

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

IMMIGRATION *and*  
NATURALIZATION  
SERVICE

*Monthly Review*

OCTOBER 1948  
Vol. VI No. 4

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**WATSON B. MILLER**

*Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization*

**RAYMOND F. FARRELL**

*Editor, Monthly Review*

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# Foreign Born in the United States Army During World War II, With Special Reference to the Alien

By Commissioner Miller

IN 1940 some 11,600,000 foreign-born persons resided in the United States, or approximately one person in every 11. The contribution of these immigrants to the armed forces of the United States was a significant one. There were over 300,000 foreign-born who enlisted or were inducted into the United States Army between July 1, 1940, and June 30, 1945. The foreign born are a special group and their role in the armed forces may best be considered in terms of certain special limitations and conditions that prevailed.

This paper indicates some of the limitations affecting the extent of service of foreign-born persons in the Army of the United States. These limitations grew out of questions of place of birth, as well as the special factors of age, occupation, citizenship, and marital status of the foreign born, which are markedly different from those of the native born. This information is important in evaluating the military contribution of the foreign born to World War II.<sup>1</sup> Of the 300,000 foreign-born persons who entered the Army between July 1, 1940, and June 30, 1945, over 109,000 were noncitizens (Table No. 1).<sup>2</sup>

Table No. 1—United States Citizenship Status of Foreign Born Who Enlisted or Were Inducted, United States Army: July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1945

Country of birth	Total	Per cent	Naturalized*	Per cent	Non-citizen	Per cent
All countries	306,298	100.0	196,781	64.2	109,517	35.8
Canada	55,897	100.0	36,598	65.5	19,299	34.5
Italy	39,256	100.0	30,343	77.3	8,913	22.7
Germany	33,396	100.0	18,944	56.7	14,452	43.3
British Isles	25,036	100.0	17,131	68.4	7,905	31.6
Mexico	19,952	100.0	4,465	22.4	15,487	77.6
Poland	17,513	100.0	12,590	71.9	4,923	28.1
U. S. S. R.	13,649	100.0	10,556	77.3	3,093	22.7
Irish Free State	13,047	100.0	9,454	72.5	3,593	27.5
China	8,771	100.0	7,318	83.4	1,453	16.6
Austria	7,863	100.0	4,304	54.7	3,559	45.3
Czechoslovakia	6,069	100.0	4,190	69.0	1,879	31.0
Sweden	5,806	100.0	3,651	62.9	2,155	37.1
Greece	5,742	100.0	3,132	55.6	2,550	44.4
Hungary	5,281	100.0	3,760	71.2	1,521	28.8
Norway	4,708	100.0	2,790	59.3	1,918	40.7
Yugoslavia	3,408	100.0	2,224	65.3	1,184	34.7
France	2,749	100.0	1,894	68.9	855	31.1
Roumania	2,633	100.0	1,980	75.2	653	24.8
Denmark	2,540	100.0	1,620	63.8	920	36.2
Netherlands	2,321	100.0	1,440	62.0	881	38.0
Cuba	2,249	100.0	919	40.9	1,330	59.1
All other	28,412	100.0	17,418	61.3	10,994	38.7

\*Estimated: Based on place of birth for all persons in the United States Army and place of birth of noncitizens in the United States Army.

Source: Data adapted from tables prepared by the Department of the Army.

## Factors Influencing Participation of the Foreign Born in the Armed Forces

The primary factors influencing rates of induction were age, dependents, occupation, and health. Age distribution of the native and foreign-born white males in 1940 is known from the Census. Marital status in 1940 furnished indirect information regarding persons of military age having dependents. Occupational distribution of alien males and of all white males in 1940 throws some light upon possible deferments for war-essential work. Comparisons in regard to the health of the two groups cannot be made.

### Age

The relative number of native-born persons and of foreign-born persons present in the armed forces during the war was affected by the age distribution of the two groups. Among the foreign-born there were relatively few young persons and a large number in the older age groups. The opposite situation prevailed among the native born. If one examines the age distribution of white males between the ages of 18 and 45, the contrast is immediately apparent (Table 2). In the age group 18-25, 31.1 percent of the native white males are found and only 7.7 percent of the foreign-born white males. This is the age group from which the armed forces draw most heavily. The same dis-

Table No. 2—Age Distribution of White Males, 18-44 Years of Age, by Nativity, for the United States: 1940

Age group	Native-born white	Per cent	Foreign-born white	Per cent
Over 18 and less than 25	7,202,523	31.1	143,537	7.7
Over 18 and less than 30	11,900,889	51.3	337,184	18.1
Over 18 and less than 35	16,131,214	70.0	680,175	36.4
Over 18 and less than 40	19,855,418	85.6	1,210,339	64.8
Over 18 and less than 45	23,193,286	100.0	1,867,121	100.0

Source: Adapted from Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, *Characteristics of the Population, United States Summary*, p. 16, and *Characteristics by Age, Part I, United States Summary*, p. 13 (U. S. Government Printing Office: 1943).

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<sup>1</sup> Tables prepared by the Department of the Army give place of birth, race, and citizenship of persons who enlisted or were inducted in the United States Army between July 1, 1940, and June 30 1945.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics for the naturalized foreign-born persons are estimated from detailed tables made available by the Department of the Army. These tables show the place of birth of all persons, with a separate tabulation for noncitizens who were in the United States Army during these years. These estimates may include a small number of persons recorded as naturalized who were in fact native-born. They may also include noncitizen nationals born in possessions of the United States who were in fact native-born. The number of cases so classified is believed to be small.

parity is observed in the age group 18-30 in which are found 51.3 percent of the native born and 18.1 percent of the foreign born. The older age groups would have a larger number of deferments because of dependents, occupation, and physical disabilities.

### Dependents

Marital status was an important deferment factor if it involved dependents. A comparison of the marital status, in 1940, of alien males and of all white males in the age group 15-44 is given in Table 3. A higher proportion of aliens in the younger age groups were married and probably had a higher deferment rate because of dependents.

A further analysis of the marital status is shown in Table 4. In the white male population, bachelors between 15-44 years of age constituted 46.1 percent of all white males, and married men 52.3 percent. Among alien males, 40.8 percent were single and 55.6 percent married. For the category "widowed and divorced," alien males had a somewhat higher proportion. The median age by marital status is also shown for this age group. For the total white population, the median age of single males was 21.5, compared with 32.0 years for the aliens; for married men the median age was 34.8 for all white males, compared with 37.7 years for aliens. Thus, in each category of marital status, the median age for the aliens was higher than that of the white males.

Table No. 3—Comparison, Marital Status of Alien Males, With all White Males, 15-44 Years of Age, For the United States: 1940  
White males in total population

Age group	Total		Single		Married		Widowed and divorced	
	Total	Percent	Single	Percent	Married	Percent	Widowed and divorced	Percent
15-44	28,344,449	100.0	13,069,997	100.0	14,822,057	100.0	452,395	100.0
15-19	5,515,920	19.5	5,430,087	41.6	84,249	0.6	1,584	0.4
20-24	5,113,642	18.0	3,759,539	28.8	1,333,140	9.0	20,963	4.6
25-29	4,892,013	17.3	1,793,729	13.7	3,039,523	20.5	58,761	13.0
30-34	4,573,316	16.1	944,493	7.2	3,536,995	23.9	91,828	20.3
35-39	4,254,368	15.0	643,064	4.9	3,487,701	23.5	123,603	27.3
40-44	3,995,190	14.1	499,085	3.8	3,340,449	22.5	155,656	34.4
Alien males*								
15-44	913,364	100.0	372,405	100.0	507,649	100.0	33,310	100.0
15-19	48,248	5.3	47,565	12.8	653	0.1	30	0.1
20-24	65,622	7.2	53,550	14.4	1,804	2.3	268	0.8
25-29	106,801	11.7	56,680	15.2	48,404	9.6	1,717	5.1
30-34	182,558	20.0	69,777	18.7	107,625	21.2	5,156	15.5
35-39	248,013	27.1	74,803	20.1	162,690	32.0	10,520	31.6
40-44	262,122	28.7	70,030	18.8	176,473	34.8	15,619	46.9

\*Includes only those for whom marital status is known. There were 934 males in the age group 15-44 years, for whom marital status was not recorded. Approximately 43,000 alien males residing in the possessions of the United States are included in this table.

Sources: Adapted from table, "Registered Aliens in the United States Classified by Sex, Age, and Marital Status, December 26, 1940" (U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service); and Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume IV, Characteristics by Age, Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, Part 1: United States Summary (U. S. Government Printing Office, 1943), p. 17.

### Occupation

If the occupation of an individual was essential to the war effort, he was more likely to be deferred. Variations in the major occupational pattern of the total white population and of the alien males in the age group 20-44 years are shown in Table 5. The largest differences occur in the "other service" category where aliens constituted 12 percent of all employed aliens, compared with 3.4 percent for all employed white males. This group includes barbers, beauticians, waiters, ushers, janitors, and other persons engaged primarily in service occupations, but excluding domestic or protective workers. Marked differences occur in the categories "farm labor" and "other labor." Thus,

9.7 percent of employed alien males were farm laborers, as compared with 6.6 percent for all employed white males. The difference was somewhat greater for the "other labor" group: 12.7 percent of the aliens compared with 8.0 percent for all white males. The category "other labor" refers to unskilled labor.

There was a slightly higher proportion of professional and managerial persons in the all-white group. Farmers and farm managers constituted 10.4 percent of employed white males, but only 2.8 percent of employed alien males. The differences in the "proprietor", "craft", and "operative" occupational groups were small. Whether these occupational differences were sufficiently marked to affect rates of induction is not known.

Table No. 4.—Marital Status by Median Age, of Alien Males  
And All White Males, 15-44 Years of Age, for the  
United States: 1940

Marital status	Age group 15-44 years of age					
	White males in total population	Percent	Median age in years	Alien males*	Percent	Median age in years
Total .....	28,344,449	100.0	28.6	913,364	100.0	36.0
Single .....	13,069,997	46.1	21.5	372,405	40.8	32.0
Married .....	14,822,057	52.3	34.8	507,649	55.6	37.7
Widowed and divorced .....	452,395	1.6	37.2	33,310	3.6	39.5

\*Includes only those for whom marital status is known. There were 934 males in the age group 15-44 years, for whom marital status was not recorded. Approximately 43,000 alien males residing in the possessions of the United States are included in this table.

Sources: Adapted from table, "Registered Aliens in the United States Classified by Sex, Age, and Marital Status, December 26, 1940" (U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service); and Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume IV, *Characteristics by Age, Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, Part I: United States Summary* (U. S. Government Printing Office, 1943), p. 17.

Table No. 5.—Comparison, Occupational Distribution of  
Employed Alien Males, With All White Males, 20-44  
Years of Age, for the United States: 1940

Major occupational group	Alien males	Percent	All white males*	Percent
Total .....	700,540	100.0	18,547,580	100.0
Professional and semi- professional .....	30,641	4.4	1,212,080	6.5
Farmers and farm managers .....	19,962	2.8	1,935,160	10.4
Proprietor .....	59,026	8.4	1,675,520	9.0
Clerical .....	67,270	9.6	2,871,880	15.5
Craft .....	117,529	16.8	2,811,800	15.2
Operative .....	155,366	22.2	4,140,200	22.4
Domestic service .....	6,103	0.9	26,640	0.1
Protective service .....	3,254	0.5	374,240	2.0
Other service .....	83,976	12.0	632,520	3.4
Farm labor .....	68,240	9.7	1,217,000	6.6
Other labor .....	89,173	12.7	1,483,360	8.0
Occupation not reported .....			167,180	0.9

\*Statistics based on a 5 percent sample.

Source: Adapted from table, "Registered Aliens in Continental United States Classified by Sex, Age and Major Occupation Group: December 26, 1940" (U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service); and Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, *The Labor Force* (Sample Statistics), *Occupational Characteristics* (U. S. Government Printing Office, 1943), pp. 11-12 and 17-18.

### Special Factors Influencing Participation of Aliens in the Armed Forces

The participation of aliens in the armed forces was, in part, limited by laws that did not affect the citizen population. Special laws relating to the national defense were enacted by Congress in 1940, including the Selective Service and Training Act.<sup>3</sup> The latter provided for the registration of male citizens of the United States, and of every male alien residing in the United States who had declared his intention of becoming a citizen, between 21 and 36 years of age.<sup>4</sup> The actual induction of men began early in 1941. Aliens who had not filed valid declarations of intention to become citizens of the United States were not inducted until a later period.<sup>5</sup>

After the United States was attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941, changes were made in the Selective Service regulations affecting aliens. Neutral aliens requesting relief from liability to service in the United States Armed Forces were placed in Class IV-C. On December 20, 1941, Congress amended the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940 by requiring all males between the ages of 18 and 65 residing in the United States to be registered.<sup>6</sup> With regard to alien enemies, the law provides:

"... that no citizen or subject of any country who has been or who may hereafter be proclaimed by the President to be an alien enemy of the United States shall be inducted for training and service under this Act unless he is acceptable to the land or naval forces."<sup>7</sup>

On January 5, 1942, the following instructions were issued regarding the classification of aliens:

"Until arrangements are made by the War Department for the reception of nondeclarant aliens, all nondeclarant aliens and all enemy aliens, both declarant and nondeclarant, will be continued in Class IV-C. A later directive will be issued covering the reclassification of these registrants."<sup>8</sup>

Subsequent instructions during 1942 provided that aliens of certain nationalities, prior to induction, would be required to fill out a form, "Alien's Personal History and Statement." This was sent to officers of the land or naval forces for review to determine the acceptability of the alien for service in the armed forces. Persons classified as alien enemies who were found acceptable to the armed forces and who were otherwise acceptable were inducted, with the exception of Japanese registrants, after September 1942.<sup>9</sup>

Aliens of Italian nationality fell into a separate category. When alien enemies became subject to certain travel and other security restrictions on December 8, 1941, Italian aliens were included. Alien enemies were forbidden to own cameras, short-wave radio sets, and firearms. In addition to control of their travel within the country, they were required to carry certificates of identification.<sup>10</sup> To give recognition to the loyal Italian aliens, Attorney General Biddle announced on October 12, 1942, that Italian aliens would no longer have to comply

<sup>3</sup> 54 Stat. 885 (September 16, 1940).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Sec. 3(a).

<sup>5</sup> Title 32, Sec. 603.359, 1940 Supplement to the Code of Federal Regulations, Part I, Title 30-32 (U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1942).

<sup>6</sup> 55 Stat. 844.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 845.

<sup>8</sup> "Memorandum to All State Directors (I-337)," January 5, 1942 (National Headquarters, Selective Service System, Washington, D. C.).

<sup>9</sup> "Local Board Release No. 112" (Amended), September 29, 1942 (National Headquarters, Selective Service System, Washington, D. C.).

<sup>10</sup> President's Proclamation No. 2537, January 14, 1942.

with travel and other regulations.<sup>11</sup> For naturalization and induction into the armed forces, however, they would still be regarded as alien enemies.

### Citizenship and Nativity of Alien Males in 1940 Born in Enemy Countries

The number of alien males of all ages born in enemy countries, who registered under the Alien Registration Act of 1940, is given in Table 6. The number who were citizens of each country is shown, as well as the number who were born in each country. The percentage distribution by citizenship of these male aliens was almost identical with that for nativity. Aliens born in Italy made up almost 13 percent of the total, while those born in Germany constituted 6.4 percent.

Table No. 6—Citizenship and Nativity of Alien Males in the United States in 1940, for World War II Enemy Countries (Includes alien males in United States possessions)

Country	Citizenship	Percent	Nativity	Percent
All countries	2,340,770	100.0	2,340,770	100.0
Enemy countries	663,474	28.3	693,565	29.6
Italy	296,916	12.7	298,713	12.8
Germany	146,891	6.3	149,160	6.4
Austria	71,122	3.0	84,825	3.6
Japan	59,963	2.6	56,920	2.4
Hungary	44,773	1.9	47,310	2.0
Austria-Hungary	26,646	1.1	40,116	1.7
Roumania	13,737	0.6	13,045	0.6
Bulgaria	3,426	0.1	3,476	0.1

Source: Adapted from tables: "Registered Aliens in the United States Classified by Country of Birth and Sex, December 26, 1940;" and "Country of Citizenship of Registered Aliens by Age and Sex, December 26, 1940" (U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service).

### Noncitizens Born in Enemy Countries in the Armed Forces

The participation of aliens born in the principal enemy countries who served in the United States Army between July 1, 1940, and June 30, 1945, is shown in Table 7. Aliens born in these countries made up more than one-fourth of all aliens in the army during this period. The largest proportion were of German origin (13.2 percent), followed by persons born in Italy (8.1 percent). Proportionately, there were fewer Italians in the army than Germans. There were important differences in the age of these groups.

The median age of alien males of Italian nationality who registered under the Alien Registration Act of 1940 was 52.6 years, compared with 44.9 years for registered alien Germans. In the age group 20-45, a much higher proportion of German males (42.5 percent) than of Italian males (27.7 percent) were concentrated.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, the Italians in this age

group were older, on the average, than the Germans. Median ages were 35.9 and 37.5 years.

Table No. 7—Noncitizens Born in Enemy Countries Who Enlisted or Were Inducted in the United States Army: July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1945

Country of birth	Total	Percent
All countries	109,517	100.0
Principal enemy countries*	29,263	26.7
Germany	14,452	13.2
Italy	8,913	8.1
Austria	3,559	3.3
Hungary	1,521	1.4
Roumania	653	0.6
Bulgaria	132	0.1
Japan	33	...

\*Noncitizens born in possessions of enemy countries are not included.

Source: Data adapted from tables prepared by the Department of the Army.

### Naturalized and Noncitizen Members of the Army

The relative participation of the foreign-born in the United States Army during World War II is shown in Table 8. The percentage distribution of foreign-born groups in the United States Army is listed. The largest contribution from the naturalized came from Canada, Italy, Germany, and the British Isles. Among the noncitizens, the largest number came from Canada, Mexico, Germany, and Italy.

Table No. 8—Country of Birth of Foreign-Born Who Enlisted or Were Inducted, United States Army, By United States Citizenship Status: July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1945 (Percent Distribution)

Country of birth	Total	Nat-uralized*	Non-citizen
All countries	100.0	100.0	100.0
Canada	18.2	18.6	17.6
Italy	12.8	15.4	8.1
Germany	10.9	9.6	13.2
British Isles	8.2	8.7	7.2
Mexico	6.5	2.3	14.1
Poland	5.7	6.4	4.5
U. S. S. R.	4.5	5.4	2.8
Irish Free State	4.3	4.8	3.3
China	2.9	3.7	1.3
Austria	2.6	2.2	3.3
Czechoslovakia	2.0	2.1	1.7
Sweden	1.9	1.9	2.0
Greece	1.9	1.6	2.3
Hungary	1.7	1.9	1.4
Norway	1.5	1.4	1.8
Yugoslavia	1.1	1.1	1.1
France	0.9	1.0	0.8
Roumania	0.9	1.0	0.6
Denmark	0.8	0.8	0.8
Netherlands	0.8	0.7	0.8
Cuba	0.7	0.5	1.2
All other	9.2	8.9	10.1

\*Estimated: Based on place of birth for all persons in the United States Army and place of birth of noncitizens in the United States Army.

Source: Data adapted from tables prepared by the Department of the Army.

<sup>11</sup> Volume 7 *Federal Register*, pp. 8455-8456 (October 21, 1942).

<sup>12</sup> Adapted from table, "Country of Citizenship of Registered Aliens, by Age and Sex, December 26, 1940, Italy," (U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service).

Data regarding the naturalized and the non-citizen by race is given in Table 9. There was marked concentration in the white race (89.3 percent) with the Negro race providing 9.2 percent of the total. Other races reported by the Department of the Army include Puerto Rican, American Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Hawaiian. When the citizenship status of these racial groups is examined, certain interesting comparisons appear. Persons of the white race constitute 95 percent of the total naturalized, and 89 percent of the native-born citizens. By contrast, persons of the Negro race constitute only 0.9 percent of the naturalized, but 9.5 percent of the native-born group. The Puerto Ricans, Indians, Japanese, and Filipinos all had smaller proportions of the naturalized than they did of native-born citizens, while the Chinese had a substantially higher proportion of the naturalized than of the native born.

The distribution of the noncitizen group by race is also given (Table 9). Most of the non-citizens were of the white race (93.3 percent). There were a few Negro noncitizens (1.5 percent). Of the noncitizens 1.1 percent were Filipinos and 0.8 percent were Chinese.

### Naturalization of Civilians and of Members of the United States Armed Forces

When the United States entered World War II, there was but one provision of law which granted exemptions from the general naturalization requirements to noncitizens having specified military service. Section 324 of the Nationality Act of 1940 facilitated the naturalization of a person, including a native-born Filipino, who had served honorably at any time in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard for a period of three years.<sup>13</sup>

Table No. 9—Race by Citizenship of Enlisted and Inducted Personnel, United States Army: From July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1945

Race	Total	Per- cent	CITIZENSHIP							
			All citizens	Per- cent	Native- born*	Per- cent	Natural- ized*	Per- cent	Non- citizens	Per- cent
All races	9,863,969	100.0	9,752,874	100.0	9,556,093	100.0	196,781	100.0	111,095	100.0
White	8,790,538	89.3	8,686,957	89.2	8,500,164	89.0	186,793	95.0	103,581	93.3
Negro	909,457	9.2	907,765	9.3	906,111	9.5	1,654	0.9	1,692	1.5
Puerto Rican	59,421	0.6	59,372	0.6	59,229	0.6	143	0.1	49	.....
American Indian	22,676	0.2	22,527	0.2	22,297	0.2	230	0.1	149	0.1
Japanese	21,949	0.2	21,933	0.2	21,892	0.2	41	.....	16	.....
Chinese	13,499	0.1	12,624	0.1	5,840	0.1	6,784	3.4	875	0.8
Filipino	12,947	0.1	11,800	0.1	11,733	0.1	67	.....	1,147	1.1
Hawaiian	2,367	.....	2,364	.....	2,286	.....	78	.....	3	.....
Others	31,115	0.3	27,532	0.3	26,541	0.3	991	0.5	3,583	3.2

\*Estimated: Based on place of birth for all persons in the United States Army and place of birth of noncitizens in the United States Army. It is possible that a small number of persons are recorded here as naturalized who were native-born; also, some given as native-born include noncitizen nationals born in United States possessions.

Source: Data adapted from tables prepared by the Department of the Army.

The Congress, in the Second War Powers Act of 1942, on the recommendation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, provided for the expeditious naturalization of noncitizens serving honorably in the armed forces while in the United States or abroad.<sup>14</sup> For non-citizens serving abroad, the law provided for naturalization by designated representatives of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

Judicial naturalization for the armed forces in this country began in May 1942. Overseas the administrative naturalizations began in December 1942. At that time the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization designated the Deputy Commissioner, T. B. Shoemaker, to initiate such work in the Panama Canal Zone and the Caribbean Defense Command, where the latter naturalized 289 persons.

Between March 27, 1942, when the wartime legislation was enacted, and June 30, 1945, a

total of 110,678 members of the armed forces were naturalized.<sup>15</sup> Of these, 97,091 were in continental United States and 13,587 were abroad.

Between December 4, 1942, and March 31, 1945, a total of 11,798 overseas naturalizations were made under the special legislation of 1942. The Immigration and Naturalization Service conferred 7,178 overseas naturalizations, of which 6,574 were granted by Dr. Henry B. Hazard, Assistant Commissioner for Research and Education, in the Iceland Base Command, European and North African Theaters of War, Middle East Command, and in the South and Southwest Pacific, and Central Pacific and Pacific Ocean Areas. Foreign service officers of the State Department conferred 4,507 of the overseas naturalizations, and 113 were con-

<sup>13</sup> 54 Stat. 1149.

<sup>14</sup> Act of March 27, 1942 (56 Stat. 182-183; 8 U. S. C. 1001-1005).

<sup>15</sup> Annual Report of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U. S. Department of Justice, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1945, p. 102.

ferred by the United States District Attorney.

During the war period there were numerous naturalizations in the civilian population, as well as among members of the armed forces. Nearly one million persons acquired United States citizenship by naturalization between July 1, 1942, and June 30, 1945 (Table 10). Among the civilians, each of four countries provided over 100,000 naturalizations: British Empire, Italy, Germany and Austria (combined), and Poland. Nearly two-thirds of all civilian naturalizations were provided by nationals of these four countries. Other persons naturalized during these years were scattered among nationals of a large number of countries.

Distribution of naturalizations among members of the armed forces (including both the Army and Navy) shows numerous interesting variations from the distribution of civilian naturalizations. Thus, while the British Empire provided 21.9 percent of the civilian naturalizations, it provided 30.7 percent of the armed forces naturalizations. Mexico, with 1.2 percent of the civilian naturalizations, had 8.9 percent of the armed forces naturalizations. All of

these countries showed a marked relative increase in naturalizations within the armed forces as compared with those in civilian life. A number of countries showed a marked relative decrease in naturalizations within the armed forces. Thus, while Italy provided 19.9 percent of the civilian naturalizations, it provided only 8.3 percent of those in the armed forces. Poland, with 11.4 percent of the civilian naturalizations, provided 4.6 percent of those in the armed forces. The U. S. S. R., with 6.8 percent in the civilian group, provided 2.6 percent of those in the armed forces. This had no bearing upon the question of loyalty.

### Conclusion

More than 300,000 foreign-born persons, including 109,000 noncitizens, served in the United States Army between July 1, 1940, and June 30, 1945. The contribution of the foreign-born to the armed forces of the United States during World War II was a notable one. When consideration is given to the factors which operated to defer males from military service, such as age and dependency, the contribution of the foreign-born population compares favorably with that of the native-born. It is noteworthy that 30,000 aliens from enemy countries were found acceptable to and served in the United States Army.

There were relatively few young persons and a large number in the older age groups among the foreign born, while the contrary situation existed among the native born. In the age group 18-25 years, there were 31.1 percent of the native white males, but only 7.7 percent of the foreign-born males. The armed forces drew most heavily from this age group. It would appear, in view of the higher rejection rates for males in the older age groups, that proportionally more rejections occurred among the foreign born than the native born.

A larger proportion of the aliens 15 through 44 were married. The median age of married alien males in this age group was 37.7 years, compared with 34.8 for all native white males. It is probable that a higher proportion of the aliens had dependents. The occupational pattern indicates that the aliens had a higher proportion in service occupations (other than protective services) and a higher proportion as laborers than did the total white population of comparable ages. There were certain legal barriers to service by aliens in the armed forces. Persons born in, or owing allegiance to, enemy countries could not be inducted unless they were found acceptable to the armed forces.

Table No. 10—Naturalization of Civilians and Members of Armed Forces, By Country of Former Allegiance: July 1, 1942, to June 30, 1945

Country of Former Allegiance	Total	Per cent	Civilian	Per cent	Armed Forces	Per cent
All countries .....	992,314	100.0	882,932	100.0	109,382	100.0
British Empire .....	226,497	22.8	192,972	21.9	33,525	30.7
Italy* .....	184,507	18.6	175,418	19.9	9,089	8.3
Germany and Austria* .....	125,493	12.6	108,802	12.3	16,691	15.3
Poland .....	105,740	10.7	100,697	11.4	5,043	4.6
U. S. S. R. ....	63,185	6.4	60,311	6.8	2,874	2.6
Czechoslovakia .....	31,795	3.2	29,705	3.4	2,090	1.9
Hungary* .....	25,094	2.5	23,734	2.7	1,360	1.2
Sweden .....	21,387	2.2	19,535	2.2	1,852	1.7
Mexico .....	20,625	2.1	10,884	1.2	9,741	8.9
Yugoslavia .....	19,742	2.0	18,638	2.1	1,104	1.0
Greece .....	18,817	1.9	16,114	1.8	2,703	2.5
Lithuania .....	16,286	1.6	15,787	1.8	499	0.5
Roumania .....	14,649	1.5	13,987	1.6	662	0.6
Norway .....	14,624	1.5	12,747	1.5	1,877	1.7
Portugal .....	12,558	1.3	11,642	1.3	916	0.8
Netherlands .....	7,968	0.8	7,044	0.8	924	0.8
France .....	9,038	0.9	7,759	0.9	1,280	1.2
Finland .....	8,300	0.8	7,724	0.9	576	0.5
Spain .....	8,164	0.8	7,396	0.8	768	0.7
Philippine Islands .....	7,855	0.8	94	.....	7,761	7.1
Turkey .....	7,850	0.8	7,411	0.8	439	0.4
All other .....	42,140	4.2	34,532	3.9	7,608	7.0

\*On December 8, 1941, all persons owing allegiance to Germany or Italy were declared alien enemies by Presidential Proclamations, No. 2526 and No. 2527. On July 17, 1942, persons owing allegiance to Hungary and Roumania were declared alien enemies by Presidential Proclamation No. 2563. The naturalization of persons who were alien enemies was subject to delay for security reasons, pursuant to the statutory provisions set forth in Section 326, Nationality Act of 1940 (54 Stat. 1150).

Source: Annual Report of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U. S. Department of Justice, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, pp. 96-97 and p. 102.

Naturalizations took place at a rapid pace during the war. Of nearly one million persons who became United States citizens between July 1, 1942, and June 30, 1945, over 100,000 were in the armed forces, including almost 12,000 overseas. Legislation enacted at the beginning of the war facilitated the naturalization of aliens in the armed forces and full use was made of this. It was recognized that the alien

serving in the armed forces who desired to become a citizen of the United States was entitled to special consideration in his citizenship application. Many noncitizens in the armed forces were deeply appreciative of the opportunity to become citizens of the United States. That they did become citizens in large numbers was an impressive indication of their loyalty to the United States.

## Decisions of the Board of Immigration Appeals

K. N. B. A-6261661  
September 21, 1948

### *In Deportation Proceedings:*

The alien, a 31-year-old citizen of Albania, entered the United States at New York, N. Y. on September 17, 1945. He was admitted under Section 3(2) of the Immigration Act of 1924 for a temporary period of 29 days. At the warrant hearing, the alien admitted that at the time of entry he intended to remain in the United States permanently. Accordingly he was found deportable on the charge that he was not in possession of an unexpired immigration visa. Counsel for the alien requested that his deportation be suspended under the Displaced Persons Act. In considering this request the Board of Immigration Appeals commented:

Under the Displaced Persons Act the burden is on the proponent to establish that he is a displaced person with the meaning of the Act. (Section 4(b) of the Act defines a displaced person residing in the United States as a person who established that he lawfully entered the United States as a nonimmigrant.) In view of the deportation grounds, it is doubtful as to whether or not the subject can establish eligibility for relief. However, he is free to submit an application for consideration as a displaced person if he so desires.

*Order:* Voluntary departure without preexamination.

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In the Matter of  
R. L. or R. H. 4703051

### *In Deportation Proceedings:*

This record is before us on the Commissioner's motion to reconsider and withdraw an order entered by this Board March 1, 1948, wherein we authorized the respondent's voluntary departure within four months after notification of decision but denied his application

for suspension of deportation. The Commissioner seeks the respondent's deportation as provided in his order of June 9, 1947.

The respondent, a native and citizen of Spain, male, married, 45 years of age, last entered the United States at the port of Baltimore, Maryland, July 28, 1930, as a seaman. The record indicates that on March 1, 1917, the respondent married one in the village of Finisterre, Province of LaCoruna, Spain. His wife and two children reside in Spain. The respondent married one, a native-born citizen of this country, in New Jersey, on August 28, 1943. A child has been born of this relationship. There is no showing of record that the respondent's original marriage in Spain has been terminated. There is a showing that his deportation would result in serious economic detriment to the woman with whom he went through a marriage ceremony in this country and to their native-born minor child.

The Commissioner, in an opinion dated June 14, 1948, excepts to a finding of the Board (March 1, 1948) that the record affirmatively establishes the good moral character of the respondent for the preceding five years, a requirement for the granting of voluntary departure under Section 19(c) (1) of the Immigration Act of 1917, as amended (8 U. S. C. 155). The Commissioner urges that in cases where there are conflicting marital relationships this Board should adhere strictly, when considering the term "good moral character," to the limits established in the recent precedent opinions of the Attorney General,<sup>1</sup> and should not extend them to situations which do not present the favorable aspects of those cases. The Commissioner inter alia points to the fact that the respondent has not shown any present

<sup>1</sup>Matter of O., 3889600, December 18, 1947, and Matter of J., 1163553, December 18, 1947.