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TULE LAKE

Follow-up Case Report - Project Case # A-748

February 12, 1945

Subsequent to the arrival at this center of Mr. Burling, Mr. Rothstein, and their staff from the Justice Department, for the purpose of granting interviews to evacuees of this center who had applied for permission to renounce their U. S. citizenship, the enthusiasm within the colony reached a fever pitch. The momentum created by the rush of short-haired boys to renounce gathered in its wake two of the original instigators of the Hoshi Dan. These two were Ernest Kinzo Wakayama and Zenchiro Tachibana. It will be recalled that Wakayama was formerly head of the Japanese fisherman's union at San Pedro, California, and had a large following of young Japanese men of limited mentality and "water-front" emotions. Wakayama had promised this group that upon Japan's successful termination of the war, that he, Wakayama, would make a demand upon the Tokio government that he be given an island in the south seas upon which island he and his chosen followers would establish a Japanese utopia with himself as emperor pro tem, and he and all his subjects would live the life of Riley for one thousand years--BANZAI!

Tachibana, an alien and former resident of Santa Fe was Wakayama's lieutenant and endorsed the above plans.

After being interviewed by Mr. Burling, Wakayama (much to the satisfaction of the Investigation Unit, for whom both he and Tachibana had been a persistent headache) found, to his evident consternation, that he had VOLUNTARILY renounced his rights as an American citizen, and together with Mr. Tachibana, accompanied the original seventy men to Santa Fe.

The Internal Security Investigation Unit indulged in a few moments of mild rejoicing.

Immediately thereafter a replacement group sprang up with new officers, committee members, etc., of the Seinen Dan and the Hoshi Dan (closely related societies with a more or less common purpose, i.e. - service to Japan and the emperor) and this second group carried on with fervor, bugles, and marching.

Whereupon Mr. Burling caused to be posted in each block mess hall in the colony an open letter to the leaders of the short-haired groups. This letter stated in no uncertain terms his views of the activities of these two societies and had a decidedly salutary effect upon the colony as a whole.

The subsequent removal of about one hundred and seventy men in the second train effectively reduced the "brains" of the two groups and left only the younger element to carry on.

It may here be stated that the two societies mentioned above contain less than 30 percent of the residents of the Tule Lake colony. About 20 percent of the colony are passively in favor of the program set forth by the two societies--resegregation within this colony, Japanese language and culture schools for juveniles--and the remaining 50 percent are either neutral, or

or decidedly cool toward all such ostentatious display as being beneath the dignity of true Japanese. Many of the educated and more thoughtful Japanese of this latter group have indicated to Officer Turnbull and myself their disapproval of the marchings, bugle blowing, etc.

On Sunday, Feb. 11, 1945, six hundred and fifty more renunciation-ists departed this camp in custody of Justice Department officials.

This morning, Monday Feb. 12, 1945, feeble toots from scattered bugles--somewhat off key--were detected in the colony, and a rather pitiful endeavor was made by the remaining radicals to pull together the remnants of the "glorious movement".

At this time the groups are punch drunk and groggy and the reorganization of the "sweat-shirt" group will, I anticipate, be somewhat sketchy.

There is an abortive movement on the part of the female relatives and sweethearts of the late departed to organize a "ladies auxiliary". In view of the lowly status of women in the Japanese scheme of life, and the pressure of family duties since the removal of the male members of many family groups, leaving minor children to be cared for, it does not appear probable at this time that the feminine movement will assume any great importance.

s/

L. G. Pearson, Adm. Police
Invest. Unit.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1945

Mr. R. R. Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Segregation Center
Newell, California

Attention: Internal Security Section

Dear Mr. Best:

A nation wide automobile brake emphasis program has been set for April 15, 1945 to June 1, 1945. The program has the approval of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Committee for Post-War Traffic Safety.

The Internal Security Section of the War Relocation Authority is anxious that said program receive the full cooperation of the Internal Security Sections at the Centers. A suitable work program is now being formulated, and instructions as well as a supply of posters and leaflets will be sent to you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. DeWitt

Joseph H. DeWitt
Internal Security Officer

44584





1945

RECEIVED

TO: DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO
SUBJECT: TULELAKE PROJECT
RE: SACRAMENTO LETTER TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY 10, 1945.
FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE
MATTERS DISCUSSED IN THE SACRAMENTO LETTER REFERENCED ABOVE:
THE SACRAMENTO OFFICE HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE TULELAKE
PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF
RECLAMATION AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF RECLAMATION HAS
AGREED TO FUND THE PROJECT. THE SACRAMENTO OFFICE IS
CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE MATTER AND WILL REPORT TO THE BUREAU
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

RECEIVED
FEB 16 1945
TULELAKE PROJECT
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

RECEIVED
FEB 16 1945
TULELAKE PROJECT
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

TULE LAKE CENTER
NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Department of the Interior
Barr Building
910 17th St., N. W.
Washington, 25, D. C.

FEB-7'45

Attention: Mr. Joseph H. DeWitt
Internal Security Officer

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of February 1 relative to a nation wide automobile brake emphasis program set for April 15 to June 1, 1945.

As you know, we have a very active safety committee at this project, and this matter has been referred to that committee to carry out your wishes.

Mr. C. A. Harper, acting Assistant Chief of Internal Security is a very active member in this committee, and he has been assigned both as a member of Internal Security and a member of the Safety Council to see that all vehicles on the project have adequate brakes.

Sincerely,

JBCook/fr
2-7-45

R. R. Best
Project Director

cc: Subj. ✓
Chron.
Desk
Washington
M. P. Gunderson, Asst. Project Director
C. A. Harper, Actg. Asst. Chief, I.S.
Safety Council

*Personnel
Safety Council*



*Coming up
Internal Security*

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

APR 6 1945

Mr. R. R. Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Segregation Center
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Best:

Following up a letter of February 1 relative to the Nation-Wide Brake Emphasis Program, from April 15 to June 1, we have recently mailed to your Chief of Internal Security a collection of posters and pamphlets furnished us by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for use in the national campaign.

I think, however, that our participation in this program should go much further than a mere inspection of brakes. Brakes are only one of a number of automotive safety appliances which should be inspected and adjusted.

It is suggested, therefore, that the Internal Security Section be instructed to make a detailed inspection during the national campaign period of each motor vehicle in operation at the Center. For this inspection the following outline has been recommended by our Safety Council:

1. Inspect and test brakes.
2. Inspect lights, both head lights and tail lights.
3. Inspect windshield wiper.
4. Inspect left front window to determine whether or not it would open or close so that the operator could give proper signals.
5. Inspect speedometer to see that it is operating.
6. Determine whether or not a fire extinguisher, in acceptable condition, is installed in the truck or car.
7. Determine presence of an acceptable rear view mirror.
8. Determine whether or not an accident report form is available in the car or truck.
9. Determine whether the driver has a driver's license to operate Government vehicles.
10. Inspect the trip ticket which is the driver's authorization to operate the vehicle and see that the time and place of use of the vehicle at the time of inspection is in line with the trip ticket authorization.

B

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- 10. The Board of Directors of the Tule Lake Pine Log Administration shall have the honor to advise the Secretary of the Board of the results of its deliberations on the subject of the proposed amendments to the Charter of the Tule Lake Pine Log Administration.
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Very truly yours,

Secretary of the Board
Tule Lake Pine Log Administration
Tule Lake, California
April 12, 1945

APR 12 1945

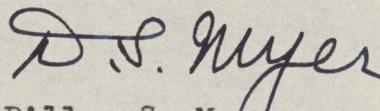
Mr. R. R. Best-2

All ten of these points have to do with safety, either from a mechanical point of view or from the point of view of authorized use in Government business. An inspection of these additional points will not take long nor require any special equipment.

It is suggested that the Chief of Internal Security forward to the Motor Transport and Maintenance Supervisor a report of his inspections indicating the vehicles by number which fail to meet one or more of the requirements. It might be helpful to place some kind of a mark or tag on the vehicle indicating in what respects it does not pass inspection. It is suggested also that the Motor Transport and Maintenance Division be instructed to remedy the deficiencies indicated and then report to the Chief of Internal Security that repairs have been made or why they have not been made, following which the Chief of Internal Security should have the vehicle reinspected and the appropriate changes made as to its deficiencies.

It is realized, of course, that proper upkeep of automotive equipment is seriously affected by labor and materials shortages, but we should do everything possible to insure the highest degree of safety in the operation of our equipment from now out. Where inspection is already being made in a manner that covers the essentials noted, both as to appliances and period of time, these suggestions may be considered inapplicable.

Sincerely,


Dillon S. Myer
Director



APR 12 1945
TULE LAKE PROJECT

[Handwritten signature]

ADMINISTRATIVE

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INTERNAL SECURITY

Personnel

During the quarter there were three additions to and one termination from the appointed staff. Mr. Fenton R. Mahrt formerly of Klamath Falls, Police Department began work on April 1 and Mr. Clifford E. Milhorn, also of the Klamath Falls Police Department began work on April 10. On April 28, George Weldon Brown entered on duty. All three men are employed in the status of Assistant Chief of Internal Security. On May 1, Mr. Wilson W. Suggett changed his status with the project and was assigned elsewhere.

At the present time, this department is operating on a 24-hour day basis. One man is regularly assigned to the hours of 12 midnight to 8:00 a.m., and two men on the evening shift, 3:00 p.m. to 12 midnight. The remainder of the staff are on duty during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All members of the staff share in performing Saturday afternoon and Sunday duty.

At the present time Mr. Cole is supervising the divisional records, Mr. Borbeck is working with the Investigation Unit and Mr. Mahrt is in charge of the Traffic Detail. All members of the staff, however, are on call for other duties as well as these special functional assignments. The evacuee staff on April 1 consisted of 139 persons. During the quarter 26 men were terminated and 24 added, leaving a total of 137 men now in the organization. During this period two field supervisors and one special supervisor left the organization to relocate. In an effort to hold down the number in the organization, no replacements of these men have been made.

Facilities

No changes have been made in the physical facilities of this division apart from the improvement of the office setup of the Administration Building. It has been recommended by Mr. Willard E. Schmidt, National Chief of Internal Security that more space be secured primarily for use in the training program. Discussions are underway with the Community Activities section to see what can be done along this line.

One additional car has been made available for use by this department and is being used primarily for traffic control. One additional car is still definitely required for daytime duty. It is hoped that it will be possible to secure passengers cars or panel trucks for night patrol, equipped with spot lights.

Offenses

As in previous reports, offenses committed in the project are classified in conformity with that established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Number of cases and disposition of offenders during months
April 1 thru June 30, 1943

ARRESTS	NO. CASES	ACQUITTAL	CLOSED		PEND.	PROCESS	T
			CONVICTED	OTHERS			
Grand Theft	1	--	--	--	1	--	1
Petty Theft	12	--	1	8	3	--	12
Gambling	1	6	9	--	--	--	15
Aggravated Assaults	1	--	1	--	--	--	1
All Others	5	5	--	4	--	--	9
Malicious Mischief	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Suspicion (Petty Annoyance)	7	--	--	7	--	--	7
Disturbing Peace	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Burglary	4	--	--	3	1	--	4
Stolen Property	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fraud	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mental Case	2	--	1	1	--	--	2
Traffic	31	--	28	3	--	--	31
Out of Bounds	16	--	15	--	1	--	16
Miscellaneous	2	--	--	1	1	--	2
Total	82	11	55	27	7	--	100

During the quarter a new system of reporting offenses was instituted by the Washington Office and is now in effect.

Contraband

During May, acting under orders from the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, articles seized as contraband and held by this division were returned to the Military Police. A short time later a change was made in the method of handling incoming radios. During April, an agreement had been worked out with Sears Roebuck & Company, whereby all radios giving evidence of having shortwave facilities were sent to Klamath Falls for inspection and for alteration. At the request of the Commanding Officer of the Military Police Company, this was discontinued and all radios at the present time that give evidence of having shortwave facilities are being retained by the Military Police and are being sent to San Francisco.

Probation

At the beginning of the quarter, there were three juveniles and four adults receiving probationary supervision. During the quarter six juveniles and eleven adults were placed on probation by the County Court and the Project Director. During this same period four juveniles and eight adults completed their probation, leaving at the end of the quarter five juveniles and seven adults under probationary supervision.

Parole

One hundred and six persons received from the several internment camps since the beginning of the project, five of these arriving in the last quarter. With the death of three persons, one during the past quarter, and the departure of three others to another relocation center, and nine released for outside employment, six of whom left in the past quarter, this leaves 90 on the project, 82 of whom are parolees and eight are releasees.

Repatriation

On April 1st, there were 516 persons who had filed application for repatriation, 25 of whom subsequently have requested cancellation. During the quarter 44 additional persons had requested repatriation and 65 persons requested cancellation of their previous application -- a grand total of 560 persons who had filed applications, of whom 90 have requested cancellation. This represents a decisive reduction in the number of persons having effective applications on file from 491 to 470.