

U.S. WRA.
Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
202 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California
Douglas 8173

Claremont Colleges Library

PERTINENT FACTS
ABOUT RELOCATION CENTERS
AND
AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

14TH AMENDMENT: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside.

"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

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WHAT THE SUPREME COURT SAID

"...Whatever power the War Relocation Authority may have to detain other classes of citizens, it has not authority to subject citizens who are concededly loyal to its leave procedure.....A citizen who is concededly loyal presents no problem of espionage or sabotage. Loyalty is a matter of the heart and mind and not of race, creed or color. He who is loyal is by definition not a spy or a saboteur. When the power to detain is derived from the power to protect the war effort against espionage and sabotage, detention which has no relationship to the objective is unauthorized." (From the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the Mitsuye Endo case, handed down December 18, 1944.)

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MR. JUSTICE MURPHY

"To infer that examples of individual disloyalty prove group disloyalty and justify discriminatory action against the entire group is to deny that under our system of law individual guilt is the sole basis for deprivation of rights." (From Justice Murphy's dissenting opinion U.S. Supreme Court opinion in the Fred Korematsu case, handed down December 18, 1944.)

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AMERICAN LEGION

"If there be any among you who would bring shame and disgrace on the American Legion by violating the principles of the Legion by denying to a citizen the rights which are his, then you forfeit your right to be considered a good Legionnaire." (From statement issued by California Department of the American Legion in support of Gov. Earl Warren's position on the rescission of the order banning all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast.)

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LEGION HEAD SPEAKS

"There is no room in the American Legion for racial hatreds or animosities.... The American Legion has gone on record concerning the Japanese removal from coastal areas because of military necessity. It opposed the return of these Japanese until the war with Japan was finished but, like every other law-abiding organization, the American Legion is pledged to serve both God and country and see that under our Constitution the rights of every individual citizen is preserved..... (Edward N. Scheiberling, National Commander of the American Legion.)"

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CALIFORNIA'S GOVERNOR

"It is the most important function of citizenship as well as government to protect constitutional rights and to maintain order.... We must cooperate to the fullest extent with the military order and carry out the edict in a loyal manner." (Gov. Earl Warren of California.)

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LABOR (AFL)

"We have laws to take care of any citizens who are disloyal to our country, and we should not violate our Constitution by denying privileges given by it to any group, regardless of race, creed or color." (From the AFL Oregon Labor Press, Portland, Ore.)

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AFL CONVENTION

"..... WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this 64th convention of the American Federation of Labor in session in New Orleans, in reaffirmation of our great tradition of struggle against intolerance and oppression, strongly condemns the unwarranted persecution and discrimination against American citizens of Japanese ancestry."

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CIO BACKS BAN RESCISSION

Among other unions and union councils who hailed the rescission of the ban were the San Diego CIO Council, the National Maritime Union and the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union. A spokesman for the latter group said:

"Our brother Americans of Japanese descent have shown their patriotism the hard way as evidenced by our members on the battlefronts. It has been their unfortunate lot to have to prove themselves by doing an even better job, on the home front and on the battlefront, than anybody else. The order is to be welcomed as proof that America will not accept either the Nazi or Japanese imperialist theories of superior race."

(more)

3 - Pertinent Facts

LABOR (CIO)

"We insist that all the rights and privileges due the Japanese Americans as citizens be religiously adhered to and we shall oppose all attempts to infringe on these rights.....It would be well for these people who advocate these anti-Christian and unAmerican ideas to show some of the patriotism exhibited by the Japanese Americans fighting for the democracy these people are ignorantly trying to destroy." (Stanley Earl, secretary of the Oregon State CIO Council.)

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DETAINÉES

Any person of Japanese ancestry, citizen or alien, whose loyalty is unquestioned is free to relocate to any part of the country he desires. Those whose loyalty is questioned are detained, either by order of the Army or Department of Justice, under individual exclusion order or through incarceration in a Department of Justice Camp.

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LEGIONNAIRES

Several American Legion posts, including Hollywood Post No. 591 which is composed entirely of World War II veterans, have welcomed Nisei veterans into membership and other posts have offered membership at the end of the war.

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SMALL SEGMENT

Persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States in 1940 numbered 126,947, less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total population of the U. S. Of that number 112,353 lived on the Pacific Coast, 93,717 in California, 14,565 in Washington and 4,071 in Oregon.

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IN AGRICULTURE

In 1940, prior to evacuation, 45 per cent of the Japanese workers in the three West Coast states were employed in agriculture. Their agricultural activities included the operation, as farm owners, tenants, and managers, of 6,116 farms, consisting of 258,074 acres of farm land. These farms represented 2.2 per cent of the number and value of all farms in the three states, only 0.4 per cent of all land in farms and only 1.5 per cent of all croplands harvested.

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TWO-THIRDS ARE CITIZENS

Two-thirds of the people of Japanese descent who were evacuated to relocation centers were American citizens -- 72,000 citizens in all.

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MAJORITY NEVER VISITED JAPAN

✓ Approximately 72 per cent of the American citizens in relocation centers have never visited Japan.

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NOT CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The relocation centers are NOT concentration or internment camps. Residents of the centers are NOT internees. They are dislocated people charged with no crime, but detained temporarily because of the necessities of war.

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RATIONING RESTRICTIONS

✓ Relocation center residents are subject to the same rationing restrictions which apply to other civilians. Meatless days are observed twice a week. Actual cost of food has averaged less than 40¢ per person per day.

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AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

Such typically American organizations as the USO, the Red Cross, the PTA, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, YMCA, YWCA and others are carried over into relocation centers by the evacuees.

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FEW SHINTOISTS

While half of the alien residents of relocation centers are Buddhists almost one half of their American-born children belong to various Christian churches. A survey disclosed that 55 per cent of the centers' populations are Buddhists, 30 per cent Christian, and 4-10ths of 1 per cent are Shinto. The remaining percentage declined to state any religious faith. There are Protestant and Catholic churches in each center.

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HOME FRONT ACTIVITIES

War Bond, Red Cross, War Chest and similar drives are carried on by residents of relocation centers. In many cases the centers have greatly exceeded the established quotas. Japanese-American soldiers at Camp Shelby bought \$100,000 in war bonds in two days after the announcement of the execution of American flyers in Japan.

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BOY SCOUTS PRAISED

Stanley Harris, the National Director of Interracial Activities, Boy Scouts of America, stated: "Probably the best Boy Scout work in the entire country is being done at Heart Mountain Relocation Center".

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EAST OF THE WEST COAST

Shortly after the creation of the War Relocation Authority, the policy was established of permanently resettling loyal American citizens and law abiding aliens outside the Western Military area. Since then, more than 33,000 residents of relocation centers have been resettled into normal American communities, where their manpower has contributed to the war effort in agriculture and industry.

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CROPS HARVESTED

Nearly 10,000 residents of Relocation centers volunteered to help harvest the sugar beet crop in the fall of 1942. They harvested enough beets to produce a year's sugar allowance for 10,000,000 people. Last year more than 5,000 from Relocation Centers assisted in harvesting crops throughout the midwest

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THEY ALSO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY

There are approximately 13,000 young men of Japanese ancestry -- roughly half of them volunteers -- serving in the United States Army. More than half of these are now serving on foreign soil. Nearly half have parents, wives and children, or other close relatives in relocation centers.

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FIGHTING NISEI

The 100th Infantry Battalion, composed entirely of Americans of Japanese ancestry, has fought throughout the Italian campaign. It is one of the most decorated units in the United States Army. This unit, made up of a total of 1315 men, has received the following decorations:

Over 1,000 Purple Hearts

... 11 Distinguished Service Crosses

44 Silver Stars

31 Bronze Stars

3 Legion of Merit Decorations

1 War Department Unit Citation

for Outstanding Service in Battle

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FAMED COMBAT TEAM

Since June 26, 1944, the 100th Infantry Battalion has been incorporated into the 442nd Combat Team, made up entirely of Japanese Americans who received their training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The 442nd was organized in the spring of 1943 with volunteers from Hawaii and the continental United States, including approximately 1,200 war relocation centers. The two together now compose a regiment, complete with engineers and artillery and are fighting on the Italian front. By October 1, this new regiment had received 400 Purple Hearts, had liberated 11 towns, and were the first to penetrate into the pivotal city of Pisa.

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MANY CASUALTIES

As of January 25, 1945, Japanese-American servicemen who entered the Army from WRA relocation centers had suffered 486 casualties, including 111 killed, 359 wounded and 16 missing in action. The 486 included only those whose next of kin at the centers had been notified. WRA Director Dillon S. Myer said the actual total of battle losses among Japanese-Americans is larger than the casualty notices would indicate since about one-third of the original evacuees have left the relocation camps and several thousand persons of Japanese descent never were in the center.

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PACIFIC VICTORIES

Because of their knowledge of Japanese language, Nisei soldiers have played vital and dramatic roles in our succession of victories over the Japanese in the Pacific theater of operations.

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MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

Fourteen Nisei soldiers are now serving with Merrill's Marauders in Burma.

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NISEI ON SAIPAN

Six Nisei soldiers, four of them from Northern California, were cited for meritorious service in Saipan.

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PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

In presenting the 100th with the Presidential citation on behalf of President Roosevelt, Lieut. Gen. Mark W. Clark, Commanding the Fifth Army, stated:

"The 100th Infantry Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action on June 26 and 27, 1944, in the vicinity of Belvedere and Sassetta, Italy..... Assigned the mission of neutralizing a strongly defended German center of resistance, the battalion maneuvered to a point where a large and determined force of German infantry and field artillery, including self-propelled guns and tanks was encountered... All three companies went into action, boldly facing murderous fire from all types of weapons and tanks and at times fighting without artillery support. Doggedly the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion fought their way into the strongly defended positions. The stubborn desire of the men to close with a numerically superior enemy enabled the 100th Infantry Battalion to destroy completely the right flank positions of a German army, killing at least 178 Germans, wounding approximately 20, capturing 73 and forcing surrender approximately of 10 kilometers of ground...

"The fortitude and intrepidity displayed by the officers and men of the 100th Infantry Battalion reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States."

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NISAI RESCUED "LOST BATTALION"

Clinton B. Conger, United Press Staff Writer with the Seventh Army in France on November 6 (1944) reported:

"A combat unit made up of Japanese-American fighting men who already had distinguished themselves in the bitter Italian campaign was disclosed today to have led the drive which resulted in the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" behind the German lines in France.

"Those Japanese-Americans, members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, had been in action in the central area of the Seventh Army front for only three weeks when they launched an attack on October 15 through a forest three miles west of Bruyere where the "Lost Battalion"---270 infantrymen of the 36th (Texas) Division---had been trapped for more than a week. For five days the Texans had been without food until rations and medical supplies were dropped by low-flying Thunderbolts, and they had all but given up hope when the 442nd unit and other American groups broke through Nazi lines to capture Bruyere and reach the encircled infantrymen."

One rescued lieutenant said to Conger later: "After seven days of isolation, one of our outposts sighted the first American to reach them---Pfc. Mutt Sakumoto---the rest of the 442nd behind him. These Japanese-Americans had been hauled from a rest area to effect the rescue but they seemed as happy over the rescue as our men. I bet that was the gladdest any Americans ever were to see some Japs. They came working through the brush so quiet! They sure cleaned out the undergrowth as they went and boy, oh boy, how those guys can fight!"

Conger reported that the lieutenant's sentiments were echoed by Germans with whom the 442nd came in contact during the fighting in Italy.

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BIRTH RATE NOT HIGH

The birth rate of Americans of Japanese ancestry in 1940 was at the same level as the birth rate throughout the country. In California, the census shows that the number of births to Japanese parents dropped from the high of 5,275 in 1921, to 2,220 in 1930 and to 1,479 in 1940. Concerning their birth rate the Tolson Committee's report says:

"Contrary to alarmist predictions about the reproductive tendencies of the American Japanese, their birth rate during the past decade has been insufficient to balance mortality and emigration."

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NO SABOTAGE IN HAWAII

There was not a single act of sabotage by Hawaiian residents of Japanese ancestry at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack and all reports to the contrary have been officially denied by W. A. Gabrielson, Honolulu chief of police, Colonel Fielder, assistant chief of staff for military intelligence, Central Pacific area, the late Secretary of the Navy, Frank C. Knox, Secretary of War Stimson, and Director Hoover of F.B.I.

(more)

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Best estimate is that not more than 20 per cent of the Japanese-Americans today are dual citizens. The decline in dual citizenship has been so sharp that it has been estimated dual citizenship will be entirely wiped out in another generation. Dual citizenship was established only when parents made application within two weeks of the birth of their children. Hundreds who were thus listed are wearing the United States Army uniform and are fighting for this country.

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EDUCATORS SPEAK

"We don't control, nor do we attempt to control the attitudes of people. When the Japanese are returned to the West Coast, those desiring to study at the University will be accepted as students in accordance with the regulations governing the admission of any students." (Pres. L. P. Sieg of the University of Washington on December 19, 1944.)

"Students of Japanese ancestry who have been properly certified by Federal authorities will be received by the University (of California) in a friendly and co-operative manner." (Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, President.)

At a recent conference of State educators, Dr. Walter F. Dexter, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, reminded school officials that they are pledged to support the Constitution and that both the Federal and state constitutions require them to admit children of any ancestry to classes.

San Francisco's superintendent of schools, Dr. Curtis Warren, at a later conference told educators he expected tolerance from San Franciscans.

"We judge people by words and deeds and so we must judge the Japanese. It was not so long ago the West Coast was demanding the Chinese must go... They had lived here for years. They had become Americans in spirit." (Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, Vice President of the University of California.)

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STUDENTS, TOO

Students at several West Coast schools have passed resolutions like the one adopted by the executive committee of the University of California student body which, by one vote short of making it unanimous, extended a welcome to Japanese-American students. The resolution reaffirmed the proposition that "individuals should be judged by personal merits."

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AND A NISEI SAID

"I am a Japanese by ancestry and by physical features; but my heart, mind and spirit are with America because this is my home. There is no love of Japan in me, no spiritual, no mental ties. I can feel a oneness with other Americans of foreign ancestry---German, Irish, Swedish, Italian, Chinese, or Greek Americans---in saying that my blood will never flow for the land of my ancestors." (From "I, TOO, AM AN AMERICAN," written by Kiyoko Kasai, a senior student at Sequoia High School, Redwood City, Calif., who was one of those uprooted by the evacuation order.)