

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

CAUTION!

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

5-344

34399, 1917.

CARIBBE

File No.

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APR - 7 1917

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Mr. John Francis, Jr.,
Superintendent, Carlisle School.

FILED BY C. P. F.

My dear Mr. Francis:

In reply to your letter of April 4 relative to enlistments in the United States Army and Navy, you are advised that you should not oppose the enlistment of any pupils eighteen years of age or over.

In event that any pupil of the senior class desires to enlist you may at once hold a special examination, verbal or written, for that pupil and graduate him from the school with full honors and proper diploma.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

Commissioner.

4-LP-7

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.

April 4, 1917.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

FILED BY C. P. F.



This morning a recruiting officer of the United States Navy called at the office in response to a communication from Thomas Montoya, a Pueblo Indian three-quarter blood and twenty-three years of age, who has had correspondence with the Navy in regard to his enlistment.

Thomas Montoya first came to Carlisle in 1911 and completed a five years enrollment last year. He has had the reputation of being a good boy during the time he has been at Carlisle except one instance of intoxication which took place, I am advised, last March.

Each
I pointed out to the recruiting officer that should I permit him to take up the question of the enlistment of Thomas Montoya at this time it would probably mean that many of the larger boys, including members of the senior class, would feel that they likewise should be permitted to enlist and leave the school within a month of graduation.

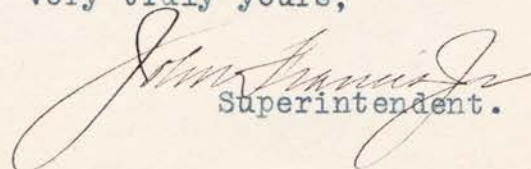
At the same time I explained to him that

I did not wish the school placed in the position of refusing to allow its older pupils to enlist in view of the fact that the country is probably on the verge of war with Germany, and that before taking action I desired to procure instructions as to the course to be taken by me in the matter and upon receipt of such instructions I would advise him at his office in Harrisburg.

I would suggest that the matter be taken up directly with the Navy Department with a view to obtaining the issuance of instructions by them to their recruiting offices in this vicinity that in case war is declared they may accept any student of this school of suitable age, the age of the student to be verified by me from our records, who may voluntarily present themselves for enlistment at their office, but not to conduct any campaign to encourage the enlistment of the boys on the school grounds which would tend to create excitement not good for the school.

I recommend further that in the case of war should any Indian boy of suitable age and a student of this institution voluntarily present himself to me with the request that he be permitted to enlist in the United States Army or Navy, I be authorized to permit him to do so. It is important that an early decision be made in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Superintendent.

JF:R