

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

# CAUTION!

Positively no papers to be added to or taken from this file, except by an employee of the Mails and Files Division.

By order of

**E. B. MERITT,**  
*Asst. Commissioner.*

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35381

1918.

CARLETON

File No.

125

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March 29, 1918.

Mr. John Francis, jr.,  
Supt., Carlisle Indian School.

FILED BY C. P. P.

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My dear Mr. Francis:

I am inclosing for your information a copy of a letter dated March 28, 1918, from Major Stephen Bonsal, U. S. N.A., regarding Andrew Cuellar, the Indian boy sent here from your school, and who returned yesterday.

It is to be regretted that this boy was not given a physical examination before leaving Carlisle. If another opportunity should come to place Indian boys in the Government service, it is suggested that they be given a thorough physical examination before leaving Carlisle.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

*file*

EBM -

Inclosure. 3526

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1918.

FILED BY C. P. R.

Honorable Edgar B. Meritt,  
Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Meritt:



In confirmation of our telephone conversation of yesterday, I beg to say that we have today paid Andrew Cuellar \$21.00 and turned him over to your representative to be shipped back to Carlisle this afternoon.

The second day of Mr. Cuellar's arrival here he complained of being in great pain and I sent him home, and when he came back two days later the pain still persisted and I sent him to see the attending surgeon of the army who reported that he is suffering from a rupture of some years' standing and could not possibly pass the physical examination for the National Army in his present shape. He suggested that when the boy got back to Carlisle an operation would probably be advisable.

We are very grateful to you for the trouble you have taken in this matter, but regret Mr. Francis did not have the boy examined physically, as requested, before sending him on.

Sincerely yours,

*Stephen Bonsal*

Major, U.S.N.A.

jel.

DAY

Postal

March 28, 1918.

Francis, Superintendent,  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

FILED BY G. P. F.

35381

1918

Cuellar returning Carlisle. Could not pass physical  
examination. Do not send clothes, if not sent.

*E. B. Merrill*  
Assistant Commissioner.

March 19, 1918.

FILED BY G. P. F.



Gentlemen:

This will introduce Mr. Andrew Cuellar, a Shawnee Indian, now a student at the Carlisle Indian School, who has been recommended by Mr. John Francis, jr., Superintendent of that school, for the position referred to in your letter to me of recent date, and which was discussed with me personally by Major Bonsal.

There is inclosed a copy of my letter to Mr. Francis, as well as Mr. Francis' letter to me.

Any courtesies and opportunities extended to this young man will be appreciated by this Office.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Commissioner.

Col. R. H. Van Deman  
or  
Major Stephen Bonsal,  
United States Army.

March 19, 1918.

FILED BY G. P. F.

Mr. John Francis, jr.,  
Supt., Carlisle Indian School,  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

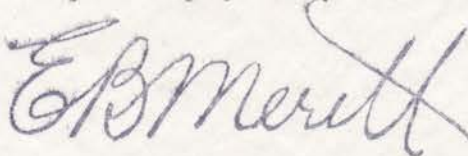
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My dear Mr. Francis:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 18, with Col. Van Deman's letter inclosed, advising of the selection of Andrew Cuellar, a student in your school, for the position mentioned by Col. Van Deman in his letter. Mr. Cuellar arrived here this morning and I immediately sent him over to see Major Bonsel, and am informed that he will report for work tomorrow morning. I have succeeded in placing him in a home for the present, and will keep in touch with him from time to time.

With reference to his transportation expenses here, you are authorized to pay same out of the school funds which might be available, as Mr. Cuellar apparently has no funds, and it would take considerable time to get payment through the War Department.

Very truly yours,



Assistant Commissioner.

JOHN FRANCIS, JR.,  
SUPERINTENDENT



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

March  
Eighteenth,  
1 9 1 8

FILED BY G. P. A.



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Mr. E. B. Meritt,  
Asst. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Meritt:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 15, 1918 regarding the employment of an Indian boy for the Government Service in Washington. I have selected one of the best boys in the school: his name is Andrew Cuellar, and, as a lad, had knowledge of Spanish so that it will come back to him. He is bright and intelligent, and after a full understanding is glad to accept the position. I will arrange for him to leave on an afternoon train. He is a splendid boy of most excellent standing and I propose to graduate him despite the fact that he leaves now.

He has practically no money so that it is necessary that his transportation to Washington be provided for. The railroad company has charged the ticket to the school pending a determination as to how this expense shall be met. I shall be glad to be advised whether the War Department will meet the bill of the railroad company or whether I would better pay it out of the athletic or restaurant funds. Col. Van Deman's letter is enclosed herewith.

Sincerely yours,

*John Francis Jr.*  
Superintendent

JF-E

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1918.

Honorable Edgar B. Meritt,  
Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

FILED BY C. P. S.



My dear Mr. Commissioner:

With reference to the conversation which Major Bonsal had with you yesterday, I wish to say that I am properly appreciative of the promised cooperation of yourself and your department. I cannot very well spare an officer to visit Carlisle at this moment, and have decided that through you I will ask the Principal of that institution to select a young man for the purpose I have in view.

We want a young Indian, preferably between the ages of twenty and twenty-two. For a time we would employ him here in the Intelligence Branch as an agent on a temporary status. Should he prove to be the man we have in mind he would probably be commissioned later on as a lieutenant in the National Army. In view of this plan for his possible future, the man to be selected and sent on here should have the physical and mental qualifications which would later on permit him to qualify for a commission. The work I have in view for him will require ability, courage and discretion. He should be discreet and patriotic, and above all, willing and desirous of performing service to his country even under circumstances not always the most agreeable. If he is approved for the service I have in view he would have to absent himself from the United States for at least two years. It would prove an advantage for the candidate to have some knowledge of Spanish. He must, however, have linguistic ability and give indications of being able to acquire languages with facility; and of course absolute loyalty and unquestioning obedience to orders are indispensable.

*might*

While on this temporary status I could pay such a young man \$3.50 per day and his actual expenses of travel and subsistence while on duty away from his post.

If you will kindly communicate the contents of this letter to the Principal of the Carlisle School, with any further comment you may care to make, it would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

R. H. VAN DEMAN,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,  
Executive Division.



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March 15, 1918.

FILED BY G. R. F.

Mr. John Francis, Jr.,  
Supt. Carlisle Indian School,  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

My dear Mr. Francis:

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There is inclosed herewith a letter from Col. R. H. Van Deman, General Staff, Chief, Military Intelligence Branch, Executive Division, which you will treat as strictly confidential, and which letter is self-explanatory.

You will please at once use your best judgment in selecting a young man for the service desired and have him report at my office at the earliest practicable date and I will get him in touch with Major Bonsal or Colonel Van Deman.

This appears not only a splendid opportunity to render patriotic service, but offers good compensation for said services.

Please take this matter up immediately and let me hear from you at your very earliest convenience, returning the inclosed letter from Colonel Van Deman with your response.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Commissioner.

Carbon to

Colonel R. H. Van Deman,  
General Staff,  
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,  
Executive Division,  
War Department.