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CITY MANAGEMENT  
VIA TOSH TOGIOKA, CHIEF  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

April 19, 1943

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The Fire Department of Unit III was organized on the sixth of August, 1942 by Mr. Tom Nishimoto of the Fire Department of Camp I. The local department began with eight or nine men on the first platoon to be formed and in a few weeks there were two platoons. With the Santa Anita group coming in another platoon was added in the latter part of the month.

The Department is composed of a Chief, Assistant Chief, and three platoons. Each platoon is composed of a Captain, Engineer, Assistant Engineer, and seven Firemen. Platoon "A" has been composed of fellows from Roku I, specifically from Block 306; Platoon "B", Roku II, block 316; Platoon "C", Roku III, Block 328 and 329.

Today most of the fellows are veterans of eight months of training, only few have been added recently replacing those who left the department to volunteer to the army or to work in the camouflage. Fortunately the Local Department has not suffered any serious manpower shortage to date. The firemen had received their training from Mr. Karret and Mr. Han who have been transferred to Manzanar Relocation Center, but during the winter their training had been lax.

Five Fire Inspectors have been directly under the Department but they have recently resigned due to the fact that they were unable to receive any cooperation from the residents in preventing any fire hazards. They have attempted to enforce the regulations established by the Department but the residents always gave the excuse that since other Blocks and Units are not following the regulations so why should they. A good example is the block ramadas which is regulated to thirty feet by forty feet, but most of the local residents have larger ramadas claiming that if people in Unit I can build large shades they can too.

As far as history of the Department is concerned there has been no events occurring to be recorded, which is very fortunate for Unit III.



32. Fire Department  
Block Studies, 53. T.S. .  
Journal.

CR. 162

April 17, 1943

Mess hall fire at Block 44.

I was sitting in my barrack, 13-D, around 10:00 O'clock, this being the approximate time since Myrt was giving the kid her ten o'clock feeding, which by our clock was 10:30. Our clock is advanced an half an hour. I heard a girl's voice yell, "Fire!", so immediately, I ran outside and followed the crowd. I could see red flames over the barracks 12, 11, but could not determine where it was until I reached the firebreak between 44 and 53. When I arrived, the mess hall had already burned half way, with the flames creeping swiftly over the tar paper to the west end of the mess hall. About that time, the fire engine came, with its siren blowing. I noticed that there were only 7, or 8 men on the fire truck. They parked the engine near the fire plug in Block 44, and began dragging the hose out. Many nissei boys, and isseis ran to the truck to help. This was one mad confusion, with no organization or cool-headedness. The hose was attached to the plug, and the water pump in the truck was turned on. It began to whine loudly, and then all of a sudden, there was a loud crashing noise. I thought it was part of the stove crashing, or exploding, but did not see any flash of light. The chimney came crashing down. It was red hot, and Kiyo Sakemi and Geo. Taniguchi standing next to me said simultaneously, "Man, that thing is red hot." In the meantime, no water came out of the hose, and the volunteer firemen rushed with the hose towards the west end of the mess hall on the road. They were in such a hurry that they dragged the hose without it being attached to the following hose. Then the group began dragging the hose towards the 53 fire plug; they got over the little ditch, when another group that was starting out towards Block 43 hailed them back. The mess hall was entirely in flames by this time, the people living in barracks 1, 3, 2 and the residents of 44 were all taking their belongings out of their apartments, and spraying water on their barracks to keep the kindling temperature away from their barracks. There was a slight gust of wind, which might have caused the flames to leap over to the "Little Theatre" barrack; or it might have been caused by the intense heat of the flames. The water failed to come out of the plug in 44, and because of this, the water pump on the fire truck burned out. This caused the water from the fire hose to barely dribble out. The fire-fighters were attempting to extinguish the flames from barrack 14, but gave up, when it got out of hand, and concentrated on keeping barrack 13 wet enough to keep the building cool. There was steam coming off of the roof and side of those buildings that were wet.



T.S.

4-17-43

Reaction of the crowd.

"When the fire was well on its way, there were gathered around the blazing pyre about 5000 or more people. I was standing on the south side, across the little ditch with the quad 9 group. People around me were saying, "It's a good thing there is no wind blowing tonite." "You can feel the heat way back here," "I'll guess they will have to get some firemen by giving them more pay, as well as getting a couple of more fire trucks."

As the barrack 14 caught on fire, the crowd surged towards block 43. Shigekawa was running back and forth shouting to the people to get back. As the flames got more intense, the people moved back, but as the flames began to subside the crowd got bolder and surged forward again. One fellow said, "The guys aren't chicken when the fire begins to die down."

"When the camp II fire truck came, and began to use their water pump, the water came out in a terrific ~~force~~ stream. Their arrival did not make the Camp I firemen feel any too good, and one fireman kept saying, "These f----- firemen from Camp II don't know how to fight the fire." Issies and Nisels both were saying over and over again, "Where are the firemen from Camp I", apparently not aware of the shortage of manpower in that department."

In the heat of the fire, there was a particular group of people, residents of Block 43 were calmly drinking soda pop, which seemed to have riled one girl. She muttered to her companion, "How can these people drink the pop, when such a thing is going on, they sure have the crust." This particular group were young Nisels in their early twenties.

A young man of about 20 said to me, "I'm going to build a little adobe hut out in the mesquite where I can take my clothes and valuables. If the barracks ever burn down, we won't have anything but our clothes left. These firetraps won't last long if they ever catch on fire. They would burn down before anyone had a chance to salvage anything."

As to the fire plug not yielding water, and the water pump not working, there were many theories. Whether these are facts or not, I do not know, but here are some of the things overheard. "The valve that lets the water into the plug was shut off. They forgot to turn it on when they put the plug in." I went to the valve, and found the lid on the ground about 2 feet away. Another theory was that the water pump on the truck was going wide open, and burned itself out while waiting for the water to be drawn up into the hydrant. Tom Kano, a mechanic felt this, "The pump should have been worked up gradually to give the water time



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to come up into the plug. When it come up, then the pump should get opened up. This way, it got overheated, and then burned itself up."



32 - FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Monday

August 17, 1942  
Hiroshi Togioka  
Chief

FIRE REPORT

Date - 8/17/42  
Camp No. - Between #2 and #3 on S curve.  
Reported by - Still alarm  
Type of Fire - Brush  
Time of Fire - 2:40 p.m.  
Time truck ret'd - 6:00 p.m.  
Miles run - 7  
Extinguishers used - Total - 22 pump type

Thomas Nishimoto  
IN CHARGE



32-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Sunday

August 23, 1942  
Mits Kayashima  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date- August 23, 1942

Camp No. - 3

Block No. - 307-14-B

Street No. - A St.

Reported by - Albert Kaniye

Type of Fire - Inside of house - children playing with matches.

Time of Fire - 3:05 p.m.

Extinguishers used - 1 pump type

Damage - Scorched wall and burnt table cloth



32-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Thursday

September 24, 1942  
James Nakayama  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - September 24, 1942  
Camp No. - 3  
Block No. - Brush fire - North of Block 305  
Reported by - Fireman  
Type of Fire - Brush  
Time of Fire - 2:55 p.m.  
Time truck ret'd 0 5:15 p.m.  
Miles run - one  
Equipments used - 16 shovels  
6 axes  
5 water bags



52-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Tuesday

September 29, 1942  
Dave Arata  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - September 28, 1942  
Camp No. - 3  
Block No. - 329  
Street No. - B street  
Reported by - Tami Takehara- following day - Sept. 29  
Type of Fire - Kitchen stove - Overcharge of fuel  
Time of Fire - 4:30 p.m.  
Extinguishers used - One (1) foamite  
Extinguished by - Kitchen workers



52-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Thursday

October 1, 1942  
Mits Kayashima  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - October 1, 1942  
Camp No. - 3  
Block No. - 309  
Street No. - O Street  
Reported by - Sam Uyeno  
Type of Fire- Roof caught fire- caused by soot sparks  
Time of Fire - 11:18 a.m.  
Time truck ret'd @ 11:40 a.m.  
Miles run - 2.8  
Time pumped - none  
Extinguishers used - one pump type



32-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Friday

October 16, 1942  
Bank Maruyama  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - October 16, 1942  
Camp No. - 3  
Block No. - 326-14-G  
Street No. F S street  
Reported by - Don Iwahashi  
Type of Fire - Cigarette  
Time of Fire - 10:25 p.m.  
Time truck returned - 10:55 p.m.  
Miles run - 9/10 mile  
Extinguished by - Neighbors  
Equipment used - Bucket of water  
Cause - Cigarette  
REMARKS:

Fire caught on the mattress and went through the cot.



32-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Wednesday

October 21, 1942  
Jim Watanabe  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - October 22, 1942  
Camp No. - 3  
Block No. - 309  
Street No. - Second St.  
Reported by - Watanabe - Captain  
Type of Fire - Rubbish between barracks  
Time of Fire - 8:00 a.m.  
Time truck ret'd - 8:25 a.m.  
Miles run -  $1\frac{1}{2}$   
Time pumped - 2 min.  
Hose Laid - reel  
Tank used - yes  
Ex tinguishers used - none



32-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Tuesday

October 27, 1942  
Jim Watanabe  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - October 27, 1942  
Camp No. - 3  
Block No. 3 25  
Reported by - sighted fire  
Type of Fire - brush  
Time of Fire - 9:20 p.m.  
Time truck ret'd - 9:45 p.m.  
Miles run -  $1\frac{1}{2}$   
Time pumped - 2 min.  
Hose Laid  $1\frac{1}{2}$  - 200' and tank  
Tank used - yes  
Extinguishers - none



32 -FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Monday

November 9, 1942  
Frank Maruyama  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - November 9, 1942  
Time - 8:10 p.m.  
Time Ret'd - 8:35 p.m.  
Location - south of Block 325, about 200 feet in.  
Building used as -  
Cause - bon fire  
Damage - none  
How Extinguished - Reel and 2 extinguishers  
Miles run - 1  
Time pumped - 8 min.  
Hose Laid - 1" - 150'  
Companies worked - Company B  
Officer In Charge - Capt. Frank Maruyama



32-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Tuesday

November 10, 1942  
Osamu Takeda  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - November 10, 1942  
Time out - 1:05 p.m.  
Location - West of Block 308  
Cause - Brush  
Miles Run - 2  
Companies worked - Company C  
Officer In Charge - Capt. Osamu Takeda



14-32-FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES - FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Wednesday

November 11, 1942  
Lewis Yamamoto  
Acting Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - November 11, 1942  
Time Out - 8:05 p.m.  
Time Ret'd - 8:15 p.m.  
Location - Near 322 Mess Hall  
Cause - Burning Rubbish  
Miles Run - 1  
Companies Worked - Company A  
Officer In Charge - Acting Capt. Lewis Yamamoto  
Estimated Damage - none



32 - FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILES \* FIRE DEPT. #3  
FIRE REPORT

Friday

November 13, 1942  
Osamu Takeda  
Captain

FIRE REPORT

Date - November 13, 1942  
Time - 7:45 p.m.  
Time Ret'd - 8:00 p.m.  
Cause - Bon fire  
Locatbn - South of Block 325  
How Extinguished - truck tank  
Miles Run - 1.2  
Time Pumped - 2 min.  
Hose Laid - 1½" - 200 Ft.  
Companies worked - Company C  
Officer In Charge - Capt. Osamu Takeda



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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department was started on May 16, 1942. A group of about ten men were called together in Recreation Hall #6 by temporary appointed fire chief, Tom Nishimoto, who introduced Fire Marshall, William Hoffman, to us. Hoffman explained to us the primary point in the running of the Fire Department.

On May 19 the Fire Department moved to the new location at Block 21-B, where <sup>we</sup> began our regular routine. For the first few weeks we were busy installing extinguishers on each individual barracks. Meanwhile a group of 6 or 7 firemen on a two-day shift kept watch on the newly populated town. On account of the weather being so hot and barracks being built of flimsy material, we were very careful to see that absolutely no fires were built in any part of the town. Even little bon-fires in the firebreaks were extinguished immediately. The reason for this was that our regular fire apparatus had not yet arrived at that time, and we are supplied only with CCC trucks into which we loaded up about 40 extinguishers (pump type) and about 150 feet of three-fourth inch rubber hose. Fortunately our fire runs were only to small cases such as rubbish fires, etc.

On June 17 a fire was reported about one mile east of town. Arriving at the scene of the fire we found that it was an Alis Chalmer tractor on fire. We had few equipments on the truck with which we were able to extinguish the flame after some real hard work. Due to bad conditions of the road, we were unable to reach the fire quick enough to save the tractor from any damage. The approximate damage of the fire was about \$500. With the sort of equipment we had, we would not have been able to combat any sort of barrack fire no matter



how good we were. During the first few weeks we made a few rounds extinguishing rubbish fires, but gradually through the cooperation of the community we were able to control the fire hazards.

About the latter part of June we moved into our permanent station located in the firebreak between Block<sup>30</sup> and 31. The next few weeks we were busy engaged in furnishing the interior of the station with benches, tables, etc. A few days after settling in the new station, Mr. Bauman, our first assistant fire protection officer, arrived to take over the department. At first we were more or less depending upon our own common sense in running the department, but after Mr. Bauman's arrival we began to settle down and began to learn the real art of the duties of a fireman.

On July 4 the first trees in Poston were planted in the backyard of the Fire Station. It was called "Pioneer Grove". The section around the grove was later improved by constructing a park.

On July 6 our first fire apparatus arrived fully equipped. With it arrived two new associate fire protection officers, who thought us the primary things in the operations of the truck. In the hot July sun we practiced daily the operation of the pump, pulling out the hose and many other things.

On July 14 Mr. Bauman left Poston for another relocation center. To replace him, on July 24 Mr. Hon arrived to resume his duties as an assistant.

On July 28 we had our first real experience in combating a fire with our apparatus at Warehouse #16, where some boxes stacked up in the corner of the building through an unknown source, caught on fire and barely missed catching on to the warehouse itself.



On August 3 Mr. Hilyard was transferred to another relocation center.

About the 6th of August we received a 30 ft. tower which was to be used as a temporary alarm system. Due to priority we were unable to have a regular fire system or a telephone system installed, so we had to be content with a tower watch. Although the boys hated very much to take their turns on the tower, they did their duty by taking their turns of one hour a piece keeping watch throughout the day and night.

On August 14 Mr. Hon left for Manzanar Relocation Center, and in his place Mr. Woodhouse came to take over.

On August 21 Mr. Carette left and Mr. Fien came from Los Angeles to take on his new duty as fire protection officer. These frequent changes of fire protection officers could be easily understood. The weather in this camp is so blazingly hot that these officers did not care to stay in this place, so they asked the head office to have them transferred to another location. All through this time the most dangerous fire hazard was probably in the mess halls where the stoves were installed. Gradually the floors and the chimney outlets of practically all the kitchens were getting scorched.

On August 31 Mr. Fien and Mr. Woodhouse went to see Mr. Best, the head steward of the camp, to see if all the stoves in the mess halls could be reinstalled. The suggestions to Mr. Best were thus: The stoves should be raised at least a couple inches more, and hot water pipes running into the kitchens should be insulated with efficient material. It was either due to the lack of equipment or the inefficiency of the Maintenance Department, but the suggestions of the fire protection officer were ignored. Due to this many fires began



to break out in the mess halls. For instance, on September 17 the floor of the stove in Block 30 kitchen caught on fire and we were called to make a run. Another case was on September 3 when the roof of Block 2 kitchen caught on fire. Mr. Fien, Mr. Woodhouse, Mr. Gelvin, and Mr. Evans went to inspect the kitchen and they found the chimney outlet was built too small, and so they immediately advised the Maintenance Department to enlarge all the outlets in every kitchen.

About the first part of September, we began to distribute 50 gallon barrels throughout the camp. Each block received two barrels and it was more or less left up to the block manager as to where they should be placed, but they were advised to put one barrel between the laundry room and the ironing room and the other barrel on the outer end of the men's latrine. To each barrel was attached a fire bucket, and the people were instructed that the water and the bucket was to be used only in case of fire. The reason for this extra equipment was due to the water system which we had. Every now and then the electrical power would be cut off and we would be left without any water. If, in case of fire, at this time we wouldn't be able to extinguish the fire when it is still small and may cause great disaster. There has been a few cases of fire due to carelessness of the people. For instance, on September 27 in Block 34-D a person was sleeping on a bed smoking a cigarette and the mattress, which, of course, was filled with hay, caught on fire. Although it was extinguished without causing any serious damage the people in that barrack were pretty well excited.

On November 17, when the whole community went on a strike, the Fire Department remained on duty because it was their duty to protect



the community--strike or no strike.

On December 8, due to misunderstanding between the firemen and the chief, the department was split into two sections. One, the Fire Department itself and the other the Fire Prevention Bureau. January 9 difficulties were smoothed out and the departments came together again under a new head and a whole new system. After the resignation of the head and his assistant, the new chief was appointed by the associate fire protection officer, Mr. Fien. Min Ito, the new fire chief, resumed his duties and began the reconstruction of the department. Many things had to be done because during the community work strike, things in the department were also in a slack and things were in a mess. First, our tower was improved by having the floor inclosed with windows added on to each side. This made the tower watch more comfortable for the firemen, who were previously complaining about the cold weather. Next, one section of the Fire Station was partitioned and converted into a bedroom. This change made the firemen's sleeping quarters little bit spacious and comfortable, but even today there should be more improvements made in the sleeping quarters. The chief has been trying very hard to improve the conditions but so far his requests have not been fulfilled. The conditions of the bed are very unsanitary. The blankets that are presently being used have not been washed since May, 1942. Also, we have requested for bed sheets but the Procurement Department doesn't seem to realize that it is necessary. If I were to make a suggestion, I'd say that the Family Welfare Department ought to come down and inspect the conditions in the sleeping quarters. Anybody that had attempt to sleep in these bed for one night would realize that things aren't really the way it should be.



On February 15, 1943 we had our first big fire. The tower watch sighted a flame through the roof of the Block 36 Mess Hall and they immediately sped to the scene of the fire. Due to the crude fire alarm system we were unable to defeat the fire sooner than we did, and the fire got pretty well started. But after reaching the scene of the fire, with the fast work of the fire crew, the mess hall fire was extinguished without causing any mishap to the adjoining barrack. Fighting our first big fire was very exciting, and making a good showing on our efficiency made us feel very happy, but the important thing was and is that the people have been awakened to the realization that a fire in Poston is not impossible. After this accident, people have changed their attitude by being more cautious to simple fire hazards.

At the present time the Fire Department is facing a serious condition in the manpower shortage. The firemen attracted by the prospect of making more money left the department to go to work in the camouflage and the outside employment. Also there were a few young enthusiastic men who joined the army. The regular staff requires a total of 40 members but today we have only about 15 men in the whole department. We have requested to the Manpower Commission to see if more firemen could be enlisted. It seems as though the lack of firemen doesn't seem to make either the Commission or the people realize the serious situation. We hope that something will be done in the very near future to remedy this.

The Fire Department has had a very active sports and social calendar for the past year. In the sports division, we entered the soft ball team City A League Division, and we were good enough to win the championship. During basketball season we also entered into



the A League Division but due to the competition we had we were lucky enough to end up in the league standard. The various social affairs, one being the annual Firemen's Ball and a few others being benefits, holiday affairs--such as Christmas and New Years were held in the Fire Station. The Poston County Fair Coronation Ball, and the army volunteer farewell party were also held in the Fire Station. These dances were held in the Fire Station because it was the only appropriate location in camp.

Camps II and III Fire Departments were established through the aid of the Camp I Fire Department. A few of us shortly experienced men were assigned to remain in each of those station for about a week, and during this time new permanent recruits were signed up and trained to take over the department.



May 20, 1943

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(The firemen were lying on the cots as Mr. Evans, the Fire Protection Officer of Unit III, was cutting lumber for the shelves, as I entered.)

The Fire Protection Officers of the three camps are responsible to Mr. Fien, who in turn is responsible to the Project Director alone; and no one else has anything to say to the Department. When I came into camp there were some that tried to tell me what to do and I let them know then and there that I was going to run the Department and no one is going to tell me what to do. The first thing I did was to get acquainted with the important groups that I would have to work with, the Council, the Block Managers and others. Before going to them I have always prepared the answers to the questions that they probably would ask so that I could give the exact and definite answers and no say 'I guess', 'I don't know', 'I'll have to find out'; I don't like that.

Since I came in here I did two things towards preventing fire hazards. First I had the stoves raised in the kitchens as fire has been caused before due to the floor under the stove having got hot and burned; now there is free passage of air under the stove and lesser possibility of fire hazard. I also had the floors under the kitchen reinforced and the chimneys straightened out. This has prevented the fire hazard about fifty per cent. There are many other problems and improvements that could be made but it cannot be done within a few days.

In a few weeks the new ordinance and regulations will go into effect and so at present we aren't doing very much, but to keep up with the drill. But, there will be lot of work after the ordinances go into effect; it will probably take about six to make the center safe as much as possible from any fire hazards. There will be lot of hard work ahead.

To date Camp I has played much favoritism and will be hard to break it



May 20, 1943 (2)

but as soon as this new regulations and ordinances go into effect, all will be uniform throughout the entire three units. There will be positively no excuses accepted and no favoritism shown. If they should defy orders put up, they will be given the third degree. (He used his finger to illustrate this point.) There will be no more quivering as will stand for none of that. We mean business.

I had noticed that Unit III has always been the guinea pig of different matters for the other two camps and that would have to be regulated. The local Fire Department has been the tool used to try out whatever they want to. I argued that Unit III shall not be used as the guinea pig of the two camps and that as Unit I is the center of all departments, the trials should be made there before enforcing it in the three units. At present the Unit I department is trying out the new ordinances and regulations and ironing all the rough spots. Probably it will be about a week before they go into effect. Probably it will be about a week before they go into effect, or maybe more. At present we are taking it easy until the new rulings are made. Recently a Fire Prevention Bureau has been established for the project with an Evacuee as the chief. All the Fire Inspectors are to come under him, and he will have direct supervision over them. This Bureau is to educate the people on the fire hazards and make inspections.

(I asked about the voluntary block fire brigades). I believe that it is a very good idea, but it could not combat a fire as well as the trained men. The best thing they could do is to act as guards and make way clear for the firemen and to hold off the excited crowd. That is all we ask since we cannot have some of our firemen watching the crowd when there is a need of trained persons fighting the fire; it gives some of the workers the relief. Otherwise these brigades are useless. They should be told to obey the fire-



May 20, 1943 (3)

men, giving them the full authority at the time of the fire, so that they may work efficiently. In the case of fire all the people, including the different department heads, and department staffs, the Police are also to take orders from us.

(I inquired about the Fire Alarms). There are supposed to be special alarm set in practically each block as soon as they come in. These would be directly connected with the Fire Department and would not be used for anything else; but it is hard to tell when they will come.

We have to deal directly with the Project Head when we want anything done; otherwise we do not get anyplace and also we are not under any department or individual. (One of the boys added that the Administrator promises to do something about this and that or say that they have referred it to someone but nothing materializes.) One day when I was in Unit II the chief there was asking the secretary to request Mr. Crawford for another man. I asked why he was asking Mr. Crawford for men and he said that he had asked him to put in a request through him. If Crawford were to say that in my face, were to say that in my face, the Pussy Foot wouldn't have gotten away with that this time; I would have cornered him in his room where he wouldn't be able to escape me. They aren't going to tell me where to head off. (He said this with apparent contempt towards those who try to say how they should function.) As I don't expect to tell others how their departments should be run, I do not expect anyone to tell me how I should run my department. Cooperation or no cooperation, we're going to carry out whatever regulation that is necessary to keep the fire hazard at a minimum.

In Camp I the fire truck cannot go into the block due to the ditches within the block, but fortunately in Unit III the truck could be driven right into the block, and is very convenient in case of fire. In case of fire we are going to drive the fire truck into the gardens when we have to.



May 20, 1943 (4)

At the present we are not doing anything except the routine drills, but there will be lots of work to be done when the new ordinances go into effect in the near future.



32 Fire Department  
Conversation with former Chief of Fire Department by AHL  
Fire department and selective service  
C.R. Selective service

5/20/43

The taxi that took me to Camp II this afternoon was driven by a lively little man in his late 20's who wore a cap of the military, overseas type, glasses and a mustache. He said he was the former fire-chief of Camp 1 and had started all three unit fire departments. He was a very talkative and friendly fellow. He said he had had no experience in fire work before Poston, but had been in business before and so knew about organization and was able to pick it up quickly. He said he had volunteered, quit his job, then waited for months to be called. Has not been called yet so he took to taxi driving. He seemed to feel the fire department was in a bad way now, so many of the good people had gone and the fire at camp 1 was a sample of how things had been let run down.

180 He said the volunteers who were recently inducted had come back to camp on a brief furlough brought very good reports of the way they had been treated. Officers and men went out of their way to make them feel they were wanted in the army. They were given a ticket to any point in the United States in which they wished to spend their furlough and then one from there to the camp where their training starts. Most of them went to California but are stopping in Poston for a few days on their way to camp.



32 Fire Department  
Observation by AHL  
Fire at Block 44

4/17/43

C.R. Police Department-36  
Community government-110

A few minutes before 9:00 last night, I heard sirens dimly. Then I heard voices outside my room say "fire" and Dr. Pressman's little girl began to cry. I went out to look and saw a column of smoke against the stars illuminated from below by a fierce, pillary blaze arising from the mess hall in Block 44. The whole thing was burning. Within a few minutes, the building next to it was going up too. I walked to the fire with about the ugliest sensations in my stomach I have ever had. I felt pretty sure the people must be out of the next barracks, yet they might not - may be an old lady... and what if their property and what if the whole block went or the quad. There was very little wind and what there was came from the south. As I got near, I heard a fire engine coming from Camp II. People lined the canal bank and formed a huge semi-circle in the firebreak south of Block 43. They stood three or four hundred yards from the fire, driven back by the heat. The mess hall was burning to its foundation. One pipe, evidently oil, was sprouting flames. The fire was moving away from the oil tank. Fire engines, cars and ambulances stood about. I circled west of the fire and thence north and east. People were playing water with the garden hoses and throwing buckets on adjacent buildings. John Evans, and W. Head were north of the fire watching. Somebody had cut all the wires leading to the burning buildings and to the laundry room and latrine that were threatened. This was to save short circuits which would plunge the camp in darkness and cut off the electric pumps that push from well to tank. At the time



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I got there, the water from the fire hose from Camp II engine came into play and soon the fire was under control, but not before it had burned both buildings to the ground.

W. Head appeared calm, had little to say and kept moving from one place to another.

John Evans was wet through and covered with mud. A hose must have got him as I heard him telling others that they should keep back as the firemen would just as soon squirt them as not. He said a number of times it was a good thing there was no wind.

Ralph Gelvin, like W. Head had little to say, but later commented on the dire effect of a wind which would have got the whole quad. Also said he was warned about a short circuit blowing the central fuse and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour delay involved in replacing it.

He and John Evans and Len Nelson told me that the Camp I fire pump had broken down and that they got no pressure on the fire until Camp II arrived. I heard later from Mr. Popkins that this was because there was a new man on the engine and he let it get up too much pressure before he let the water in and the thing just broke then and there. I heard a man tell John Evans and W. Head that it was because the valve leading to the block - under the ground - was stopped up. I saw that Camp II engine was drawing its water from Block 37.

The firemen appeared very efficient. They went right in with the hose and got the fire down. Then they followed with axes. Schulz was the man who cut the wires, W. Head said. When I first arrived, there was one man covered in sack cloth squirting water on the side of the nearest barrack with a garden hose. He must have been warmly boiled.



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Various people in the crowd and also the administration said there was no one in the barrack next to the mess hall. It was the drama department. Nobody was hurt. I saw that the barracks next the fire had been stripped clean of all possessions, leaving just an occasional artificial rose lying on the floor. Much of this stuff was piled up on beds out in the firebreak. I was told by Jim Yahiro and some other evacuees that every barrack in the block and most of these in Block 43 had been emptied.

36 Most of the Niseis in the crowd were standing about quietly watching. I heard very few comments except that it was a good thing there had been no wind and how fortunate nobody was hurt. Some excited remarks about the size of the fire. Most of the Isseis seemed to be watching and saying nothing. There were a lot of young men running around and shouting in Japanese who I suppose were kibeis. They may have been firemen. J. Evans told me both fire and police and all the firemen who had quit were there helping. I saw the Chief of Police going about, pouring sweat, a cigar in his mouth and his shirt open down in the front to his belt. There was some worry about the oil tank and whether it would explode if water were played on it to protect it. J. E. thought it would. No water was put on it.

J. Evans and W. Head were told by a middleaged man that he was the first to see the smoke pouring out of the kitchen. It was locked and empty. He gave the alarm. They might have saved the mess hall and certainly the drama building if the fire engine hadn't broken down.

Roy Furuta and Len Nelson went in search of Joe Petta to arrange to distribute extra food to kitchens of blocks 43, 38 and 37. I heard



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later that they were all set to do this the first thing in the morning so food would be ready by breakfast. J. Evans was told by a knot of block managers that they would divide the population up between the three kitchens. They were calling a meeting that night in Block 37 mess hall.

110

I went over there a little after 10:00 and saw Jim Yahiro, Matsubara and a lot of middle-aged and older men sitting about talking. Also two girl secretaries taking notes. Jim told me these were the councils from the blocks to discuss redistribution of the population. J. Evans said to me that this showed that the city government would have to do something about keeping the fire company in better shape and better manned. He supposed they would send a man from each block after this. Jim talked about the danger the stoves are in in all the kitchens. He showed me the stove in his kitchen (37) where there is a crook in the chimney where soot accumulates, and is fanned to a glow after place is shut up by the draft so that the ~~flame~~ gets red hot. He thinks all these crooks should be taken out of the chimney. Then the roof should be fireproof for a region around the chimney. He showed me how the stove sits on a metal sheet which is laid on the wooden floor. He said they have to watch it from below all the time and re-enforce it because the wood of the floor under the metal sheet gets charred. He thinks that all the stoves should sit on concrete.

All the talk was going on in Japanese, so I left after ten minutes.

It seems to me that the administration should follow this up quickly with an inspection of stoves and make some real plans to correct what fire hazard exists, because,



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- 1.) Fire danger as demonstrated two times now by kitchens going up. We have been lucky so far because of no wind, but that luck won't last.
- 2.) Attitude of the community. If the administration can be neither seen nor heard to do anything as a result of this, a great deal of resentment will arise.

Administration should:

a.) announce something within three days. Followed soon by action.

b.) Should hold the community responsible for improving the Fire Department.

*(These suggestions were made to W. Head the following morning.)*



ALARM OPERATOR DUTIES

1. Alarm Operator shall be held responsible for the proper interpretation of all messages and alarms of fire and for the prompt despatch of companies in response to telephone alarm.
2. The Alarm Operator of the Fire Stations #2 and #3 shall upon receiving a fire alarm notify #1.
3. They shall not hold any unnecessary conversation over the telephone nor permit the use of the same for other than department business.
4. The Alarm Operator at Fire Station #1 shall without delay notify supervisor and chiefs of all alarms of fire.
5. They shall not ~~despatch~~ companies to alarms of fire outside of their respective areas without permission of Chief Supervisor or the Acting Chief Supervisor.
6. They shall perform such other duties as the Fire Chief may direct or maybe required of them by the rules and regulations of the Department.
7. Alarm Operator at Camp #2 and #3 must check with and receive permission from Camp #1 Operator before releasing the Fire trucks at the respective stations to go off duty to drill or change hose.
8. Camp #1 Alarm Operator will be held responsible to see that no two fire trucks are off duty at the same time. Fire calls will be exceptions.
9. Officer in charge must check with their Alarm Operator at all times before putting their fire trucks off duty.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Platoons relieve each other at 8:00 A.M.
2. Captain's duties
  - a. Keep daily journal.
  - b. Read bulletins to his men.
  - c. See that all equipments are clean.
  - d. Assign floor watch for his platoon.
  - e. Make details of men in his platoon.
3. Floor watch's duties
  - a. Keep order in the Fire Department.
  - b. Receive visitors.
  - c. Report all inquiries to the captain or senior officer in charge.
4. Anyone may go to bed from 8:00 P.M. Every man must be in bed by 11:00 P.M.
5. Visitors
  - a. No child allowed unless accompanied by parents.
  - b. Any visitor must see the floor watch and state business and with whom.
6. Nobody including the firemen allowed in the office except Fire Department officers on business.
7. Nobody allowed on beds at any time.
8. Each man on duty must report in some way the reason for his absence before he takes his day off. Illness must be reported to Fire Chief or the Assistant Chief as soon as possible.
9. Before returning to duty after illness each fireman must get the doctor's release.
10. Engineer's duties (including the Assistant Engineer.)
  - a. Keep apparatus clean.
  - b. Responsible to see that the truck and the equipment are always ready.
11. Fire Chief must be notified in case of fire.
12. Off duty firemen are not allowed to visit the Fire Department unless they are here on business.



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
✓ FILES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MEMBERS OF THE 3 PLATOONS

AS OF MAY 5, 1943  
May 26, 1943

S

"A" Platoon

Teruo Takahashi	307	Captain
Jack Ota	309	Engineer
John Sakamoto	309	Assistant

Peter Hirata	328
George Kimura	326
Kiyozumi Matsushima	313
Ted Miyamoto	309
Isao Nakagawa	323
John Nishimura	327
George Yamada	329
Mickey Ota	309

"B" Platoon

Bill Mori	316	Captain
Akio Fukushima	307	Engineer
Bill Nishimura	325	Assistant
Takashi Naito	307	
George Niino	307	
Yoshikazu Ozawa	307	
Tom Sasano	307	
Tom Shimaji	316	
Frank Tanaka	307	
Yukio Yamamoto	307	
Yutaka Yamamoto	307	

"C" Platoon

Frank Takenaka	316	
Kiyohiko Shiba	309	
Mark Asada	309	
Minoru Fujita	327	
Massao Hara	309	
Mori Honjo	309	
Arthur Kitahara	328	
Frank Nii	309	
Frank Yada	309	
Gunchi Yamada	309	
Masaru Suyeda	316	
Shinobu Oda		Chief
George Yano		Secretary



May 26, 1943

DRILL CHART

<u>May</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>
	10:30-11:45	1:30-3:00	8:30-10:00
1	A	A	-
2	-	-	-
	1:30-3:00	8:30-10:00	10:30-11:45
3	C	C	C
4	A	A	A
5	B	B	B
	8:30-10:00	10:30-11:45	1:30-3:00
6	C	C	C
7	A	A	A
8	-	B	B
9	-	-	-
	10:30	1:30	8:30
10	A	A	A
11	B	B	B
12	C	C	C
	1:30	8:30	10:30
13	A	A	A
14	B	B	B
15	C	-	C
16	-	-	-
	8:30	10:30	1:30
17	B	B	B
18	C	C	C
19	A	A	A
	10:30	1:30	8:30
20	B	B	B
21	C	C	C
22	A	A	-
23	-	-	-
	1:30	8:30	10:30
24	C	C	C
25	A	A	A
26	B	B	B
	8:30	10:30	1:30
27	C	C	C
28	A	A	A
29	-	B	B
30	-	-	-
	10:30	1:30	8:30
1	A	A	A



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 1, 1943  
Sakaye Tanabe,  
Captain

Saturday

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" reporting to duty.  
Roll Call Sakaye Tanabe -- Captain  
George Yamada -- Engineer  
George Takahashi -- Asst Engineer  
Peter Hirata  
Yoshiaki Matsuoka  
Isao Nakagawa  
John Nishimura

Nori Ogata, Frank Maruyama and Hiro Eguchi were  
released for outside employment. Elmer Tanase also  
included.

Isao Nakagawa was released from 324 Mess to the  
Fire Dept.

Routine cleanup .

A.M.

8:00 Company "A" going off duty.

Speedometer reading - 2526  
Tachometer reading -- 4 727



May 2, 1943  
Susto Mori,  
Captain

Sunday

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting to duty.  
Roll Call: Susto Mori - Captain  
Aki Fukushima - Engineer  
Toru Nishimura - Ass't. Engineer  
Tom Shimaji  
Takashi Naito  
Yutaka Yamamoto  
George Niino  
Yoshikazu Ozawa  
Yukio Yamamoto  
Tom Sasano  
Hiromichi Kuwamoto

Takashi Naito, Yutaka Yamamoto, George Niino, Yoshikazu Ozawa, Yukio Yamamoto and Tom Sasano Transferred from the Warehouse to the Fire Dept.

Routine Cleanup.

9:00 Went out on drill.  
First drill - Fire to hydrant - 5 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " hose and 200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Second drill - Hydrant to fire - 3 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose - Dry drill.  
Third Drill - Fire to hydrant - 3 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose - Wet drill.

10:30 Returned from drill.

P. M.

7:00 Went out on drill - used the reel.

8:00 Returned from drill.

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" going off duty.  
Speedometer reading - 2339  
Tachometer reading - 4748



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 3, 1943  
Frank Takenaka,  
Captain

Monday

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" reporting on duty.  
Roll Call: Frank Takenaka - Captain  
Kiyohiko Shiba - Engineer  
Mark Asada - Ass't Engineer  
Ted Miyamoto  
George Kimura  
Frank Yada  
Mori Honjo  
Arthur Kitahara  
Minoru Fujita  
Tom Matsushima  
Jack Ota

George Kimura and Ted Miyamoto transferred from the  
Agric. Dept. Mori Honjo, Frank Yada and Kiyohiko Shiba  
transferred from Public Works - Road Construction.  
Mark Asada and Jack Ota transferred from Mess Hall;  
Minoru Fujita was rehired. Routing cleanup.

9:30 Went out on drill.  
Drill #1 - Fire to hydrant - 6 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 200  
ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #2 - Fire to hydrant - 5 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 200  
ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #3 - Fire to hydrant - 5 lengths of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and 200  
ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #4 - Fire to hydrant - 4 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 200  
ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #5 - Hydrant to fire - 5 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and 200  
ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.

11:00 Returned from drill.  
Phone repaired - Out of order since installed Saturday.

P.M.

6:30 Went out to spot hydrant.  
7:15 Returned from spotting hydrant.

A.M.

8:00 Company "C" going off duty.  
Speedometer reading - 2341  
Tachometer reading - 4763



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE # - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 4, 1943  
Sakaye Tanabe,  
Captain

Tuesday

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call: Sakaye Tanabe - Captain  
George Yamada, Engineer  
George Takahashi - Ass't. Engineer  
John Nishimura  
Yoshiaki Matsuka  
Isao Nakagawa  
Peter Hirata  
Teruo Takahashi

Routine cleanup.

9:00 Mr. Evans went out to inspect fire hazards in all blocks.

9:20 Mr. Fien arrived from Camp #1.

9:25 Mr. Fien returned to Camp #1.

10:00 Mr. Evans returned to station.  
Block 310 was given a two weeks permit to move the stage in back of the man's latrine.

A. P.

8:00 Company "A" going off duty.

Speedometer reading - 2340

Tachometer reading - 4765



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., # 3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 5, 1943  
Suteo Mori,  
Captain.

Wednesday

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting on duty.  
Roll Call: Suteo Mori - Captain  
Akio Fukushima - Engineer  
Toru Michimura - Asst. Engineer  
Tom Shimaji  
Hiromichi Kuwamoto  
Takashi Mito  
George Niino  
Yoshikazu Ozawa  
Tom Sasano  
Yukio Yamamoto  
Yutaka Yamamoto

Hiromichi Kuwamoto was released for outside employment.

Routine Cleanup.

8:30 Went out on Drill.  
3 dry drill and 1 wet drill.  
Went to the garage to fill up with 6 gallons of gas.

10:00 Returned from drill.  
Washed 3 lengths of 2½ inch hose.

11:00 Fein and Woodhouse brought over 4 spenser wrenches  
and 1 suction washer.

11:20 Mr. Fein and Mr. Woodhouse returned to Camp #1 and  
took with them the Daily Journals from May 1 to 4.

P. M.

3:40 Left for Camp #1 garage for a grease job.  
5:00 Returned from lubrication service. (Oil change and  
grease job.)

A. M.  
8:00

Company "B" going off duty.  
Speedometer reading - 4003  
Tachometer reading - 2358



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE - FIRE DEPT., # 3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 6, 1943  
Frank Takenaka,  
Captain

Thursday

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" reporting on duty.  
Roll Call: Frank Takenaka - Captain  
Kiyohiko Shiba - Engineer  
Mark Asada - Ass't. Engineer  
Minoru Fujita  
Masao Kura  
Mori Honjo  
Arthur Kitchara  
Frank Nii  
Frank Tada  
Gumchi Yamada

Masao Kura and Gumchi Yamada transferred from Mess 309  
on May 3. Frank Nii transferred from Maintenance on May 1.

Routine cleanup.

9:15 Went out on drill.  
Drill #1 Hose drill. Used 3 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose.  
Drill #2 Fire to hydrant - 6 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #3 Fire to hydrant - 6 lengths of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #4 Fire to hydrant - 6 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #5 Fire to hydrant - 1 length of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Wet drill.

10:15 Returned from drill.

10:30 Washed 1 length of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " hose.

P. M.

2:20 Mr. Fien and Mr. Woodhouse came down from Camp #1.  
2:45 Mr. Fien and Woodhouse left for Camp #1.  
7:00 Mr. Evans left for Los Angeles. He will report back  
on duty next Wednesday.

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" going off duty.  
Speedometer reading - 2363  
Tachometer reading - 4818



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 7, 1943  
Teruo Takahashi,  
Captain

Friday

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" reporting on duty.  
Roll Call: Teruo Takahashi - Captain  
Jack Ota - Engineer  
John Sakamoto - Ass't. Engineer  
Peter Hirata  
George Kimura  
Kiyozumi Matsushima  
Ted Miyamoto  
Isao Nakagawa  
John Nishimura  
George Yamada  
Mickey Ota

Mickey Ota and John Sakamoto transferred from Sanitation Dept. to Fire Dept.

Routine cleanup.

9:30 Went out on drill.  
Drill #1 - Fire to hydrant - dry drill.  
Drill #2 - " " " " " "  
Drill #3 - " " " " " "  
Drill #4 - " " " " " "  
Drill #5 - " " " wet drill.  
Went to the garage for 2 gallons of gas.

10:30 Returned from drill.

P. M.

2:20 Mr. Woodhouse came from Camp #1.  
2:45 Mr. Woodhouse left for Camp #1 with the Daily Journal.

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" going off duty.  
S pedometer reading - 2364  
Tachometer reading - 4835



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 8, 1943  
Suteo Mori,  
Captain

Saturday

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting on duty.  
Roll Call - Suteo Mori - Captain  
Akio Fukushima - Engineer  
Toru Nishimura - Ass't. Engineer  
Tom Shimaji  
Tom Sasano  
Takashi Naito  
George Niino  
Frank Tanaka  
Yukio Yamamoto  
Yut ka Yamamoto  
Yoshikazu Ozawa

Frank Tanaka transferred from School Construction  
to the Fire Dept.  
Routine cleanup .

P. M.

7:00 Went out to spot hydrant.  
7:30 Returned from spotting hydrant.

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" going off duty.  
Speedometer reading - 23 65  
Tachometer reading - 4844



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 9, 1943  
Teruo Takahashi,  
Captain

Sunday

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" reporting on duty.  
Roll Call: Teruo Takahashi - Captain  
Kiyohiko Shiba - Engineer  
Mark Asada - Ass't. Engineer  
Minoru Fujita  
Masao Hara  
Hori Honjo  
Frank Nii  
Frank Yada  
Gunchi Yamada  
Arthur Kitahara  
Masaru Suyeda

Teruo Takahashi transferred from Platoon A to Platoon  
C. Masaru Suyeda transferred from Mess 316.

Routine cleanup.

9:15 Went out on drill.  
Drill #1. Hydrant to fire. Dry drill.  
Drill #2. " " " " " "  
Drill #3. Fire to hydrant. " "  
Drill #4. Reel drill. Wet drill.

10:45 Came back from drill.

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" going off duty.

Speedometer reading - 2572  
Tachometer reading - 4861



May 10, 1943  
Frank Takenaka,  
Captain

Monday

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" reporting on duty.  
Roll call: Frank Takenaka - Captain  
Jack Ota - Engineer  
John Sakamoto - Ass't. Eng.  
Peter Hirata  
George Kimura  
Kiyozumi Matsushima  
Ted Miyamoto  
Isao Nakagawa  
John Nishimura  
George Yamada  
Mickey Ota

8:15 Went out on drill.  
Drill #1 Fire to hydrant - 6 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #2 Fire to hydrant - 6 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Dry drill.  
Drill #3 Hydrant of fire - 3 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Drill drill.  
Drill #4 Fire to hydrant - 4 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose. Wet drill.

10:00 Returned from drill.

P. M.

4:00 Mr. Pien and Woodhouse came from Camp #1.  
4:10 Mr. Pien and Woodhouse left for Camp #2.  
8:45 Went out to check fire at Blk. 303.  
9:00 Returned to quarters.

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" going off duty.  
  
Speedometer reading - 4876  
Tachometer reading - 2375



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 13, 1943  
"A" Platoon

Thursday

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" reporting on duty  
Roll Call - Frank Takemaka - Captain  
Jack Ota - Engineer  
John Sakamoto - Ass't Eng.  
Peter Hirata  
Gengo Kimura  
Kiyozumi Matsushima  
Ted Miyamoto  
Isao Nakagawa  
John Nishimura  
George Yamada  
Mickey Ota

10:00 Went out on drill  
Drill #1 Fire to hydrant - 6 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose; dry drill.  
Drill #2 Hydrant to Fire - 10 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose; dry drill.  
Drill #3 Fire to hydrant - 5 lengths of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  
200 ft. of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hose - dry drill.

11:30 Returned from drill.

P. M.

1:00 Towed Fire Engine to Garage to check truck because  
it failed to start.

1:15 Came back from Garage

A. M.

8:00 Platoon "A" going off duty.

Tachometer reading - 4943  
Speedometer reading - 25 80



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 14, 1943  
"B" Platoon

Friday

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call - Susuo Mori - Captain  
Aki Fukushima - Engineer  
Toru Nishimura - Ass't Eng.  
Tom Shimaji  
Tom Sasano  
Takeshi Naito  
Yoshikazu Ozawa  
Yukio Yamamoto  
Yutaka Yamamoto  
George Milne  
Frank Tamm, Jr.

9:00 Took fire truck to gas up; 8gals.

P. M.

2:20 Mr. Fien came down to Camp #3.  
2:45 Mr. Fien returned to Camp #.

3:30 Went to spot hydrant  
3:45 Returned from spotting hydrant

A. M.

8:00 "B" platoon going off duty.

Tachometer - 4951  
Speedometer - 23 81



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 15, 1943  
"C" Platoon

Saturday

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call: Teruo Takahashi - Captain  
Kiyohiko Shiba, Engineer  
Mark Acado, Asst. Eng.  
Masako Hara  
Mori Honjo  
Frank Nii  
Frank Yeda  
Gunchi Yamada  
Masaru Suyeda  
Arthur Kitahara

9:15 Company had a ladder drill.  
9:30 Company went out on drill.  
Drill #1 Fire to hydrant - dry drill  
Drill #2 Hydrant to fire " "  
Drill #3 Hydrant to fire " "  
Drill #4 Hydrant to fire Wet drill.

10:15 Came back from drill  
10:30 Cleaned up the hose.

P. M.

6:15 Evans went to Camp I on business

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" going off duty.  
Speedometer reading - 2588  
Tachometer reading 4968



52 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #5  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 16, 1943  
"A" Platoon,

Sunday

A. H.

8: 00 Company "A" reporting on duty  
Roll Call - Frank Takemaka - Captain  
Jack Ota - Engineer  
John Sakamoto - A ss't. Eng.  
Peter Hirata  
George Kimura  
Kiyozumi Matsushima  
Ted Miyamoto  
Isao Nakagawa  
John Michimura  
George Yamada  
Mickey Ota

8: 00 Company "A" going off duty.

Tachometer reading - 4281  
Speedometer reading - 2388



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 17, 1943  
"B" Platoon

Monday

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call: Suteo Mori - Captain  
Aki Fukushima - Engineer  
Toru Nishimura - Asst Eng.  
Tom Shimaji  
Tom Sussno  
Takashi Mahto  
Yutaka Yamamoto  
Yukio Yamamoto  
George Niino  
Yoshikazu Ozawa  
Frank Tanaka

9:50 Went out on drill.  
Drill #1 Fire to hydrant - dry  
Drill #2 Hydrant to fire - dry  
Drill #3 Fire to hydrant - dry  
Drill #4 Hydrant to fire - wet.

10:50 Returned from drill.

P. M.

2:15 Mr. Fein came to Camp #3.

2:30 Mr. Fein returned to Camp #1.

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" going off duty.

Tachometer reading - 5000  
Speedometer reading - 2404



32nd FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 17, 1943

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call: Suteo Mori - Captain  
Aki Pakushima - Engineer  
Toru Mishimura - Asst. Eng.  
Tom Shimaji  
Tom Sasano  
Takashi Naito  
Yutaka Yamamoto  
Yukio Yamamoto  
George Niino  
Yoshikazu Ozawa  
Frank Tanaka

9:30 Sent out on drill  
Drill #1 Fire to hydrant - dry.  
Drill #2 Hydrant to fire - dry  
Drill #3 Fire to hydrant - dry  
Drill #4 Hydrant to fire - wet.

10:30 Returned from drill.

P. M.

2:15 Mr. Fein came to Camp #3.

2:30 Mr. Fein returned to Camp #1.

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" going off duty.

Tachometer reading - 5000  
Speedometer reading - 2404



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 18, 1943  
"C" Platoon

Tuesday

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" reporting on duty.  
Roll Call: Teruo Takahashi - captain  
Miyochiko Shibu - Engineer  
Mark Anada - Ass't. Eng.  
Masao Wera  
Mori Morio  
Frank Nii  
Frank Yeda  
Gunichi Yamada  
Arthur Kitahara  
Masaru Suyeda

10:05 Evans left for Camp #2  
10:50 Evans returned from Camp #2

P. M.

2:00 went out on drills  
Drill #1 Fire to hydrant - dry drill.  
Drill #2 Hydrant to fire - dry drill.  
Drill #3 Fire to hydrant - dry drill.  
Drill #4 Hydrant to fire - wet drill.

3:00 Evans left for Camp #1  
3:15 Company returned from drills.  
4:40 Evans returned from Camp #1.

A. M.

8:00 Company going off duty.  
Tachometer reading - 5018  
Speedometer reading - 2413



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 19, 1943  
"A" Platoon

Wednesday

A. M.

8:00 Company "A" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call:- Toru Matsushima  
Frank Takenaka - Captain  
Isao Nakagawa - Engineer  
John Sakamoto - Ass't. Eng.  
Mickey Ota

Released for outside employment.

Jack Ota  
Ted Miyamoto  
George Yamada  
George Kimura  
Peter Hirata  
John Nishimura

8:30 Went out to spot hydrant to break in new  
engineers.  
9:00 Came back from potting hydrant.

P. M.

1:15 Mr. Evans went to Camp #1 with journals.  
1:30 Went out to drill.  
2:30 Came back from drills.  
3:00 Mr. Evans returned from Camp #1.  
8:00 Company "A" going off duty.

Tachometer reading - 5036  
Speedometer reading - 2416



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 20, 1943  
"B" Platoon

Thursday

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call: Suteo Mori - Captain  
Akio Fukushima (Engineer)  
Toru Nishimura (Ass't. Engineer)  
Tom Shimaji  
Tom Sasano  
Takashi Naito  
Yukio Yamamoto  
Yutaka Yamamoto  
Yoshikazu Uzawa  
George Niino  
Frank Tanaka  
Change 12 length of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " on left side of the  
apparatus.

9:00 Finished changing the hose.

P. M.

2:30 Mr. Woodhouse came to Camp #3; took back May 19  
journal.

3:30 Mr. Woodhouse left for Camp #1.

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" going off duty.

Tachometer - 5043  
Speedometer - 2416



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 21, 1943  
"C" Platoon

Friday

A. M.

8:00 Company "C" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call: Teruo Takahashi (captain)  
Kiyochiko Shiba (engineer)  
Mark Asada (ass't. engineer)  
Masao Hara  
Mori, Honjo  
Frank Nii  
Frank Yada  
Gunchi Yamada  
Arthur Kitahara  
Masaru Suyeda

9:00 Fr. Evans went out to inspect Camp #3 water pump.  
9:30 Friday big clean up.

P. M.

1:05 Mr. Evans went to Camp #1.  
2:10 Mr. Woodhouse came down from Camp #1 with 2 1/2" home rubber washer.  
2:24 Mr. Woodhouse left for Camp #1.  
2:25 Went out on call fire in Mess 328. Found middle stove full of soot and hot soot caused fire on their home made cooler for dish washer on north side. They had the fire out when we arrived. Only a little damage.  
2:35 Returned from fire.  
2:40 Mr. Evans returned from Camp #1.  
2:45 Mr. Evans went back to Camp #1.  
4:30 Mr. Evans telephone from Camp #2, that he'd be there for a few minutes.  
5:10 Mr. Evans returned from Camp #2.

A. M.

8:00 Company going off duty.  
Speedometer reading - 2418  
Tachometer reading - 5050



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 22, 1943  
"A" Platoon

Saturday

A. M.

8:00 "A" platoon coming on duty  
Roll Call: Frank Takenaka -- Captain  
Isao Nakagawa - Engineer  
John Sakamoto - Ass't. Eng.  
Mike Ota  
Tom Matsushima

9:00 Mr. Evans went out to net factory, to check

11:30 Mr. Evans returned

A. M.

"A" Platoon going off duty.

Tachometer - 5057  
Speedometer - 2418



32 FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FILE - FIRE DEPT., #3  
DAILY JOURNAL

May 23, 1943  
"B" Platoon

Saturday

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" reporting for duty.  
Roll Call - Suteo Mori - Captain  
Akio Fukushima - Engineer  
Tora Nishimura - Ass't. Eng.  
Tom Shimaji  
Tom Sasano  
Takashi Naito  
Yukio Yamamoto  
Yutaka Yamamoto  
Yoshikazu Ozawa  
George Niino  
Frank Tanaka

P. M.

2:00 Received telephone call that there was a fire  
in 308 Mess Hall.  
2:05 Went to investigate - brought back foamite  
extinguisher for refilling.

A. M.

8:00 Company "B" going off duty.  
Tachometer reading - 5058  
Speedometer reading - 2418



July 27, 1942

*Fire Dept.*

Wm. E. Hoffman  
Fire Protection Supervisor  
Whitcomb Hotel Building  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Bill:

I have waited to write you on conditions here until I had sized things up, but here is the "low-down" as I see it.

Carette is doing a good job and will do well here now as we have got things moving as you will see by the daily reports, etc.

We are trying to get everything including reports, memoranda inspections and everything sent in, but might not get them all, so you will have a good idea what is being done.

The appartus being delivered is short  $2\frac{1}{2}$  shut-off, double 4" female-1" nozzle and this last apparatus was also short 300 ft.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hose so we had to take 100' from camp so that they could run without anything but a garden hose.

Thru the courtesy of Mr. Furgeson U.S.E.D. we have sent in order for all shortages. Mr. George is going back to San Diego and leaving the above ~~camp~~ in charge which is in our favor.

Camp #2 went into service this P.M. with their new apparatus. Kodoni Chief, who by the way I believe will be O.K.

I met Mr. Crawford this P.M. at the station and I was well impressed with him and I believe he will run a very good camp. He offered us all assistance but wants no assistance from Tom.

Check up on the daily reports from now on and any improvements you wish corrected drop them a line and I know they would appreciate a note of encouragement once in a while as they are quite a way from the office and feel somewhat alone.

Bauman must have done something besides drinking as from remarks heard they were going to ask for his removal, but he didn't do us any good.



Carrette is doing fine and if he takes a drink he does it in town and not here. He seems to have cut out a lot of his foolishness and as to the Japs he does a good job of having them where they are. I honestly believe he will do O.K. here.

Now for "dirt"! Your boy friend Evans sure is creating a big "bubble" that is going to burst right in his face. He has told these Js. that we are just down here to serve them and the men working there that they were not after production and to let them rest in the shade. The next day they wouldn't hardly do a thing. The trash and sanitation crew went on strike. Trash is piled up all around oil tanks and sides of houses.

We contacted Mr. Leighton. He referred us to a Jap who gave us the information that they only had one truck working. So if you hear of a big blaze don't blame us. The inspectors are working and after trying to get one Jap to remove the wood from under the house the Jap went to Evans who called Tom up and said: "If you have any complaints, just bring them to me." So there is your authority shot to h---.

Carette and I complained to Mr. Head and the things we have asked for he has forwarded thru "we think."

He asked us to prepare an ordinance and he would sign it.

The Js. have elected a civilian council and appointed committees. We made an appointment thru Tom and asked them to prepare an ordinance with penalty. One of the Legal department thought we were trying to use a big stick until we convinced him that we were only trying to get them to protect themselves. We will hear from them this week "maybe".

Well here is some more. We went to the office this AM and Evans



called Carrette and said he had heard the Police and Firemen were going to "strike" so Tom said the police were to blame and that his men were only talking about it. The police accused Tom of not sticking with his men and while we were drilling the police Chief came down and accused Tom of telling Evans, so guess what: Evans has written to Ince (I don't know him) and ask that the firemen be raised to \$12.00 and \$16.00. \$16.00 for Chief, Asst. C., Captain, Asst. C., Engr. & asst. with retroactive pay from time they went to work. We told Tom they were crazy that if they kep on they would have the Army in here and they would work and not get a cent. We have kept out of it and told them if they walked out Carrette and I would run it ourselves. So now what do you think of appeasement.

Now here is something for you to do! Get hold of U.S.E.D. and have them stop sending 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4" D females, 2nd send 4-4D. females. Get hold of some 1" and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Met. Corter or Larkin "shut-offs" with removable tips so that extension to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " can be made and not the Army type. You know which. Get hold of some old second hand if nothing else. We don't have a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  on either rig and no 1" nozzles.

Get the U.S.E.D. to check equipment so as not to send way out to some post and not be able to use it after it gets there. How do you suppose you would use this last truck with no 1" tip no 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  and no 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hose but 2-1 $\frac{1}{2}$  mystrys.

Carrette didn't make the trip just to notify you. He went in to see his wife. He and Hillyard heard some of the men talking about Bauman getting your job.

We have only one old Chev. with 96,000 mi. on it. No spot, red lights or siren. How are you going to make a run to Camp #2-3 with that. C & H heard Potter laughing because the firemen ask for 2 cars.



Though it was a hell of a fine joke. What do you think. Carrette is going to Mr. H. tomorrow about it.

If one man is at #2 or 3 what is the other one doing for transportation. You should do something don't you think.

We are getting along fine and everyone is nice but those are all facts. You ask me to write you so here it is!

I am figuring on going to town about the 15th some time. Oh yes I sent Joe Fien an application and talked with him on the phone. He acted in Hollywood for some time and I believe he would make you a good man.

Give my regards to Mrs. Hoofman and we will have that dinner in the International Settlement yet. Hot as Hell.

As ever

Hon (Poston)