanese descent for employment, including fisheries, under the following general policies:

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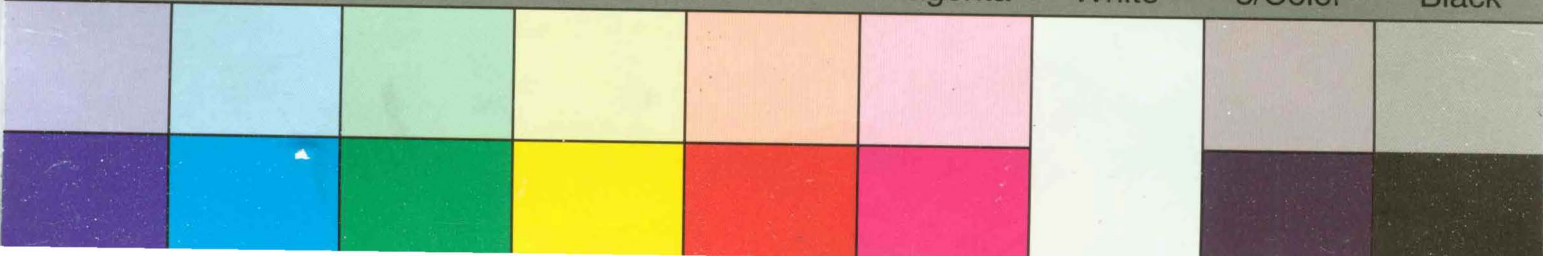
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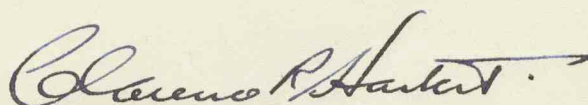
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(1). No American citizen of Japanese descent will be permitted to ship if derogatory information has been developed against him, such as would barr any other from sailing.

7. The recommendation of the sub-committee was favorably accepted by the whole committee. The necessary concurrences are now being requested and the directives will be issued when all concurrences have been obtained.

8. As a preparatory measure, representatives of the Coast Guard have checked the files of the Japanese-American Branch on approximately four hundred or five hundred Seaman. This will prevent any unnecessary delay once the policy is formulated and operative.



Clarence R. Harbert,
Captain, C. M. P.,
Chief, Japanese-American Branch.

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