EVACUATION OF THE JAPANESE FROM THE WEST COAST
Final Report and Papers of the Adjutant General’s Office

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Presidio of San Francisco, California
April 1, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY
LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:

All of San Diego County, California, south of a line extending in an easterly direction from the mouth of the San Dieguito River (northwest of Del Mar), along the north side of the San Dieguito River, Lake Hodges, and the San Pasqual River to the bridge over the San Pasqual River at or near San Pasqual; thence easterly along the southerly line of California State Highway No. 78 through Ramona and Julian to the eastern boundary line of San Diego County.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o’clock noon, Wednesday, April 8, 1942.

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Cover: Civilian Exclusion Order No. 4, April 1, 1942. Courtesy of National Archives.
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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

*Evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast: Final Report and Papers of the Adjutant General’s Office* chronicles the 1942 removal of Japanese Americans who lived in California, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington State, as well as their resettlement in internment camps for the duration of the war.

The collection includes the following types of materials: assembly center newspapers; clippings from West Coast and other newspapers and periodicals; religious organization publications; Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA) orders, proclamations, press releases, and reports; presidential executive orders and proclamations; Justice Department regulations; and reports of the Federal Security Agency and the American National Red Cross. The materials are compiled in bound volumes or folders, all of which were produced by the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division, Wartime Civil Control Administration, San Francisco, Calif. The bound volumes bear a 1942 publication date.

The following sections summarize the main events and issues covered by the documents in this collection.

**Military Necessity and Evacuation**

Following the U.S. declaration of war on the Axis Powers in December 1941, the Roosevelt administration decided that for reasons of “military necessity,” the government would evacuate all persons of Japanese heritage, including both Issei (first generation aliens) and Nisei (second generation American-born U.S. citizens) from designated Military Areas of the West Coast states. Through Executive Order No. 9066 on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized military commanders to remove persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast.

Basically, the military necessity for the evacuation rested on three assumptions. First, an undetermined number of persons of Japanese descent, both Issei and Nisei, were believed to be loyal to Japan and willing to spy or conduct sabotage for the Japanese government. Second, these persons posed great danger to West Coast military and industrial installations, as well as to cities and the civilian population in general. Third, because of their perceived common facial features, cultural heritage, and habits, it was not possible—except through exhaustive and impractical background investigations and interviews—to determine whether a particular Japanese American was loyal or disloyal. Therefore, all were under suspicion and all had to be evacuated.

In a public proclamation on March 2, 1942, John L. DeWitt, the commanding general of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, established Military Areas No. 1 and No. 2. Military Area No. 1 encompassed roughly the western halves of Washington, Oregon, and California, as well as the southern portion of Arizona. Military Area No. 2 covered the remaining areas in the four states. At the same time,
DeWitt and his subordinates warned Nisei and Issei to leave the military areas promptly and resettle elsewhere. An undetermined number did relocate prior to the army-controlled evacuation. A March 9, 1942, WCCA press release paraphrased General DeWitt as noting that “Japanese living in the [military areas] are still being encouraged to make and follow their own arrangements for resettling inland, and that many were doing this...just how many or what percentage of the whole, he did not know” (Reel 3, Frame 0435). The WCCA provided some counseling assistance to the voluntary evacuees. By late March, however, it had become clear to the army that only a small portion of the total Issei and Nisei population had voluntarily evacuated.

On March 19, 1942, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed Public Law 503, which authorized the involuntary evacuation of Japanese Americans. On March 24, General DeWitt issued the first of 108 Exclusion Orders, which mandated the removal of Issei and Nisei from specified areas within the military areas. On March 27, DeWitt ordered the relocation and internment of all persons of Japanese heritage still residing in the military areas and “froze” these persons, forbidding them to leave their residence areas until the army evacuated them. (The relatively few Nisei and Issei residents of Military Area No. 2 were permitted free movement from the area until June 2, 1942.)

The army began evacuating people from Military Area No. 1 at the end of March and taking them to assembly centers, where they would live for a few months while the Corps of Engineers built and equipped their permanent internment camps, called relocation centers. The army completed the evacuation of Military Area No. 2 in August 1942.

The WCCA, which was the operating arm of the Civil Affairs Division of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, was the agency in charge of the evacuation. Created on March 11, 1942, the WCCA directed the evacuation activities not only of military personnel but also of a number of civilian agencies, including the U.S. Employment Service, the Public Health Service, the Farm Security Administration, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Collection documents describe in detail the operation of these agencies. The last two agencies performed the critical task of helping evacuees dispose of their property, ranging from single personal items to automobiles to residences to businesses and business inventories. The agencies also helped evacuees to resolve differences with creditors, and prevent unscrupulous operators from defrauding evacuees of their property and from intimidating evacuees from selling property at less than fair terms. General DeWitt placed primary importance on the protection of evacuee property rights. He warned that “[p]ersons who attempt to take advantage of Japanese evacuees by trying to obtain property at sacrifice prices are un-American, unfair, and are deserving only of the severest censure” (Reel 5, Frame 0766). Despite these efforts and warnings, speculators were able to acquire a large number of evacuee properties cheaply and make exorbitant profits on their resale.

Assembly Centers

The assembly centers to which evacuees were initially sent—accompanied by uniformly friendly and helpful U.S. soldiers—occupied large public facilities like race tracks or fairgrounds that were converted into basically self-contained communities. An evacuee family usually lived in one large room, separated from other “apartments” by partitions that did not extend all the way to the ceiling. Single evacuees lived in
barracks segregated by sex. Centers typically maintained their own police forces (in addition to the Military Police stationed nearby), fire departments, hospital, medical and dental facilities, and public utilities. Evacuees did most of the work at low wages, supervised by WCCA-hired managers.

The centers seemed to have developed successful cooperative societies in which the evacuees lived and worked harmoniously, for the most part, among themselves and with the center officials appointed by the army. According to the American National Red Cross, which conducted a survey of assembly center conditions in the summer of 1942: “Assembly centers are microcosms, each one a little world in itself representing in its population the gradations of wealth, poverty, education, ignorance, [and] high and low position found in the larger world outside. Urban and rural, skilled and unskilled, law abiding and offenders, aliens and citizens are present” (Reel 7, Frame 0237).

Most assembly centers quickly established extensive recreational programs for evacuees, especially the younger ones. By the end of the first or second week, the typical center had organized competitions in sports that variously included baseball, softball, sumo, boxing, judo, model aircraft flying, golf, badminton, tennis, weightlifting, and ping-pong. Centers also provided social activities like club meetings, dances, and classes, as well as facilities for religious services. One gets the impression from the newspapers that assembly center officials tried to keep as many activities going on as possible, in part to keep up morale and crowd out conditions in which idleness and restlessness could grow.

Some of the key sets of documents in the collection are the reproduced newspapers of the assembly centers. These weekly or biweekly mimeographed productions are packed with reports on center activities, as well as WCCA orders, advice to residents, labor information, news from other centers, and the all-important edition (usually an “extra”) that announced the WCCA’s decision to relocate the center population to one or more relocation centers for internment for the duration of the war. These newspapers give the reader a vivid impression of assembly center life—at least, the brighter side of it.

Assembly centers seemed to vary in the degree to which evacuees successfully adjusted to confinement. In some centers like Pomona and Tulare, the camp newspapers suggest a general tone of cheerful activity and cooperation (the address by the Tulare center director to the evacuees, just before they were transferred to a relocation center, is a particularly moving tribute). In other assembly centers, such as Manzanar and Santa Anita, there are more indications of restiveness or a comparatively frosty relationship between the residents and WCCA officials. The personality and views of the center director often seems to have had a decisive influence on the adjustment and attitudes of center residents.

The age of evacuees appears to have been a crucial factor influencing their adjustment and morale. The Red Cross study of assembly centers found that the middle-aged and older evacuees seemed “pre-occupied, lonely, and sad,” while the younger people were generally “animated and smiling.” The study authors also report “considerable nervous laughter” across all age groups (Reel 7, Frame 0252).

**Relocation Centers**

As soon as they were completed, relocation centers became the residences of evacuees for the duration of the war. Primary responsibility for the evacuees shifted from the WCCA to the War Relocation Authority (WRA), which ran the centers. The
internment camps were situated mostly in arid regions of the West, with a few in the Mississippi Valley. Two main factors seemed to influence the centers' locations: remoteness, ensuring separation from the general public, and the agricultural potential of the land, especially if irrigated. The WRA hoped to turn most of the relocation centers into highly productive farms to aid the national war effort.

Although the collection does not include primary documents (such as camp newspapers) from the relocation centers, many articles on the centers and their residents appear in the collection's sections containing newspaper and periodical clippings. A number of articles profile life and conditions at particular relocation centers and include photographs and interviews with evacuees or center officials. Generally, the evacuees seemed to have adjusted to life as quickly in the relocation centers as they did in the assembly centers, with a cooperative or resigned attitude and nonconfrontational behavior.

In both assembly centers and relocation centers, several thousand students obtained releases to attend college in states outside the military areas. A perhaps larger number of evacuees were recruited to work on farms or for other private concerns to raise food or help make products for the war effort. One 1942 WCCA press release notes that volunteer evacuee farm labor helped harvest Arizona's vital long staple cotton crop that was "essential for producing gliders, balloons, parachutes, and other implements of war" (Reel 3, Frame 0658).

In a number of centers, however, morale seemed to deteriorate over time, resulting in large part, perhaps, from the tedium of a long and open-ended period of confinement. At several centers, including those at Tule Lake, Calif.; Manzanar, Calif.; and Jerome, Ark., groups of evacuees rioted. The "troublemakers" used tactics such as work slowdowns, general strikes, interference with camp services and routines, harassment of Caucasian employees, and, most seriously, a refusal to pledge loyalty to the United States. The most damaging incident probably occurred at the Tule Lake Relocation Center in November 1942. Certain evacuees displayed loyalty to Japan, conducted a general work strike, allegedly beat a Caucasian worker, and seized control of the administration building and took hostages. Center officials called on the army to restore order. According to WRA Director Dillon S. Myer, who was one of the hostages, the disruptive evacuees were trying to create a disturbance that was sufficiently serious to ensure that they would be the first Japanese loyalists deported to Japan.

**Resettlement after Evacuation**

Beginning early in 1943, the WRA began to release from the relocation centers a number of evacuees who affirmed their loyalty to the United States. The evacuees were selected for employment outside the military areas. Other evacuees, identified as loyal to Japan, were sent to a new prison camp called a "segregation center" at Tule Lake, Calif., and were kept from mingling with loyal or "passively disloyal" evacuees. At the same time, the WRA began planning the dissolution of the relocation centers. WRA Director Myer said, in a May 1943 press conference: "The relocation centers should be done away with, just as fast as the people can be gotten out. It would be a great shame if we still had centers (for other than the disloyal) left at the end of the war" (Reel 4, Frame 0818). Early in 1944, the WRA began to release certain "cleared" evacuees to return to residence on the West Coast.

In January 1945, the government rescinded the order excluding Japanese Americans from the military areas, and evacuees began to return at will to the West
Coast states, although some, especially older persons, were reluctant to leave the relocation centers. The WRA advised, but did not require, the evacuees to resettle in areas outside the West Coast.

Many persons and groups that had initially argued for the Japanese evacuation actively opposed the evacuees’ return. These organizations and individuals ranged from private societies such as the American Legion and the Native Sons of the Golden West, to farmers’ associations and chambers of commerce, to West Coast city mayors and delegations of Western congresspersons. General DeWitt himself adamantly opposed resettlement on the West Coast: “A Jap’s a Jap. They are a dangerous element, whether loyal or not” (Reel 4, Frame 0804).

The groups opposed to West Coast resettlement made a number of claims about Issei and Nisei. These included allegations that a large number of evacuees were engaged in anti-U.S. activity, that secret Japanese-loyal organizations such as the Black Dragon Society were flourishing at relocation centers, that some Nisei were spying for Japan, that schools for Japanese children instilled loyalty to Japan and obedience to Emperor Hirohito, that returning Japanese farmers would accumulate lands that should go to non-Japanese U.S. soldiers after the war, and even that Caucasian farmers could not compete against Nisei farmers.

There was also widespread public and congressional criticism of the WRA, including contentions that the agency “pampered” evacuees at relocation centers, that large supplies of fresh food were sent to the relocation centers while it was rationed to the rest of the country, that the agency was “in collusion” with pro-Japanese groups, and that the WRA was releasing “subversives” (Reel 4, Frame 0812).

Defending the rights of the interned persons to return to their former residence areas were a large number of religious organizations, ethical societies, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Japanese American Citizens League, and other organizations representing Japanese Americans, as well as U.S. Army officers who had served with Nisei soldiers in heavily decorated combat units in Europe in World War II. These latter groups all urged tolerance and an end to racial discrimination. This collection includes a large sampling of the opinions of individuals and groups representing the spectrum of viewpoints on the evacuation as well as the rights of Nisei and Issei.

A significant percentage of returning evacuees chose to resettle in areas outside the West Coast. Not all the evacuees chose to reassimilate themselves into U.S. society. Over 5,500 renounced their U.S. citizenship and over 1,300 eventually returned to Japan.

**Court Challenges**

A number of articles and essays in the newspaper and periodical clipping sections discuss Nisei court challenges of the army’s evacuation and internment authority. In most cases, lower federal courts or the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the exclusion orders and forced evacuations. The Supreme Court, however, did affirm the right of Japanese Americans to be U.S. citizens. In one federal court case, U.S. Judge James A. Fee ruled that until martial law was officially declared, the army had no authority to regulate the residence, travel, or activities of U.S. citizens, including Nisei. General DeWitt asserted that his orders remained in force and disregarded Judge Fee’s ruling. Finally, in a case brought by Mitsuye Endo, a Nisei stenographer for the California state government, the Supreme Court on
December 18, 1944, ruled unanimously that Endo should be released from internment, since her loyalty had been clearly established. Shortly after, the army suspended the exclusion orders, allowing evacuees to return to the West Coast.

**Effects of Evacuation on Evacuees**

In several sections of this collection—most prominently, the assembly camp newspapers, the Red Cross study of assembly centers, and clippings from civilian newspapers and periodicals—one finds expressions of evacuees on the devastating emotional and economic impacts of the forced evacuation of homes and businesses. The economic impact from the loss of property and income was enormous, and evacuees recovered only a fraction of the estimated several billion dollars of losses in later war claims filings. (On several occasions after the war, the U.S. Congress appropriated funds to compensate internment camp survivors.)

The psychological impact of evacuation and internment seems to have been perhaps even greater. One assembly center resident wrote, “The [evacuees] worry, deep down under the surface, as to their future status in this country that is also theirs” (Reel 2, Frame 0234). At the Manzanar Assembly Center, a thoughtful editorial writer observed, “Evacuation was a staggering blow to the Nisei’s deeply ingrained belief in democracy. We had unquestionably believed the textbook axiom ‘regardless of color, creed, or previous condition of servitude’.... Now, in the narrow confines of Manzanar, many are wondering” (Reel 2, Frame 0464). Finally, a young evacuee, Ted Makashima, said, “What really hurts is the constant reference to us evacuees as ‘Japs.’ ‘Japs’ are the guys we are fighting. We’re on this side and we want to help. Why won’t America let us?” (Reel 4, Frame 0375).

SOURCE NOTE

This microform publication consists of documents from Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, Records Relating to Wars, 1812–1943, Final Report and Papers Relating to the Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast, at the National Archives, College Park, Md.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The materials composing LexisNexis’s Evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast: Final Report and Papers of the Adjutant General’s Office highlight the military’s vacillation on the question of evacuation and eventual responsibility for the internment of Japanese Americans. The records consist of General John DeWitt, commander of the Western U.S. Defense Area, reports and exhibits reviewing the military necessity, control authority, and protection of evacuees. Also included are press reports on efforts by regional politicians and congressional delegations, particularly California Attorney General Earl Warren, to force the military into immediate action. Additional documentation consists of reports by the Federal Security Agency, the Farm Security Administration, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; operational manuals from the Wartime Civil Control Administration and the Interior Security Branch; reports from public organizations, such as the American Red Cross; surveys and publications from evacuation assembly centers; and recommendations from the military command and General DeWitt. There are many newspaper and periodical clippings that provide public opinion on evacuation and internment.

The documents were originally arranged into thirteen wrapped packages but were bound by the National Archives and compose thirteen volumes. LexisNexis has filmed all documents as they are arranged at the National Archives and in their entirety.
ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used three or more times in this guide.

FBI  Federal Bureau of Investigation
JACL  Japanese American Citizens League
WCCA  Wartime Civil Control Administration
WRA  War Relocation Authority
REEL INDEX

Following is a listing of the folders that compose Evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast: Final Report and Papers of the Adjutant General’s Office. The four-digit number on the far left is the frame number at which a particular folder begins. The frame number is followed by the title and the date(s) of the file. Substantive issues are highlighted under the heading Major Topics. Topics are listed in the order in which they appear on the film, and each one is listed only once per folder.

Reel 1

Frame No.

0001 Prohibited and Restricted Zones as Recommended to the Attorney General, 1942.
  Major Topic: Descriptions of zone locations and boundaries, with maps.
    0005 Arizona zones
    0017 California zones
    0090 Oregon zones; Washington zones

0122 Assembly Centers Publications: Volume 1, A to M. Fresno, California; Manzanar, California; Marysville, California; Mayer, Arizona; Merced, California, 1942.
  0124 Index
  0127 Fresno Assembly Center, California
  Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; Army Intelligence Corps recruiting; center elections and officials; labor matters; residents release to work on farms; school matters; student relocation to attend college; camp services; wartime lighting blackouts; advice to residents; supplies allotments; sports; holiday celebrations; family life; social occasions; club meetings; victory gardens; Japanese American soldiers; other assembly centers; evacuees relocation to Jerome Relocation Center, Ark.

0330 Manzanar Assembly Center, California
  Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; Army Intelligence Corps recruiting; center elections and officials; General John L. DeWitt visit; draft constitution; labor matters; residents release to work on farms; school matters; camp services; wartime lighting blackouts; advice to residents; supplies allotments; sports; holiday celebrations; social occasions; club meetings; Japanese American soldiers; other assembly centers.
Marysville Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; center elections; labor matters; school matters; camp services; advice to residents; sports; social occasions; club meetings; evacuees relocation to Tule Lake Relocation Center, Calif.

Mayer Assembly Center, California

[No center publications issued.]

Merced Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; center elections and officials; labor matters; school matters; camp services; wartime lighting blackouts; advice to residents; supplies allotments; sports; social occasions; other assembly centers; evacuees relocation to Granada Relocation Center, Colo.

Assembly Centers Publications: Volume 2, N to R. Pinedale, California; Pomona, California; Portland, Oregon; Puyallup, Washington, 1942.

Pinedale Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; labor matters; school matters; camp services; advice to residents; sports.

Pomona Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; center elections and officials; labor matters; residents release to work on farms; school matters; student relocation to attend college; camp services; advice to residents; supplies allotments; sports; holiday celebrations; family life; social occasions; victory gardens; library; rules for transfer to other assembly centers; evacuees eligibility for Social Security benefits; release of mixed Japanese and non-Japanese married couples; other assembly centers; evacuees relocation to Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyo.

North Portland Assembly Center, Oregon

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; center elections and officials; labor matters; residents release to work on farms; school matters; camp services; advice to residents; supplies allotments; sports; holiday celebrations; social occasions; Japanese American soldiers; other assembly centers; evacuees relocation to Tule Lake Relocation Center, Calif., or Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho.

Puyallup Assembly Center, Washington

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; center elections and officials; labor matters; school matters; camp services; advice to residents; sports; local newspaper praise for center; evacuees relocation to Tule Lake Relocation Center, Calif., or Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho; drawings of center buildings.
0721  Assembly Centers Publications: Volume 3, S. Sacramento, California; Salinas, California; Santa Anita, California; Stockton, California, 1942.

0724  Sacramento Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; labor matters; school matters; camp services; advice to residents; sports; student relocation to attend college; evacuees relocation to Tule Lake Relocation Center, Calif.

0759  Salinas Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; camp services and activities; school matters; center library; evacuees relocation to Parker Relocation Center, Ariz.

0001  Assembly Centers Publications: Volume 3, S. Sacramento, California; Salinas, California; Santa Anita, California; Stockton, California, 1942 cont.

0003  Santa Anita Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; visitor passes; WCCA orders; center elections and officials; school matters; student relocation to attend college; camp services; draft registration; advice to residents; supplies allotments; sports; social occasions; club meetings; Japanese American soldiers; center library; center constitution and by-laws; evacuees relocation to Parker Relocation Center, Ariz., Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyo., Granada Relocation Center, Colo., Rowher Relocation Center, Ark., Delta Relocation Center, Utah, or Jerome Relocation Center, Ark.

0308  Stockton Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; air raid preparations; center elections and officials; school matters; labor matters; residents release to work on farms; student relocation to attend college; camp services; advice to residents; supplies allotments; sports; family life; social occasions; club meetings; other activities and events; evacuees relocation to Rowher Relocation Center, Ark.

0530  Assembly Centers Publications: Volume 4, T to Z. Tanforan, California; Tulare, California; Turlock, California [1942].

0532  Tanforan Assembly Center, California

Major Topics: Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; center elections and officials; labor matters; student relocation to attend college; camp services; advice to residents; supplies allotments; residents release to work on farms; school matters; golf course; hospital; Mardi Gras festival; sports; holiday celebrations; family life; social occasions; Nisei workers contribution to war effort; center library; club meetings; Japanese American soldiers; other assembly centers; center constitution and by-laws; support for second war front in Europe; evacuees relocation to Abraham Relocation Center, Utah.
0696 Tulare Assembly Center, California

**Major Topics:** Center newspaper with articles or editorials on evacuee arrivals and departures; center regulations; WCCA orders; center elections and officials; labor matters; camp services; advice to residents; school matters; draft registration; family life; Caucasian-Japanese families status; Japan repatriation applications; supplies allotments; sports; holiday celebrations; social occasions; club meetings; center library; Japanese American soldiers; other assembly centers; Japanese literature prohibition in centers; Gen. Douglas MacArthur tribute; student relocation to attend college; evacuees relocation to Gila River Relocation Center, Ariz.

0960 Turlock Assembly Center, California

**Major Topics:** Center newspaper with articles or editorials on center regulations; center officials; camp services; advice to residents; school matters; sports; evacuees relocation to Gila River Relocation Center, Ariz.

**Reel 3**


**Major Topics:** Disposition of evacuee property by Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; bank authority; Evacuee Property Department establishment; bank acquisition, sales, or storage of evacuees' personal property, including residences and businesses; protection of evacuees from fraud or forced sales; bank dealings with creditors, including "freezing power"; motor vehicles disposition; relevant orders, regulations, forms, and procedures; public response to program.


0227 Federal Security Agency

**Major Topic:** Supervision of and assistance to evacuees.

0234 Public Health Service

**Major Topics:** Medical examinations of evacuees; monitoring and prevention of infectious disease outbreaks; equipping and staffing of center hospitals and infirmaries.

0270 U.S. Employment Service

**Major Topics:** WCCA team offices management; recruitment of persons to operate WCCA evacuee assembly centers; control stations to register and process persons to be sent to assembly centers; jobs for evacuees in assembly and relocation centers.

0285 WCCA team offices

**Major Topic:** Social worker policies, procedures, forms, and instructions.

0397 *Press Releases, March 1 to November 30, 1942.*

0398 Index

0412 March 1942

**Major Topics:** Military areas establishment; assembly centers establishment; land acquisition for assembly centers; civilian cooperation; voluntary resettlement outside of military areas; evacuee property protection and disposition
assistance; evacuee-owned farms disposition; exclusion and evacuation orders; WCCA establishment; WRA establishment; Manzanar Assembly Center conditions; Santa Anita Assembly Center conditions; evacuees movement; evacuees protection; California counties' requests to host assembly centers; “freezing” of Japanese Americans in military areas.

0477 April 1942
Major Topics: Exclusion and evacuation orders; land acquisition for evacuee assembly centers; assembly center conditions; rumor control; evacuee property protection and disposition; automobiles disposition; evacuees movement; Manzanar Assembly Center conditions; Santa Anita Assembly Center conditions; relocation centers construction and preparation; “freezing” of evacuees’ property; Alaskan evacuees; evacuee-owned farms disposition.

0529 May 1942
Major Topics: Automobile storage; exclusion and evacuation orders; movement of evacuees.

0570 June 1942
Major Topics: Major cities evacuation; relocation centers construction and preparation; evacuees transfer from assembly to relocation centers; Alaskan evacuees; evacuees banking services; Santa Anita Assembly Center residents arrest for conducting secret meeting.

0601 July 1942
Major Topics: Evacuees transfer from assembly to relocation centers; Alaska entry or exit control by army.

0612 August 1942
Major Topics: Lighting dim-outs; relocation centers construction and preparation; evacuees transfer from assembly to relocation centers; alien curfews and travel permits; Santa Anita Assembly Center disturbance.

0633 September 1942
Major Topics: Relocation centers construction and preparation; evacuees transfer from assembly to relocation centers; evacuees work on private farms.

0647 October 1942
Major Topics: Evacuees work on private farms; lighting dim-outs; exclusion orders covering individual enemy aliens; alien curfews and travel permits; completion of evacuees transfer from assembly to relocation centers.

0670 November 1942
Major Topics: Exclusion orders covering individual enemy aliens; ban on evacuees release to work on private farms.

0682 Photostats of Newspaper and Periodical Clippings and Pamphlets, including Index and Contents, Volume 1, November 1, 1941–March 31, 1942.

0683 Index

0690 November 1941
Major Topics: Japan social and economic conditions; Japan citizenry opposition to militaristic government.

0691 December 1941
Major Topics: Japan government agents' surveillance of Japanese Americans; loyalty of Kibei (Nisei educated in Japan).
0693  January 1942
  Major Topics: West Coast anti-Japanese sentiment and actions; Justice Department position on enemy aliens; West Coast civil defense activities; enemy aliens restrictions; strategic locations prohibition of enemy aliens; public calls for evacuation.

0706  February 1942
  Major Topics: West Coast anti-Japanese sentiment and actions; enemy aliens travel restrictions and registration; curfews; public calls for evacuation; California congressional delegation call for evacuation; Attorney General Francis R. Biddle call for tolerance; martial law demand for West Coast states; anti-U.S. actions by enemy aliens; Franklin D. Roosevelt executive order authorizing evacuation; FBI detention of enemy aliens; first Issei evacuations to Bismarck, N.D.; Japanese submarine attack on U.S.

0787  March 1942
  Major Topics: West Coast anti-Japanese sentiment and actions; public calls for evacuation; Western interior states positions on evacuee relocation; Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt order establishing exclusion zones barring all persons of Japanese ancestry from California, Oregon, Washington, and southern Arizona military areas; FBI arrest of suspected Japanese saboteurs; Western Defense Command Alien Control Coordinator Tom C. Clark announcements; travel restrictions; DeWitt warning against crop sabotage; DeWitt warning against defrauding evacuees of property; evacuee property protection; public opinion on evacuation; Nisei loyalty to U.S.; voluntary exodus of Issei and Nisei; assembly and relocation center construction and preparation; evacuee movement to assembly centers; Manzanar Assembly Center conditions; evacuee morale; Japanese espionage; curfew order; “freezing” of Japanese Americans in military areas; evacuation from Bainbridge Island, Wash.

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0001  April 1942
  Major Topics: Evacuee movement to assembly centers; exclusion orders; evacuee property protection; religious organizations’ views on evacuation; public opinion on evacuation; Santa Anita Assembly Center conditions; assembly and relocation centers construction and preparation; assembly center conditions; evacuee morale; Tolan Committee report on evacuation; U.S. loyalty of evacuees; discriminatory treatment of Japanese Americans compared to treatment of German and Italian Americans; forced evacuation of Tories after American Revolution; Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt profiles; local areas resistance to incoming evacuees; attitudes of evacuees; evacuee farms transfer to new operators.

0152  May 1942
  Major Topics: Japanese espionage; student relocation to attend college; exclusion orders; evacuee movement to assembly centers; public opinion on evacuation; assembly center conditions; evacuee morale; Portland evacuees’ message to city; absentee voting for evacuees; attitudes of evacuees; East Coast evacuation study; wages of evacuee workers; evacuees’ farms
operation by others; evacuees property protection; farm labor shortages; religious organizations’ views on evacuation.

0312 Photostats of Newspaper and Periodical Clippings and Pamphlets, Volume 3, June 1–August 31, 1942.

0312 June 1942

Major Topics: Religious organizations’ views on evacuation; assembly center conditions; evacuee morale; Nisei loyalty to U.S.; public opinion on evacuation; relocation camp announcements; exclusion orders; evacuees transfer from assembly to relocation centers; assembly center residents release to work on farms; psychological impact of evacuation on U.S. aliens in general; Santa Anita Assembly Center evacuees protest; assembly center elections; older Issei first voting experience; Senate defeat of bill requiring evacuation of all Issei and Nisei in the U.S.; Santa Anita Assembly Center residents arrest for conducting secret meeting; Ernest K. Wakayama; Hawaii Nisei loyalty; eastern California evacuees registration and movement.

0422 July 1942

Major Topics: Religious organizations’ views on evacuation; assembly center conditions; evacuee morale; Nisei loyalty to U.S.; public opinion on evacuation; exclusion orders; relocation camp announcements; evacuee transfer from assembly to relocation centers; assembly center residents release to work on farms; land acquisition for relocation centers; relocation centers construction and preparation; student evacuees’ release to attend college; American Friends Service Committee; ban on private farm work by evacuees; eastern California evacuee registration and movement; absentee voting; relocation center conditions; Post War World Council views on evacuation; Norman Thomas; American Civil Liberties Union views on evacuation.

0506 August 1942

Major Topics: Exclusion orders; relocation camp announcements; evacuee transfer from assembly to relocation centers; relocation centers construction and preparation; student evacuees’ release to attend college; relocation center conditions; public opinion on evacuation; American Civil Liberties Union defense of evacuees arrested for conducting secret meeting; Ernest K. Wakayama; reported “luxurious” conditions at certain relocation centers; American Legion views on evacuation; constitutionality of exclusion orders.


0575 September 1942

Major Topics: Religious organizations’ views on evacuation; evacuee morale; Nisei loyalty to U.S.; public opinion on evacuation; exclusion orders; relocation camp announcements; evacuees transfer from assembly to relocation centers; relocation centers construction and preparation; relocation center conditions; relocation center residents release to work on farms; constitutionality of exclusion orders; U.S. seizure of certain Japanese firms’ assets; American Legion views on evacuation; Hawaii Issei and Nisei.

0641 October 1942

Major Topics: Religious organizations’ views on evacuation; evacuee morale; public opinion on evacuation; evacuee transfer from assembly to relocation
centers; relocation center conditions; relocation center residents release to work on farms; Italian aliens curfews and other restrictions lifting; completion of evacuation; praise for army conduct of evacuation.

0702 November 1942
Major Topics: Completion of evacuation; praise for army conduct of evacuation; religious organizations' views on evacuation; evacuee morale; Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt praise for federal agencies involved in evacuation; relocation center conditions; public opinion on evacuation; Hawaii partial evacuation.

0726 December 1942
Major Topics: Relocation center conditions; public opinion on evacuation; relocation camp self-government efforts; war effect on Los Angeles residents; German aliens curfews and other restrictions lifting; religious organizations' views on evacuation; Nisei attempts to join U.S. military.

0739 University of California Study of Evacuation
0741 Federal Court Decision
Major Topics: Judge James A. Fee ruling that Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt has no power to regulate activities of U.S. citizens, including Nisei; DeWitt affirmation of army exclusion orders and disregard for ruling.

0753 [Photostats of Newspaper and Periodical Clippings and Pamphlets, January 1–December 29, 1943.]

0754 January 1943
Major Topics: Relocation center conditions; disturbances at Jerome Relocation Center, Ark., and Tule Lake Relocation Center, Calif.; alleged “pampering” in relocation centers; denial of pampering by officials; congressional investigations of relocation camps; JACL position on relocation camps; American Legion demands for expulsion of all Issei and Nisei from U.S.

0773 February 1943
Major Topics: Relocation center conditions; California civil liberties legislation; relocation center “troublemakers” arrests or segregation; Japan versus U.S. treatment of aliens; agricultural production at centers; release of selected evacuees for employment outside restricted areas; discrimination challenges in federal court by Fred T. Korematsu, Gordon K. Hirayabashi, and Minoru Yasui; Nisei citizenship right affirmation by federal court; loyalty of Nisei; draft resistance by Tule Lake Relocation Center residents.

0790 March 1943
Major Topics: Relocation center “troublemakers” arrests or segregation; release of selected evacuees for employment outside restricted areas; loyalty of Nisei; discrimination challenges in the Supreme Court by Fred T. Korematsu, Gordon K. Hirayabashi, and Minoru Yasui; Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt warning of imminent Japanese attack on West Coast.

0799 April 1943
0809 May 1943

**Major Topics:** Alleged “pampering” in relocation centers; denial of pampering by officials; relocation center conditions; congressional investigations of relocation camps; congressional criticism of WRA director Dillon S. Myer; discrimination challenges in the Supreme Court by Gordon K. Hirabayashi and Minor Yasui; Nisei citizenship right affirmation by Supreme Court; loyalty of Nisei; constitutional amendment prohibiting Nisei citizenship; Native Sons of the Golden West; WRA release of evacuees to resettlement outside restricted areas; Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA; American Legion; Los Angeles Bar Association; congressional investigation of Black Dragon Society; Martin Dies House Committee on Un-American Activities; Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron views on Japanese Americans.

0823 June 1943

**Major Topics:** Loyalty of Nisei; discrimination Supreme Court challenge by Fred T. Korematsu; Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron views on Japanese Americans; WRA release of evacuees to resettlement outside restricted areas; congressional opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA; Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; War Department opposition to WRA release of evacuees; Western members of Congress moves to abolish WRA; congressional criticism of WRA and director Dillon S. Myer; Martin Dies House Committee on Un-American Activities; alleged WRA release of subversives; anti-U.S. activity at relocation camps; Japanese American Committee for Democracy defense of WRA.

0845 July 1943

**Major Topics:** Alleged WRA collusion with JACL; Mitsuye Endo court challenge of exclusion and evacuation; JACL official Mike Masaoka on WRA policies; Western members of Congress moves to abolish WRA; congressional criticism of WRA and director Dillon S. Myer; Martin Dies House Committee on Un-American Activities; WRA release of evacuees to resettlement outside restricted areas; congressional opposition to release and return of evacuees; Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA; disloyal Japanese concentration at Tule Lake Relocation Center.

0855 August 1943

**Major Topics:** Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA; disloyal Japanese concentration at Tule Lake Relocation Center; alleged Nisei espionage for Japan; Martin Dies House Committee on Un-American Activities; congressional criticism of WRA and director Dillon S. Myer; alleged WRA release of Black Dragon Society subversives.

0863 September 1943

**Major Topics:** Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA; appointment of Gen. Delos C. Emmons as commander of Western Defense Command; congressional bill to remove WRA officials involved in evacuation; WRA release of evacuees to resettlement outside restricted areas; congressional opposition to release and return of evacuees.
October 1943

Major Topics: WRA release of evacuees to resettlement outside restricted areas; Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA; alleged Black Dragon Society sabotage plans; loyalty of Nisei; WRA head Dillon S. Myer views on postwar reintegration of Nisei.

November 1943

Major Topics: Congressional report alleging Black Dragon Society subversion since 1932; WRA release of evacuees to resettlement outside restricted areas; Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA; warnings of December 7 disturbances at Manzanar Relocation Center; Tule Lake Relocation Center riot; siege of administration building and taking of hostages; U.S. Army intervention; WRA denial and subsequent admission of incidents; WRA head Dillon S. Myer statements; Western members of Congress calls for WRA abolition and army control of evacuees; general strike by evacuees; FBI investigation.

December 1943

Major Topics: WRA release of evacuees to resettlement outside restricted areas; Western groups opposition to release and return of evacuees; public criticism of WRA.

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January 1945

Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states; JACL Los Angeles office reopening; Teiko Ishida; WRA relocation assistance to returnees; Dillon S. Myer; WRA encouragement to resettle outside of West Coast; groups opposed to evacuees return.

February 1945

Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states; resettlement of evacuees outside West Coast; discriminatory proposals and actions against returnees; violence directed toward returnees.

March 1945

Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states; resettlement of evacuees outside West Coast; discriminatory proposals and actions against returnees; Japan repatriation applications; West Coast public tolerance toward returnees; groups opposed to evacuees return.

April 1945

Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states; West Coast public tolerance toward returnees; groups opposed to evacuees return; Franklin D. Roosevelt death; violence directed toward returnees.

May 1945

Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states; groups opposed to evacuees return; violence or threats directed toward returnees; prosecution of perpetrators; legislative proposals to restrict returnees’ rights; International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union suspension of workers in Stockton, Calif., refusing to work with Nisei returnees.
June 1945
Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states; violence or threats directed toward returnees; prosecution of perpetrators; Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes criticism of violence and lax prosecution of perpetrators; L. B. Crosby; legislative proposals to restrict returnees’ rights.

July 1945
Major Topics: Japanese bomb-carrying balloon threat to Western states; praise for Nisei soldiers; anti-Nisei statements; Caucasian army officers’ pleas for tolerance of Nisei; return of evacuees to West Coast states or other regions; violence or threats directed toward returnees; prosecution of perpetrators; closing of relocation camps.

August 1945
Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states or other regions; anti-Nisei statements; anti-Nisei labor actions; court challenge to army authority to continue exclusion of Nisei from Western military areas; George Ochikubo; Shizuko Shiramizu; Masaru Baba; danger of Japanese attack on West Coast.

September 1945
Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states or other regions; returnees’ concerns about social acceptance, jobs, and housing; restoration of full freedom to evacuees; Brig. Gen. Maxon Stafford Lough recollections of Japanese treatment as prisoner of war; Japanese officers held by State Department; returnees readjustment; WRA temporary housing.

October 1945
Major Topics: Return of evacuees to West Coast states or other regions; pleas for tolerance of Nisei; reluctance of some evacuees to leave relocation camps; Hawaiian Issei and Nisei disposition; evacuation of some Issei and Nisei to mainland; debate over Hawaiian evacuation; Honolulu as “gripe capital”; Nisei soldiers; alleged subversive activities by Issei or Nisei but absence of sabotage.

Major Topic: Army orders requiring Issei and Nisei to leave various specified areas within military areas in West Coast states.

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Proclamations, Exclusion Orders, Restrictive Orders, and Collateral Documents, 1942.

Public Proclamations
Major Topics: Military areas and zones establishment; prohibited entry by Japanese, German, and Italian American citizens or aliens; curfew establishment; contraband control; “freezing” of Issei and Nisei within military areas; temporary exemptions from exclusion; restricted lighting zones establishment; illumination regulations; military exemptions from travel,
curfew, and contraband restrictions; Italian aliens exemption from travel and curfew regulations.

0450 Civilian Exclusion Orders
[Reprints of exclusion orders 1–108.]

0663 Civilian Restrictive Orders
*Major Topics:* Army orders requiring residents of assembly or relocation centers to stay within center boundaries; orders authorizing release of specified numbers of evacuees from assembly centers to work for private agricultural employers; orders designating boundaries of relocation centers; order prohibiting evacuees from possessing firearms, ammunition, or radio transmitters.

0698 Collateral Materials
*Major Topics:* Exemptions from travel restrictions and curfew regulations for German and Italian aliens; Civil Affairs Division of General Staff of Western Defense Command and Fourth Army establishment; WCCA establishment; Japanese aliens’ prescribed conduct; attorney general and secretary of war duties and authority; German and Italian aliens prescribed conduct; President Franklin D. Roosevelt Executive Order 9066 establishing army authority to prescribe military areas and regulate persons within them; WRA establishment; penalties establishment for violating military area regulations; War Relocation Project Areas outside of Western Defense Command establishment as military areas; attorney general regulations governing travel and conduct of enemy aliens; prohibited areas establishment in California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona; curfew establishment; “Story of the Pacific Coast Japanese Evacuation,” address by Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, assistant chief of staff, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army.

0770 Index

0782 Report of the Farm Security Administration, 1942.
*Major Topics:* Farm Security Administration designation as member agency of WCCA; agency activities relating to agricultural matters involved in evacuation, including Japanese farmer registration in military areas, farm properties sale or transfer, agricultural machinery disposal, loans to substitute farm operators, and freezing power use; effects of evacuation on agricultural production; agricultural labor shortage.

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0001 Report of the Farm Security Administration, 1942 cont.
*Major Topics:* Report appendixes, including Farm Security Administration procedures and instructions, forms, and other memoranda for field agents; statistical bulletins on Nisei and Issei populations and evacuee characteristics, by assembly center.

*Major Topic:* Regulations and instructions governing operation and maintenance for evacuee assembly centers, including health care and epidemic prevention, and student relocation to colleges and universities outside restricted areas.

Major Topic: Internal security offices providing law enforcement in assembly centers: organization, administration, personnel, and rules and regulations covering contraband, arrest, insanity, prisoners, relations with other agencies, correspondence, police records, and offenses and penalties.

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0001  Report of the Public Relations Division, 1942.

Major Topics: WCCA relations with newspapers, periodicals, wire services, radio stations, and newsreel producers, including news releases and private briefings on various aspects of evacuation, as well as press members visits to assembly centers; U.S. Signal Corps motion picture on evacuation; analyses of press coverage of and attitudes on early and later phases of evacuation; religious organization attitudes on evacuation; press coverage of December 7, 1942, pro-Axis riot at Manzanar Relocation Center, Calif.; press mailing lists; transcript excerpts from foreign radio broadcasts commenting on evacuation in U.S. and other Western Hemisphere countries; Japanese government allegations of U.S. “atrocities” perpetrated on evacuees, and assertions of “good life” enjoyed by U.S. prisoners in Japan; samples of U.S. newspaper and periodical clippings on evacuation.


Major Topics: American Red Cross general report on survey and assessment of evacuation, with emphasis on living conditions in temporary assembly centers, with recommendations; reports on residents’ family life and adjustment, health, sanitation, housing, food, education, clothing, recreation, and administration.

0359  Final Report: Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast, 1942.

Major Topics: Military necessity for evacuation; establishment of military control authority over West Coast states; separate jurisdiction over evacuation (WCCA) and relocation (WRA); block system of evacuation based on subdivision of Western military areas into 108 exclusion areas from which all Issei and Nisei would be evacuated; evacuation planning and administrative organization; mechanics of evacuation, including protection of evacuees and property, and exemptions from evacuation; assembly centers location and construction, and operations including housing, feeding, clothing, medical care, sanitation, employment of evacuees, education, recreation, religious activities, center newspapers, and center security and administration; WRA organization and functions, relocation centers construction, and transfer of evacuees from assembly centers to relocation centers; related WCCA operations, including curfews, travel control, and aliens repatriation; statistics; photographs; glossary.
SUBJECT INDEX

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