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Mr. Kuchida
COPY
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

McGehee, Arkansas

February 20, 1943

Mr. D.S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

The February 13, 1943 issue of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center newspaper contained an article reading as follows:

"In reply to many queries concerning the possibility of evacuees entering California on indefinite leaves, Joe Carroll, housing and employment officer, explained that evacuees are not entirely excluded from West Coast military zones but may enter those areas by securing permission from the Western Defense command.

Any person of Japanese ancestry desiring to enter areas either under the Western or Eastern Defense commands will be granted permission to do so if there is sufficient reason to warrant his presence in those areas, according to Carroll.

Such persons should apply for indefinite leaves through regular procedure and state his desire to enter the prohibited zones, which Washington in turn will submit to the designated defense command for consideration, Carroll said."

Since the article implies that Japanese Americans may return to the evacuated areas for the purpose of residence, will you please advise me if there has been a change in the WRA policy to permit such action?

Sincerely,

/s/Ray D. Johnston

Ray D. Johnston
Project Director

for Mr. Kuchida

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

COPY

March 13, 1943

Mr. Ray D. Johnston
Project Director
Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Johnston:

This will refer to your letter of February 20 quoting the article from the Heart Mountain Sentinel of February 13, dealing with the return of evacuees to the military zones of the West Coast.

I believe there is a possibility of reading into this news item greater opportunity than actually exists for the evacuees to return to their former homes. The only evacuees who have been granted permission to return to the area to live are women of Japanese descent married to Caucasians and having children of such marriage. The Western Defense Command has granted permission for short visits for various purposes such as visiting sick relatives, attendance at funerals, etc.

I should point out that it is the policy of the Western Defense Command rather than of WRA which places limitations on the return of evacuees to the military zones. So far as we know, there is no change in such policy. The Washington office of the War Relocation Authority will submit applications for permanent residence in the prohibited military zone only when the case is one which has a chance of approval under the policies of the Western Defense Command. To submit other cases only to have them turned down would involve a large amount of clerical work which would accomplish no useful purpose.

Sincerely yours,

/s/D.S. Myer

Director

cc: All Project Directors

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April 2, 1943

In compliance with Mr. John H. Provinse's memorandum of March 9th, marked for the attention of Superintendent of Education, I am submitting herewith a list of the vacancies we would like to have filled in the near future:

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

4 Teachers - Grades 4, 5 and 6

SECONDARY TEACHERS

1 Vocational Agriculture Teacher
1 Science Teacher (Chemistry)
1 Librarian
1 Industrial Arts for Boys Teacher - Junior High

Although we are corresponding with certain individuals for several of these jobs none of them are definitely filled. We would like to fill them at an early date.

J. A. Trice,
Superintendent of Education

RELOCATION BRANCH
McGEHEE, ARKANSAS

11,312

APR 10 1943

Mr. D. S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

This is in reply to your letter of April 6 with reference to a report on industrial enterprises at this center.

At this time there is no enterprise at this center that comes in this category. We are assuming that farming operations would not be included in this classification.

Sincerely,

RAY D. JOHNSTON
Project Director

ASmith:ri
4-10-43

Rohwer Relocation Center

Relocation, Arkansas

OPINION. R-1

May 10, 1943

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Ray D. Johnston, Project Director

ATTENTION: Mr. John A. Trice, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Shop Teachers' Liability

Mr. Trice, Superintendent of Schools advises me that they are preparing to use power machinery in the Junior High School wood-working shop. He has inquired as to whether any liability would rest upon the shop teachers in the event a student is injured in the operation of such power machinery. Mr. Trice has also asked whether it would be appropriate to have the parent or guardian of a student enrolling in the woodworking class, where power machinery will be used, execute a consent to the enrollment of the student in such class and a release of the teacher or teachers instructing the class from any liability in the event of the injury of a student while he is using the shop tools and equipment.

The basis of liability upon teachers instructing in the schools in this center is the same as in other schools in the state of Arkansas. Although a statute (Act 358, Acts of 1941, page 927) declares that the Directors of a school district, in exercising their powers and duties as such, are acting in a governmental capacity and, therefore, are not liable for personal injuries or property damage resulting from their actions in the operation of a school system, there is no similar statute with respect to the liability of teachers instructing within those schools. In my opinion, however, an instructor is liable for injuries suffered by the students only if those injuries are the result of negligent or willful acts on the part of the teacher. The teacher should, of course, warn the students of the danger in connection with the operation of the machinery and the use of various tools and should take every precaution to see that all proper safeguards are taken to prevent injury to the students. So long as he takes every precaution to prevent injuries to the students that a reasonable man in his position would take, I do not believe that he would be liable for any injuries which might be received by students in these classes.

May 10, 1943

Since liability of the teacher rests only upon negligent or willful acts, a consent and release executed by the parents of the students, prior to any injuries received, would not be a valid release. Execution of such a document, however, would, I believe, be effective morally and psychologically. When the parents or guardian execute this document, they acknowledge that they know that there is some danger of injury but indicate their approval of their child or ward taking such course of instruction irrespective of the danger. Under these circumstances I feel that they would be less likely to attempt to make a claim in the event the student should be injured.

If it is determined to have them execute a document of this nature, I suggest that it be in the following form:

"We (I) hereby request and grant permission to the Rohwer Relocation Center School to enroll our (my) son _____ in a shop class for the period beginning _____ and ending _____; and in consideration of the instruction to be given him, do by these presents release, acquit, and forever discharge the shop instructors of and from any and all liability in case of accidents occurring to said _____ as the result of his use of any _____ of the shop tools or equipment.

Signed _____

Parents

Jack S. Curtis
Project Attorney

cc: Mr. Maurice Walk
Mr. Edgar Bernhard ✓
All Project Attorneys

Rohwer Relocation Center

Relocation, Arkansas

OPINION. R-2

May 11, 1943

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Ray D. Johnston, Project Director

ATTENTION: Mr. E. B. Moulton, Employment Officer

SUBJECT: Payment of Unemployment Compensation benefits for previous period of unemployment.

Mr. Moulton, Chief of Employment & Housing, has submitted to me the case of an evacuee who registered for work in November, 1942, and was first employed in the early part of March, 1943. During the time she was unemployed she made no application for unemployment compensation and made none until the first of May, after she had been working for two months. She has now made application for unemployment compensation for the period of time between 15 days after she registered for work in November, 1942, and the date on which she went to work in March, 1943. Mr. Moulton has asked whether she should be paid the unemployment benefits for which she has applied.

Eligibility for and payment of unemployment compensation to evacuees is governed by Administrative Instruction No. 27, Supplement 2, dated October 27, 1942. By the terms of Section VII A as set forth in Supplement 2 it is provided:

- "2. An evacuee who has been registered for work for 15 days and has not been offered employment shall be eligible for unemployment compensation unless:
(followed by exceptions which are not applicable here)

"The 15 day period shall run from the time of the original registration for work, or from the date of termination of a previous job, or from October 1, 1942, whichever is later."

Therefore, since the evacuee in question registered for work

May 11, 1943

in November, 1942, and was not offered employment until March, 1943, there can be no doubt but that she was eligible for unemployment compensation during December, 1942, and January and February, 1943.

However, unemployment compensation benefits are not necessarily paid to all who are eligible by reason of registration for work and not being employed within 15 days thereafter. Section VII A 4 of Administrative Instruction No. 27, as amended by Supplement 2 provides:

- "4. Unemployment compensation shall be paid only after application to, and certification by the Employment Division."

Before unemployment compensation may be paid to any evacuee by the WRA, the evacuee must (1) register for work and remain unemployed for a period of 15 days thereafter, (2) apply to the Employment Division for the benefits, and (3) be certified by the Employment Division as eligible to receive such payments. (Of course, if the evacuee comes within the exceptions noted in Section VII 2 he is automatically disqualified.)

In this case the evacuee registered for unemployment in November, 1942, and was unemployed until March, 1943, thus satisfying the first requirement. However, she did not apply for unemployment compensation benefits until after she had been employed for approximately two months, and the question is whether she should now be certified and paid benefits which she might have applied for and received during her period of unemployment.

The purpose of unemployment compensation generally is to help the employee through a period of stress when he is not gainfully employed. This purpose is expressed in Section VII A 3, Supplement 2, Administrative Instruction No. 27, in these words: "Unemployment Compensation is intended to cover minimum essentials for the individual and his dependents." It is also provided that payments shall be discontinued when the applicant has become employed or has refused to accept employment offered to him. (Section VII A 5). Present payment to this evacuee who has been employed for two months would not serve the primary purpose of covering essentials during unemployment but would be a windfall to her. While need for aid is not a proper test she apparently was not in need during her unemployment or she would have applied at an earlier date.

The Administrative Instruction places no limitation upon the time within which an application for unemployment compensation

May 11, 1943

must be made nor is there any language dealing with payment of benefits to a worker for a previous period of unemployment. These omissions and the fact that no rules are prescribed to be followed by the Employment Division in certification of applications indicate that the certifying officer is expected to use his discretion in unusual cases. Therefore, it is my opinion that an administrative ruling placing a limitation upon the time within which an application for unemployment compensation must be filed after becoming eligible or a determination that no benefits shall be payable to a presently employed worker applying for payment of benefits for a previous period of unemployment would be valid.

Jack S. Curtis
Project Attorney

JSCurtis:ky

cc: Mr. Moulton
Mr. Maurice Walk
Mr. Edgar Bernhard ✓
All Project Attorneys

Rohwer Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

June 5, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL
AIR MAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Johnny Iwamura
Assistant Steward
28-7-C, Rohwer

Dear Mr. Myer:

An unfortunate incident occurred yesterday, about which I want to make a preliminary report.

A few of the project stewards came into the Public Works Division to request that certain improvements be made in their respective mess halls. After considerable discussion of the items that they wanted built, one of the evacuees got rather insistent about some things and accused Mr. Rhyne, Chief of the Public Works Division, as well as other WRA personnel, of lying about previous promises. Mr. Rhyne lost his temper and hit one of the evacuees on the head with a chair. The man apparently was not hurt to any extent, and as yet has not even asked for any medical attention.

At present I cannot tell just how much confusion the incident is going to cause, but up to this time there has been no indication of any serious disorder. The man who was hit and one other steward came in and talked to me this morning about the matter. They realized that it was wrong to accuse anyone of lying, and of course Mr. Rhyne realizes that it was very bad for him to lose his temper, regardless of the circumstances. The man who was hit indicated that he was interested in preferring legal charges against Mr. Rhyne for hitting him. I am not sure, however, whether he will carry out that intention.

Mr. Rhyne had previously applied for a few days' leave starting today, to attend his daughter's wedding, and I am in hopes that things will more or less blow over while he is gone. My plan is to just keep quiet about the whole thing for a few days and hope that the matter can be adjusted without any serious difficulty. You may expect a later report on the matter. In the meantime if you have any suggestions or recommendations, I'd be very glad to have them.

Sincerely

Ray D. Johnston
Project Director

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SECTION

Rohwer
Incidents

RELOCATION BRANCH
MOGEEHEE, ARKANSAS

MEMORANDUM

July 13, 1943

To: Mr. Ray D. Johnston, Project Director
From: Relocation Advisory Council
Subject: Educational Films

It is the understanding of the Relocation Advisory Council that the Washington office is having prepared moving pictures which will give information of interest to those who are considering relocation. The Council is in accord with this plan and believes that it will be of great assistance to the relocation program. Therefore, the Council respectfully requests that the following suggestions be sent to the Washington office:

1. That with the cooperation of the Relocation Supervisors a collection of films be made which give information concerning various localities which might be suitable for relocation, or possibly films which show types of employment available in different industries.
2. That moving pictures might be made of evacuees who have been relocated, which show the living and working conditions of these persons.
3. That these films be routed to all ten of the centers on a rotation basis.

AUSTIN SMITH, Jr.
Secretary,
Relocation Advisory Council

cc - E. B. Whitaker

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

July 19, 1943

Mr. Ray D. Johnston
Project Director
Rohwer Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Johnston:

We were pleased to have your summary of comments attached to the monthly report for June, particularly that relating to the slow-down of relocation. Some of this may be a result of the unfavorable publicity by Dies Committee witnesses.

We are glad to know that the "press day" turned out so well and that the favorable publicity which the visit of the writers brought about is having its effect.

Sincerely yours,

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Acting Chief,
Office of Reports





1. The first of the two main groups of persons who are being relocated are the Japanese-Americans who are being relocated from the West Coast to the interior of the United States. The second group is the Japanese-Americans who are being relocated from the interior of the United States to the interior of the United States.

2. The second of the two main groups of persons who are being relocated are the Japanese-Americans who are being relocated from the interior of the United States to the interior of the United States.

3. The third of the two main groups of persons who are being relocated are the Japanese-Americans who are being relocated from the interior of the United States to the interior of the United States.

11. 313

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

September 1, 1943

Mr. Ray D. Johnston
Project Director
Rohwer Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

Attention: Mr. Austin Smith.

Dear Mr. Johnston:

I have just looked over the monthly reports for the Rohwer center covering the month of July and find that on the whole they are very well done. I particularly liked your 3-page narrative summary touching on major phases of the various reports.

The narrative reports submitted by the Education Section and the Community Activities Section were also well done and I hope that more of the division heads will find an opportunity to submit brief narrative reports along with their statistical forms.

The Business Enterprise report listed the names of the members of various committees. I do not believe this will be necessary; it will be sufficient to give only titles of the committees or the purpose for which they were organized.

I trust that progress is being made on the special reports being prepared by the Reports Division and hope that you will send them in as soon as completed.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Baker.

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports





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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
McGEHEE, ARKANSAS

Mr Lane
IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

August 4, 1944

Mr. D. S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building, 910-17th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mrs. Marie Dresden Lane

Re: July Report

Dear Mr. Myer:

Attached are two copies of the July Report,
Forms #243 and Narrative statement.

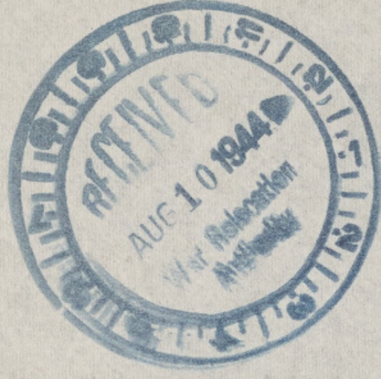
We would greatly appreciate your help with
the questions raised under Parts I and VI of the
Narrative Report.

Sincerely yours,

Wilma van Dusseldorp
Wilma van Dusseldorp
Counselor, Welfare Section

WvD:hc





November 22, 1944

Mr. D. S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier, Chief Reports Division

Dear Mr. Myer:

The attached report was written by Mr. Bean Takeda who is now employed by the Reports Division at this project. However, at the time he made the trip described in the report, he was not employed by the WRA.

When he was in Washington, Mr. Takeda discussed with Mr. Frank Cross the possibility of writing such a report, and it will be appreciated if it is called to his attention.

Sincerely,

Ray D. Johnston
Project Director

REPORT OF TRIP THROUGH EASTERN CITIES

On September 21 I returned from a three-month, 4,000 mile-trip around the midwest and eastern cities. I investigated relocation possibilities, talked with scores of resettled evacuees, and all in all surveyed and studied the progress made in relocation in those specific localities. What I found, heard, and learned has given me some clear-cut and definite ideas on the relocation picture. I have obtained a thoroughly good bird's-eye view on the over-all situation which should help me and help others who are contemplating resettlement.

I left the center on June 21 and headed directly for Lakeside, Ohio, where I attended the Christian Youth Conference of North America as the lone delegate from Rohwer. My trip to the conference and back was sponsored by three center organizations--the Rohwer Federated Christian Church, the Community Activities section, and the Rohwer YMCA. The expenses for the balance of the trip, from Lakeside to Cleveland to Charleston, West Virginia, and then through the eastern cities back again to Cleveland, was paid for out of my own pocket, reinforced from time to time by income from speaking engagements in the various cities.

The conference at Lakeside provided an interesting and appropriate prelude to my tour of the east. The conference drew 900 young people from 44 states in the Union and eleven foreign nations, the cream of the young people of their respective communities, chosen for their leadership quality, understanding, common sense, and intelligence. And there in the little haven, on the lake-cooled shores of Lake Erie, for eight value-packed, jamcramped days, we heard outstanding speakers, participated in stimulating discussions, listened to thought-provoking panels, and enjoyed a wholesome, sincere fellowship in an atmosphere of Christian brotherhood.

Somehow, it seems to me that that group, meeting together in that confab at Lakeside, was an indication of the shape of things to come, a sort of preview of the world of tomorrow, where peoples of various races, colors, creeds, and national extraction could live together in peace, harmony and fellowship.

From Lakeside I proceeded to Cleveland, my erstwhile stamping grounds, and spent ten days there reviewing the relocation picture and bringing myself up-to-date on the progress made since I was there last in December of 1943. The resettlement program there seem to have settled down to a pretty steady gait, and it seemed that the Nisei were finally getting together

to organize a few coordinated activities aimed at making the relocatees feel more at home and integrating themselves into the community in which they live.

In short, the evacuees were passing from the unsettled, adjusting stage to a more settled, permanent mode of living. A Nisei Council was set up in Lakewood, a suburb of Cleveland, which makes up one district under the recently-established system under which the city was divided into several of these districts. The purpose of this Council was to work out some sort of integration program for the Nisei living in that area that will facilitate and encourage participation in the life and activity of the community. If successful, the same program was to be applied in the other districts in which Nisei are residing.

Meanwhile, a coordinating group--composed of Rev. Shunji Nishi (Cleveland Federation), Margaret Fergusson (International Institute), and other leaders--has been holding bi-monthly discussion meetings of a serious nature for mature-thinking Nisei. The response has been gratifying, although a good deal of planning, coaxing, and advanced publicity is generally necessary to insure ample attendance at each meeting. The committee, with the assistance of International Institute's staff-working Emi Kimura has started issuing a monthly mimeographed publication, "The Bridge", for the Cleveland Nisei.

From the various activities that they are carrying on and from their healthy, progressive attitude toward things in general, the relocated Nisei of Cleveland--it seems to me--are among the finest and most representative evacuees to have resettled in the midwest or east.

From Cleveland, I dropped down to Charleston, West Virginia, on the invitation of a young minister I had met at the Lakeside conference. I had intended to go directly to Philadelphia, but the young minister convinced me that I could do a great deal of good by stopping off a few days in the southern city. I went down to Charleston with the intention of staying only five days. I stayed 26 days instead. I was swamped with so many requests to speak that it was impossible for me to leave any earlier.

I filled various speaking engagements, interviewed church and educational leaders, generally carried on a whirlwind, cramjammed public relations campaign during my sojourn there. I spoke from church pulpits at their morning and evening services, before business and professional men's clubs, college professors and students, women's conventions, open forum groups, inter-racial meetings, and before various other miscellaneous gatherings and groups.

An interesting aspect about my visit in Charleston was that there were only two Nisei living in the city, both doctors at the Charleston General Hospital. These boys (one from Sacramento, California and the other from Los Angeles, California) had been studying in the midwest at the time of the evacuation and had consequently never lived in an assembly or relocation center. The two Nisei medics, being of a shy, retiring nature, had not been appearing in public very much, and consequently the people, on the whole, did not know of their presence there. As soon as the people learned that a Japanese American was in their midst, I was a sensation. Rather, I was a novelty. Most of the people had never seen a real, genuine Japanese American before in their lives. I was Exhibit A, a real live Jap in the quivering flesh, Charleston's only bona-fide, war-evacuated Japanese in captivity.

While there, I learned of an interesting incident that had happened there a year or so before. Dr. Leonard Riggleman, president of Morris Harvey College, had thought it might be a good idea to invite Nisei students to attend his institution, put the matter up before the students and secured their approval, and proceeded to go ahead with his plan. But he reckoned not with the reactionary opposition, and a few of the town's businessmen, whose influence was as wide as their thinking was narrow, stymied Dr. Riggleman's well-conceived plans with a "Jap scare" campaign that knocked all of the educator's progressive program into a cocked hat. The good doctor, however, still remains one of the Nisei's best friends in that part of the country, and I am sure that we have not heard the last of him yet, as far as the Japanese Americans are concerned.

Without any attempt to pat myself on the back, I honestly think that my visit there might have helped in spreading a bit of knowledge about the Japanese Americans and in creating a friendlier feeling toward us. If I so much as influenced just one person in that regards, I think that my speaking forays and intensive public relationing were not in vain.

An interesting aftermath of my speaking engagements was that about ten days ago my minister friend wrote me from Charleston, saying that he had been visited by an FBI agent who was investigating my "activities" in that city. He wrote that the G-man was trying to unearth some evidence of subversive propagandizing on my part. Naturally, this amused me a great deal, because we had taken the trouble to invite an FBI man to a few of my talks, and the invitations were never accepted. Needless to say, my talks did not contain a single iota of anything that might be construed as propaganda. It is entirely possible that my trail of speaking appearances in the other cities are also being investigated very carefully by Edgar Hoover's henchmen and that in due time I shall possibly hear more about the matter.

From Charleston, I continued on to Washington D. C., where I spent five days visiting the WRA offices, talking with some of the WRA administrators, observing how the national office administered the gigantic relocation program. I also studied briefly the resettlement possibilities in the capital city and learned, to my surprise, that there were 200 relocated Nisei working in various government offices in and around Washington. I found several of my pre-evacuation friends government-girling in the WRA, War Department, Federal Communications Commission, and other agencies and departments. Incidentally, I did not experience any trouble whatsoever in securing a room, contrary to what I have been led to believe or perhaps, I was just plain lucky.

My next stop was Philadelphia, the traditional "city of brotherly love", and I spent two weeks there. Arriving just a week or so after the end of the much-publicized transit strike that had paralyzed the nation's fourth city, I saw no outward signs of the damaging walk-out, at least on the surface. It seemed that the city of brotherly love had managed to instill some measure of brotherly love into its recalcitrant transitmen (though, of course, that was not it at all), and the footsore Philadelphians rode to work on the buses, trams, and the subways as if they had never had a strike at all.

I visited the WRA offices and met Relocation Officer Henry Patterson and Assistant Relocation Officer Jennett Walker, had a long talk with them about the resettlement possibilities in the Quaker City. At the time, there were about 300 evacuees relocated in the city. Just prior to my arrival in the creamed cheese city, an interesting procedure of articulation was resorted to by the usually-inarticulate Nisei. It seems that the evacuees there were dissatisfied with the way in which Relocation Officer Patterson was doing his job, impatiently took matters into their own hands one day, sample-quizzed a representative cross-section of the Quaker City Nisei and came up with some revealing findings. These they incorporated into eight separate points and presented to Patterson. The latter received the Nisei delegation cordially, frankly admitted that they were entirely correct in some of their fault-findings, promised to take the matters under advisement and report back to them within a week. When I left Philadelphia a week or so later, WRA's Patterson had not reported back to the Nisei committee.

One of the relocated families in Philadelphia is the Kaneda klan, nine strong, formerly of Stockton, California, and Rohwer Relocation Center. Aside from George, who is now training to be a paratrooper, and Kay, who is acquiring an education and a southern accent in Richmond, Virginia, the

entire family is living in the Quaker City and finding it much to their liking. The Kanedas are domiciled on the fourth (top) floor of the Fellowship House, which is a Negro community house originally sponsored by the race relations committee of the American Friends Service Committee. Though a bit crowded, they are happy, quite contented, frankly enjoy being Philadelphians. The Philadelphia Nisei have organized a Nisei Council, which meets regularly to map out a program for each month and administer the activities. Supplementing the functions of the council is another group that is composed of both Caucasians and Nisei. This body is organized more along the lines of a hospitality committee, and it has managed to sponsor one big social event every month for the evacuees and their Caucasian friends.

I found the evacuees in Philadelphia to be a very congenial, able, and talented group. Several of them are holding down responsible and good-paying jobs in hospitals, as well as in some of the smoke-grimed defense plants which go to make up Philadelphia's famous arsenal. There are several very able and progressive leaders among the relocated group, and I honestly believe that this new group of Philadelphians will prove a very worthy addition to the city's population. I might add here that the American Friends Service Committee is rendering immeasurable help to the evacuees in locating housing and suitable positions, helping in any and every way to make the relocated life of the evacuees a happy and a comfortable one. Truly, the Friends are doing a marvelous job, and they are deserving of a unanimous vote of thanks from all of us for their unselfish, untiring work.

From Philadelphia I made several trips to the publicized Seabrook Farms in Bridgeton, New Jersey, and inspected the local layout there. A sprawling plant of some 50,000 acres, the Seabrook outfit, at the time, was employing about 300 evacuee workers (it now employs nearly 700) and was actively campaigning to enlist more workers from the various relocation centers.

I inspected the living quarters, even spent a night with some friends in an apartment, and found them very comfortable and livable. I found the living quarters much better than I had anticipated. In fact, I thought that the living accommodations were the best part of the entire Seabrook setup. There was, however, some dissatisfaction on the part of the Nisei because of the hodgepodge intermixing of the Negro workers with the evacuees. The biggest gripe of the workers, however, was over the matter of wages. It seems that Employment Manager E. S. Parsells had promised the boys some raises in pay, which had not materialized after the specific length of time. Also causing some complaint was the failure of the management to upgrade the workers according to their abilities, as they had been promised.

I inspected the vast quick-freezing plants, packing

sheds, cold storage buildings, and the rest of the huge Seabrook layout.

I came away with the conviction that Seabrook was no place for ambitious Nisei who wanted to wade right back into the normal stream of American life. It might be just the thing for the resettlement-minded Issei who are a bit hesitant or slightly frightened about going into a large city. It is not too much of a change from a relocation center, yet it offers many advantages of relocated life. To put it succinctly, the Farms might be fine for Issei with small families; for most Nisei, doubtful.

I also took a side jaunt into fun-loving Atlantic City, famous for its boardwalks, salt water taffy, and Miss America bathing beauty contests. I learned that there are no evacuees resettled in this famous resort city as yet, but there might be soon. I was offered a job by a advertising agency and may go there in the very near future.

My next destination was New York City, the mecca of all good travelers. My two weeks there were spent in surveying the general relocation progress being made, looking up friends, and lamping its famed sights. I visited the WRA offices in the skyscraping Empire State building and saw Relocation Supervisor Harold Pieter, who was my former boss in Cleveland. I learned that there are over 1600 relocated evacuees living in greater New York, in addition to 2000 permanent-residing Japanese American New Yorkers. Aside from a few with certain skills who were holding down good paying, future-promising jobs, most of the embryo New Yorkers were satisfied with holding medium-paying, semi-skilled or unskilled positions. Interesting was the fact that the seven Nisei organizations in New York had organized themselves into a Nisei Resettlement Council and were working together to promote, facilitate, and assist relocation to the nation's first city. That, it seemed to me, was an encouraging sign. Any time you can get two Nisei organizations to cooperate, it's a wonder. When you get seven of them percolating together, it borders on the miraculous. An old friend of mine, Masumi Toyotomi, a student at the Union Theological Seminary, is serving as executive secretary of this Nisei Resettlement Council and is seemingly doing a pretty fair job.

It seemed to me that New York was a very good place for resettlement. But I am afraid the very bigness of the city will scare a lot of people into not going there. It seems to me that it's a swalegentown for town-favoring, crowd-loving city slickers, but hardly the place for people desiring any sort of community life or a quiet, informal, neighborly place in which to live. Of course, the very size of the city has its advantages, too. The most obvious one is that the city is so large,

the people in so much of a hurry, there is so much of the hustle and the bustle that the average New Yorker hardly has time to notice the presence of the former center-dwelling Japanese Americans. This impersonalness, of course, had its disadvantage in that it precludes that friendly, neighborly relationship that spices life in a smaller city.

From New York, I hopped an overnightrain for Cleveland, paused there a few days, then scooted back to Rohwer by way of Chicago and St. Louis.

On the whole, the relocation program is moving along smoothly, with but a few hitches. What can be done in the next crucial months, remains to be seen.

Bean Takeda
Rohwer Relocation Center
November 18, 1944

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

McGehee, Arkansas
January 6, 1945

File 262
Returnees
ROH
IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

REFER TO

Thayne

Date ans.

No reply nec.

To file

(NAME)

A I R M A I L

Mr. R. B. Cozzens
Assistant Director in charge of Western
Field Office
WRA, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

Dear Mr. Cozzens:

In compliance with Mr. Myers request of December 19, we are enclosing information concerning the first family from this center that is returning to California for permanent residence.

It is our understanding that this information might possibly be used for publicity purposes, but Mr. and Mrs. Nagaoka have specifically requested that no publicity be given to their return. We believe that their wishes in this matter should be respected but we are sending this information because we believe that it might be useful to you in some other respect.

Sincerely,

Ray D. Johnston

Ray D. Johnston
Project Director



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 OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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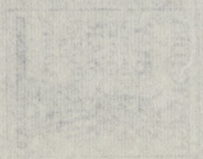
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Information Concerning First Rohwer Family to Return to California

The first family to leave this center for California will be Mr. and Mrs. Tahei Nagaoka and family, 28-12-F.

Mr. Nagaoka is 41 years old, and his wife, Fumiko, is 33. He is an Issei, she a Nisei. They have three children: 14-year-old Ruth Hanako, ten-year-old Marjorie Chiyoko, and one-year-old Richard Tatsuo.

They are returning to Rt. 2, Box 1888, Lodi, where they will resume operation of their vineyard. It had been leased to a Mr. Beckman, but the lease expired on November 30. Hence, the Nagaokas' haste to return to their former home.

Mrs. Nagaoka was born in Sacramento. English is used exclusively at home. The parents are Buddhists, but the children attend the local Christian church Sunday school.

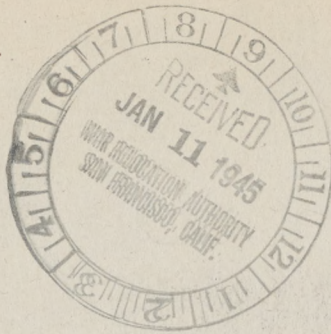
Ruth is in the 9th grade, while Marjorie is in the 6th.

Mr. Nagaoka has been employed by the center Internal Security police department.

They will leave Tuesday morning, January 9, and they are slated to arrive in Lodi at 10 a.m., Saturday, January 13.

It will, of course, be their first glimpse of their home since they were evacuated on May 21, 1942.

Mrs. Nagaoka has one brother who has received a medical discharge from the army and another who will be inducted soon.



THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

"THE SOUTH'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER"

MEMPHIS 1, TENN.

April 5, 1945

Mr. Austin Smith Jr., Reports Officer,
War Relocation Center,
McGehee, Ark.

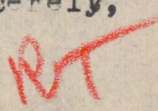
Dear Mr. Smith:

I take pleasure in sending you herewith a clipping of an editorial in The Commercial Appeal of Sunday, April 1, "Nisei Combat Soldiers," as suggested in your letter of March 22.

I thank you for the suggestion and the copy of the McGehee Times that supplied the data, and also for your very kind invitation for me to pay a return visit to your Center. I do not see much chance now of getting down that way any time soon, but I shall bear the invitation in mind and be delighted to accept when the opportunity presents.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,


ROBERT TALLEY

PS--If he is still there, please remember me to the Japanese Scout leader who gave so willingly of his co-operation and that of his boys during our visit. I cannot recall the name.

Nisei Combat Soldiers

In a recent military section of one of its issues the McGehee Times, published at McGehee, Ark., devoted a full page to the names and exploits of Japanese-American soldiers who have lived, or whose relatives still live, at the Rohwer Relocation Center.

The total of Nisei from Rohwer who are serving in the American armed forces at the time the McGehee Times printed its deserved tribute was 866. Of that number, 21 have been killed in action, 32 wounded, one is recorded as missing, and two held as prisoners of war.

Among those killed in action was Sergt. TED TANAYOUE, posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, second highest American decoration for heroism, while serving with the 442nd Japanese-American Combat Team. Another was Sergt. Togo Sugiyama, who single handedly knocked out five German machine gun nests in Italy before he was killed.

Sergt. Bert Tanaka wears the Silver Star for gallantry in action with the famous 100th Japanese-American Battalion, while both Lieut James Jurata and Lieut. Masuo Chamori received their commissions on the battlefield--just about the best recognition the leadership of a fighting soldier can be given.

So much is heard that is antagonistic to young Japanese-Americans that the McGehee Times merits highest commendation for bringing the valor and loyalty of the Rohwer Nisei to public attention.

Japanese-American combat men are proving fine soldiers and are fully accepted, and unstintedly praised, by other American combat units fighting in proximity with them. They may have Japanese ancestry, but their valor and loyalty is unadulterated Americanism, and what they have done and are achieving for this country constitutes an unchallengeable record which no amount of insinuation and suspicion can destroy.

The Shreveport Times

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING IN THE YEAR
BY

THE TIMES PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
TIMES BUILDING

SHREVEPORT 94, LA.

March 26, 1945

Mr. Austin Smith, Jr.
War Relocation Authority
U.S. Dept. of Interior
McGehee, Ark.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Was much interest^{ed} in the Nisei soldiers report page in the McGehee Times and am enclosing an editorial from our paper of last Sunday.

Writer of the editorial is Don M. Ewing associate editor of The Times, who handled several articles and "Forum" comment subsequent to my story in 1943.

You may be interested to know that the Caddo parish (Shreveport) police jury, which I believe is the body which corresponds to your county commissioners or county supervisors, recently adopted a resolution opposing any colonization or other settlement of relocated Japanese-Americans in Caddo parish. The vote was divided, however.

I would be interested in knowing how your camp population now compares that when I was there, and how the resettlement program is doing.

Very best regards,

Robert K. Butcher
Robert K. Butcher



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO: DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FROM: SAC, ALBUQUERQUE
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows]

RE: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows]

ENCLOSURE

Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

The attached final report of Mr. Charles Wisdom, Rohwer Community Analyst, which was requested by the Washington Analysis Section some time last summer, is being sent in with considerable reluctance. This report was in only the rough draft stage when Mr. Wisdom left (he is now in Washington) and I had not seen any of it except the outline so did not have an opportunity to discuss my feelings about the report with him.

I am very much surprised and disappointed at many of the things in the report which, as I understand it, is supposed to be an accurate historical account of certain phases of evacuee lives and Center operation, and as such may possibly be referred to later in research studies. In my opinion a document with any known inaccuracies is absolutely worthless for research, since the known errors cast suspicion on all other material.

My main objections to the report center around two things: (1) Inaccurate and misleading factual statements and (2) distorted and incorrect observations and opinions concerning attitudes and relations of the appointed staff, which are set forth as facts rather than opinions of the Analyst. I also feel that the worthwhile information in the report could have been effectively presented with no more than half the words used, and that in many instances the reader is left in a state of confusion as to what the writer really intended to convey.

I want to make it clear, however, that my criticism of the report is not based on any personal dislike for Mr. Wisdom, or due to any disagreements which we have had. Our relations have been very pleasant.

I am listing below some examples of the kind of statements which I object to, and which objections are concurred in by the Assistant Project Director in Charge of Community Management, the Reports Officer, and other members of the staff.

Mr. Myer, Page 2
Re Analyst's report

Japanese Relocation Papers
Bancroft Library

Inaccurate Statements of Facts

Page 10, last paragraph--Description of arrival of trains at Rohwer.

This material is erroneous in many ways. All of the appointive personnel (42 during the last half of September, 1942) were on duty when the trains arrived. All barracks were either completed or at least the outside construction was completed, in all blocks before the evacuees arrived, even though much finish work such as windows and screens had to be completed and many utilities installed. The evacuees did not have to sleep in the open as is implied.

The trains carried carefully chosen locality groups and the occupants of each train were housed according to locality groups. The writer is absolutely wrong in the conclusion of this paragraph on Page 11 that a reasonable grouping did not occur until after much moving from block to block in the settling down period. Actually the extent of inter-block movement was remarkably limited.

Page 12, paragraph 1 -- "About 35 miles northwest from the Center is Pine Bluff..."

Actually Pine Bluff is 63 miles by road northwest from the Center. In the same paragraph: "Little Rock is about 95 miles northwest of the Center." Actually Little Rock is 109 miles by road northwest from the Center. These errors are not particularly important, but show carelessness on the part of the writer.

Page 12, last paragraph-- Plan of the Center.

Much of this material is ridiculous. The Center area was not a swamp and had not been submerged by a few inches to a foot of water the year around until WRA dug its drainage ditches. The statement that "the trees were cut out by the first evacuee work crews to make way for the streets and barracks" is inconceivable from anyone having the faintest knowledge of how Centers were built.

Page 16, Line 1 -- "The first census was taken at Rohwer on December 31, 1942..." The first census was taken at Rohwer on March 31, 1943.

Page 16, Line 6 -- "The total population for September 30, 1945, the date of the last census...."

The last census was taken on June 30, 1945. The so-called census as of September 30, 1945, was based wholly on office records.

Mr. Myer, page 3
Re Analyst's Report

Page 35, line 3 -- "... as only one Rohwer Nisei attempted draft evasion."

Three Rohwer Nisei refused to go for pre-induction physical examinations.

Page 44 -- Treatment of Hawaiians.

Apparently the writer did not know that most of the Hawaiian seamen were in Block 27. He also did not seem to know that outside of the seamen, the Hawaiians were not generally known to be guilty of agitation and rowdyism. The whole treatment is too highly colored.

Page 45, paragraph 3, line 2 -- "All the evacuees who originated in the Bay Area and in the San Joaquin Valley...were sent to the Stockton Center..."

I cannot find where any Bay Area persons were sent to the Stockton Assembly Center.

Page 62, paragraph 2 -- Discussion of "permanent visitors."

The term "permanent visitors" is erroneous and misleading. The reference should have been to people who wanted to become permanent visitors.

Pages 77 to 88 -- Personnel-Evacuee

It is believed that the writer generalizes his statements too much. He asserts that the opinions incorporated in this section are the opinions of a majority of the staff. A poll of the staff members would, in my opinion, show the contrary--that the opinions were held by few if any of the staff members other than the Analyst. E.g., this is particularly true of the statements in regard to dual citizenship, unassimilability, the philosophy of harsh treatment. I would also gamble that the majority of evacuees would not support such statements.

It is not true that the intimate personnel-evacuee relationships were limited to members of the Welfare staff. Joint parties along sectional and divisional lines occurred in nearly every section and division. Furthermore, the first Chief of the Community Management Division was not the only one who counted close personal friends among the evacuees. The Project Director, the second Chief of the Community Management Division, the other Assistant Project Directors, and many of the division and section heads counted many close personal friends among the evacuees.

Mr. Myer -- Page 4
Re Analyst's Report

Page 143, paragraph 2 -- "The independent farmers came from the Central and Southern Area, being concentrated on Terminal Island and around Wilmington."

As far as is known here there is no farming land on Terminal Island. The farmers came principally from the Stockton area.

Page 164, paragraph 1 -- "The Relocation Division maintained little communication with the community as a whole during 1942 and 1943..."

Such statement is not correct. In the earlier pages, on the subject of communications, the Analyst even stresses the use of the various types for disseminating relocation information. Every device available at the Center was used by the Relocation Division day by day, and week by week, to keep the residents informed of regulations, procedures, departures, job offers, relocatee reports, and so forth.

Page 164, Paragraph 1 -- Description of work of the Advisory Section of the Relocation Division.

After the Analyst spent so much time in the office of this section, discussing the progress of the work and the methods being used, it is amazing that he could end up with such a description. The true picture may be found in the final report of the Relocation Division.

Page 193, paragraph 2 -- "The Washington announcement that all Centers would be closed within a year after the opening of the West Coast was made known to the evacuees here on January 2, 1945."

We wonder where the Analyst thought the Project Director and everyone else was between December 17, 1944, and January 2, 1945? The announcement was made known to an evacuee committee on the night of December 17, and by them to the Center residents on December 18, 1944. The Outpost carried the announcement on December 19, 1944.

Distorted Opinions

It is necessary to read the full text of the following references in order to fully appreciate the objections noted. The following is taken from a discussion of appointive personnel as a basic community group (Pages 66-68):

Mr. Myer - Page 5
Re Analyst's report

"The personality or cultural types of the staff were as follows: 1. Southerners... 2. Non-Southerners... 3. Practical-minded members of the staff... 4. Indifferent-minded (to evacuee welfare) members of staff... 5. Social-minded members of staff... 6. Missionary-minded members of staff... 7. Visitors from Washington office..."

It is obvious that types 1 and 2 would include all of the staff and that the other types, although given equal prominence in the chapter organization, are variations of individuals within the first two types. No exception is taken to this poor construction, however, but vigorous exception is taken to the statements made about these types.

The statements concerning the first six types can be summarized as saying that part of the non-Southerners — more particularly the Analyst, Welfare workers, Community Activities and part of Relocation — were the only staff members at Rohwer who treated the evacuees in a friendly, open-minded manner. Under Type 1, Southerners, the following statement is made: "All were believed by the non-Southerners, however, to be basically unfriendly or at best indifferent to the evacuees and were constantly watched for signs of race prejudice. The majority of the staff were Southerners of one type or another." Under Type 3, Practical-minded members of staff, he makes the following remarks: "Their attitude toward evacuees varied from tolerant to downright hostile, and they had just as little use for the staff members of Numbers 5 and 6 below."

The impression given of the staff in "Types 1 to 6," (which discussion is set forth as facts and not as the opinion of the Analyst, is highly distorted and even ridiculous. There were a few staff members, of course, out of such a large group, who did not have desirable attitudes or treat the evacuees in the most desirable manner, but I feel very positive that they were a small minority, rather than a large majority as set forth by Mr. Wisdom. With such a staff as he describes, it would have been utterly impossible to maintain morale among the evacuees or to operate a peaceful Center. I am willing for Rohwer Center's record to be compared to those operated without any Southerners and with many more social-minded staff members.

In addition to inferences in the statements about staff members already referred to, that the social-minded staff members were practically the only ones who treated the evacuees decently, the following statement is made, on page 69, under discussion of type-

Mr. Myer - Page 6
Re Analyst's report

Japanese Relocation Papers
Bancroft Library

of-work groups: "The Welfare workers were specially and highly trained, even more so than were the teachers, and so considered themselves better qualified and of sounder judgment than most other staff members in the handling of evacuees and their more complicated problems." On Page 70, in the discussion of Relocation workers, he says: "They were a hodge-podge of types since they had no special and exclusive training for their work..... The Welfare workers considered them, with several exceptions, as untrained, inefficient, and lost in a maze of detail."

No other staff work-groups were indicated by the Analyst to have well-trained or skilled workers. It is not necessary, however, in the cases of people who really know the efficiency of the different sections, to make any defense of the efficiency of other sections as compared to Welfare.

In spite of the fact that social-minded staff members, especially Welfare workers, are set forth as the ones most sympathetic with the plight of the evacuees and the ones best qualified to handle their problems and needs, there were more complaints made to the Project Director by evacuees over the treatment by and relations with the Welfare staff than from any other two sections. I do not feel that this can be laughed off with the statement that it was caused by the nature of their work.

These instances are not cited in an effort to belittle Welfare and other social-minded staff members, but merely to point out why I feel that the opinions of the Analyst, given as facts about our staff, are distorted and untrue.

On Pages 62-68, in the discussion of Staff Type 7, Visitors from the Washington Office, he states: "Visits of Washington staff members were always a little resented at Rohwer" and goes on at some length giving the stereotyped reasons why field workers resent visits from Washington officials. I wish someone would do a little research on this "myth" that is current in all government agencies. Of course there are some visits that are resented-- visitors who do not really know their work and those with personalities that breed friction-- but in my 20 years of government field work I have seen very, very few cases where visits by a regional or Washington office worker, who knew his business and was not obnoxious personally, was resented, especially for the reasons set forth in this report. A field worker who knows his job and who has perhaps made an improvement in operational procedure is proud of it and glad to discuss it with a superior, rather than be afraid about it.

Mr. Myer - Page 7
Re Analyst's report

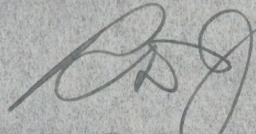
Japanese Relocation Papers
Bancroft Library

Several of the statements made about the unmarried women (staff members) of "dating age", especially in the latter part of paragraph 2 on Page 74 are, in my opinion, misleading and to say the least uncalled for. The character and conduct of these young ladies, as a group, was in my opinion certainly no worse than that of the remainder of the staff, including the Analyst.

The report is too long to attempt to call attention to all statements to which we do not agree, and it is too late, of course, to ask Mr. Wisdom to reconsider the points in question and possibly rewrite it. The specific statements which have been covered in this letter are, of course, a relatively small part of the report. It seems apparent that the report also contains a considerable amount of accurate and possibly valuable information, if the known inaccuracies do not nullify the value of the remainder.

It is especially disappointing to me that I must appraise Mr. Wisdom's report in this manner, because his other work here at the Center has been uniformly reliable and credible.

Sincerely



Ray D. Johnston
Project Director

Reliever Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

February 20, 1946

The Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th. St. N.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. M. M. Tozier, Chief, Reports Division

Dear Mr. Meyer:

We are forwarding to you today by express, three copies of all final reports from this project with the exception of the formal report for the Education Section and the special project report of the Community Analyst. Only two copies of the Education report are being sent since one copy was forwarded to you last summer and three copies of the Analyst's report were mailed to you February 14. A list of all reports that are being expressed is attached.

It is our assumption that the reports from all projects will be reassembled and bound according to subject matter after they reach your office and consequently, we are not binding ours here. The formal reports and the personal narratives are grouped separately but both types are arranged alphabetically by Divisions and Sections.

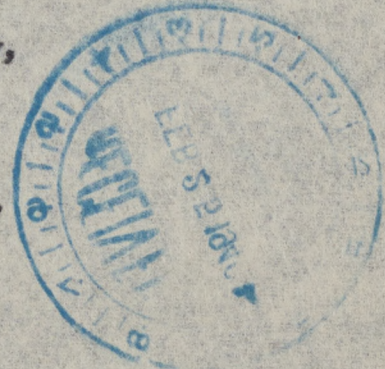
Three copies of the index for the combined personal narratives will be found with them. The indexing was done by Mr. John Trice, former Superintendent of Education, who has been detailed to the Reports Division since his return from the Navy. Mr. Trice also assisted in revising some of the reports after they were submitted to the Reports Officer.

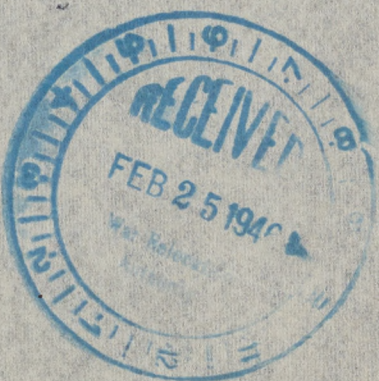
We regret that the lack of stenographic help delayed the completion of these reports but we trust that you will find them satisfactory both as to form and content.

Yours very truly,

Ray D. Johnston
Project Director

AS:mr





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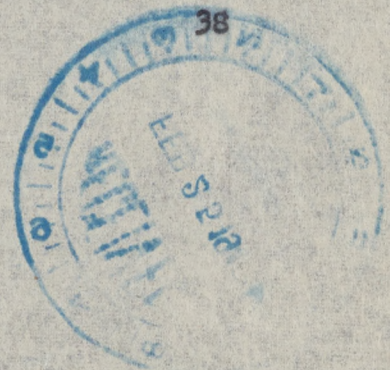
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