

(Manzanar)

4.

she might call me to take over so I went out the back way and mingled with the crowd at different spots in the hospital and see what was brewing. Well soon I see two cars coming fast with spot lights on so I presumed that this was the military police. They came to the main entrance and told everybody to get out, and they had automatic rifles, and rifles with bayonets, and sub machine guns. Well eventually everybody went out. And I was also outside too. I tried to get back in and told him I was the ambulance driver but all he stated was get back and pointed the gun at me, so why was I to argue. I hung around for about 15 minutes and got tired because if there was any trouble I didn't want to be around. So I went home with a few of my neighbors. Well we talked it for about a half hour or so and we took a look outside and saw that there wasn't a mob left. (I live on the block next to the hospital) So I went back and reported back to work. Well I started to talk with the fellows who were in the hospital. I was talking to the pharmacist for a while. Oh yes, they asked for Dr. Goto (that is the mob did) but he didn't come out, and they also shouted for Dr. Little, the Med. Director, but he didn't come out either, I think that he went with the military police when they took Mr. Tayama out. And he was the Dr. on call that night. Well it was very calm in the hospital, we were sitting around talking, with friends that either worked in the hospital or that lived in the near by blocks. At the same time — the other half of the mob that went to the police station to try and get Uyeno out was all around the station. The military police was in there and had the situation well in hand. Then some dumb nut goes and gets into a car by the station and starts it and puts it into second and heads it towards the police station and then jumps off. This was in the rear, well the car wrecked the corner of the station. — Oh yes, at this meeting they held that night, they read off the names of certain persons that had high up jobs in the Ad. Because it was

Tamie Tsuchijama
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THE BEATING OF SABURO KIDO

The following is the official interpretation of the beating of Saburo Kido, national JAFL president, which occurred in Camp II early Sunday morning, Jan. 31, as recorded in the Poston Chronicle of Feb. 2, 1943:

EIGHT HELD FOR FELONY CHARGE

STATE COURT TO TRY MEN FOR ASSAULT ON JAFL HEAD

A gang of eight evacuees, ranging in age from 18 to 37, were found guilty of having committed a felony by the Poston II Judicial Commission for an asserted attack on Mr. and Mrs. Saburo Kido, 215-2D early Sunday morning and, in accordance with WRA Administrative Instruction # 34 were extradited to the Yuma County law enforcement officials for trial in the Superior Court of the State of Arizona. The eight evacuees, all of whom made written confessions admitting their participation in the crime, were charged with asserted assault and battery on the Kidos Sunday morning at 2 o'clock with intent to commit great bodily harm.

Kido was reported to be resting comfortably in the Poston General Hospital and will be confined to bed for several days with bruises about his head, shoulder and arms. Mrs. Kido was not injured.

The efficient work of the Unit II police force resulted in the immediate apprehension of those who were confessedly responsible for the attack. The Judicial Commission then met in an emergency session at 4:15 a.m., Sunday, in the police headquarters. After hearing and discussing the evidence against the eight youths, the Commission brought in the decision that the attack constituted a felony, thereby automatically relinquishing their authority of conducting a trial in Poston to the State.

Those who were charged with the asserted attack included: George Inouye, 207-2B; Mames Y. Tanaka, 227-6D; Tadao Hasegawa, 207-2B; Tetsuo Inokuchi, 214-6B; Mitsuto Kurimoto, 216-8A; Miyoshi Matsuda, 211-14D; Kataru Urabe, 220-5D; and James Toya, 211-5A. They were accompanied by Project Attorney T.H. Haas, and an evacuee attorney to Yuma.

The actual account reconstructed from data supplied by my Camp II informants is as follows: From Jan. 21, 1943 until the time of beating, two to five policemen had been regularly stationed near Kido's apartment to protect him from possible assailants. The posting of guards is reported to have occurred as a result of a threatening letter which Kido received about this time. His popularity in Camp II has never been very great but resentment against him increased noticeably when the War Department announced plans for recruiting a Nisei unit on January 27. At that time a number of people recalled that Kido had participated in the JACL convention in Salt Lake City in November when the resolution concerning selective draft had been framed and they also remembered that he had been rather active passing out petitions to Nisei to volunteer for the U.S. army. The exact connection between Kido and the eight Kibei who attacked him Sunday is unknown to me but it is rumored that when the F.B.I. began to make a systematic investigation of Tachibana, their leader and reputed head of the anti-administration clique in Camp II several weeks ago they interpreted this as the work of Saburo Kido in retaliation for Tachibana's posting of pickets at quad meetings when he was making his round of camp to explain his connection with the JACL resolution.

On Saturday evening about 10:30, directly after the end of the shibai the following Kibei met at the home of

an Issei called Kawahira in block 208 to draw up plans for Kido's beating:

George Inouye -- age 18, from block 207-2B

James Tamaka -- age ?, 227-6D

Tadao Hasegawa -- age 21, 207-2B

Tetsuo Inokuchi -- age 22, 214-6B

Mitsuto Kurimoto -- age 19, 216-8A

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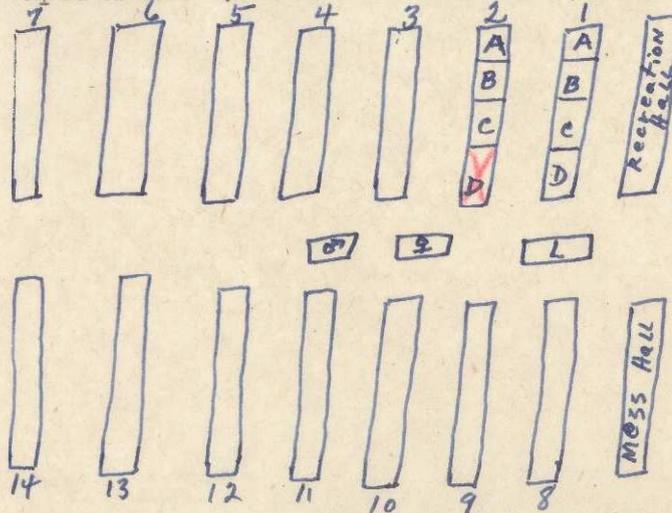
James Toya, age 28, 211-5A.

It is reported that before the meeting these boys had contacted Issei in their group and had been cautioned not to beat Kido that night but to wait for a more opportune moment. The boys had retorted that if the Issei would not condone the deed they would take full responsibility and do it themselves.

The attack was scheduled for 3:00 a.m. but the boys became impatient and decided to do it at two o'clock when they noticed that the police car usually parked in front of Kido's apartment was not there. When the eight assailants arrived on the scene they separated into three groups to perform their assigned tasks. Four of them put wooden pegs about four inches long into the latches of each apartment in barracks 1 and 2 (i.e. Kido's barrack and the one facing it) to prevent his neighbors from getting out to help him. Another group took down the mess hall

gong and turned off the lights in the two latrines and laundry room located near Kido's apartment. The third group unscrewed the hinges from Kido's door and lifted it off bodily. Then the first group of four stationed themselves between 2A and 1A while two others watched near Kido's apartment to warn Matsuda and Tanaka who had been assigned to do the beating in case of interference. Here is a rough sketch of block 215 to show the location of

Kido's apartment (marked with red X):



Matsuda entered the apartment first and as soon as Kido perceived him he called out: "You are Matsuda, aren't you?" This completely unnerved Matsuda giving Kido an opportunity to leap out of bed and pin him down. At this moment Tanaka came in and proceeded to whack Kido on the head and shoulders. When the victim lifted one hand to ward off the blows two of his fingers were smashed. By this time Mrs. Kido and Violet Ishii, a young girl from Hawaii who has been living with the Kidos for about two years, began screaming and awoke the neighbors.

It is reported that Violet fainted soon after but Mrs. Kido kept up her screaming until help arrived. As soon as the six boys stationed outside heard the screams they scattered in all directions so that when the attackers rushed out their accomplices were nowhere to be seen. In their haste they left behind one brown Oxford shoe belonging to Tanaka, two blue and white bandanas that they had used to conceal the lower half of their faces, one ironwood club (round bodied, square handled, knobbed at end and about 2 feet long), and a smashed flashlight.

By this time two policemen who had concealed themselves in the boiler room of the laundry as well as two of Kido's neighbors (one of whom had removed his window screen to get out while the other had broken down his door) appeared on the scene and aided Kido in capturing Matsuda. One of the policemen had heard the door being unscrewed but had lost time awakening his companion who was fast asleep affording the assailants time to attack Kido. By this time also a number of people from blocks 215 and 216 arrived to find out the cause of the commotion. (People in 216 were notified of the disturbance by two individuals who had taken it upon themselves to guard that block that night from an ambulance so that no harm would befall the block manager and the chairman of the Coop whose apartments had been smeared with human excrement on Thursday. These two saw four boys rush across from 215 to 210 shortly after two o'clock and sensing something unusual

had aroused residents of 216 who immediately hurried over to 215 and discovered Matsuda pinned to the ground by policemen. This in all probability is the basis for the rumor now spreading in Camp II that blocks 215 and 216 had set a trap to capture Matsuda and his Kibei gang). The two policemen then deputized the young people of 215 who had gathered there in a menacing attitude with clubs and canes to watch him while they reported the incident to the police department. Meanwhile Kido, accompanied by Dr. Kita, a dentist, was taken in an ambulance to the Camp I hospital where they found injuries on his head, shoulders, hands and ribs. He remained unconscious all day Sunday and Monday. While there Kita aroused Head who in turn notified Haas, James, and a few other administrative officials who contacted the F.B.I. agents stationed in the M.P. barracks just outside of Camp II.

In the meantime Crawford, administrator of Unit II, Miller, chief of internal security, and Scott, his assistant, had been notified and arrived at the scene of the crime to interrogate the prisoner. Kikuo Endo of the Social Welfare Department acted as interpreter since Matsuda has been in this country only three years and barely speaks English. At first the prisoner firmly adhered to the story that he was the only one involved in the incident -- that he alone was responsible for the attack on Kido. By this time the crowd became unruly and an angry voice

accused: "You're lying. We saw two or three others running away." Upon this without any third degree being imposed on him Matsuda confessed that he had two accomplices -- Tetsuo Inokuchi of block 214 and James Tanaka of 227. He was then taken to the police station for further questioning while the two named were picked up in their homes.

When Inokuchi was led into the police station Matsuda turned to him and exclaimed: "There were just the two of us, weren't there?" This infuriated Miller who took Matsuda aside and ordered him to speak only when questioned. Inokuchi related one story after another, each contradicting the preceding so the police could get nowhere with him. Observers later remarked that he was the only one of the eight who was "otoko rashii" or "acted like a man." Tanaka was next brought in and made a slip when he commented that he knew the faces of the other participants but was unacquainted with their names. Further questioning revealed two more accomplices -- Kurimoto of 216 and Urabe of 220. It is claimed that he actually named three but since the police station was in such a bedlam by this time the authorities were able to catch only two names. The police and young people of 215 and 216 were then instructed to fetch them. Urabe was immediately picked up at home but Kurimoto could not be located until 8:30 when they discovered him hiding in the mess hall. Urabe in turn named Toya of 211 as one of the accomplices. As soon as Toya appeared

his betrayer turned to him and whispered in Japanese:

"They know all about it already so you might just as well spill everything."

When the authorities started to question Toya he was trembling all over and could scarcely speak. When a policeman offered him a glass of water he gulped it down and when another was offered it too was hastily consumed. Then on his part he requested a third glass which appeared to calm him somewhat. He not only revealed the names of the remaining accomplices but gave a detailed account of the incident from the time they met in Kawahira's apartment to the actual beating. He even went to the extent of drawing a diagram to show the exact position of each of the boys during the attack.

Meanwhile in another section of the police station the Judicial Commission of Unit II met in an emergency session about 4:15 a.m. and brought out the verdict that the attack constituted a felony and therefore outside its jurisdiction. In accordance with WRA Administrative Instruction no. 34 the Commission declared that the case being a felony the boys could not be tried in Poston but had to be turned over to Yuma County officials for trial in the Superior Court of the State of Arizona.

After signed confessions were obtained from each of the eight fellows involved in the attack they were escorted to the Yuma jail by Ted Haas, project attorney, and Tom Masuda, member of the Legal Department of Unit I.

According to Mich Kunitani, "The Kibeis had the crust to ask Haas to defend them." It is rumored that all of the boys, with the exception of one who pleaded not-guilty, will not receive a hearing in Yuma since they all confessed to the crime. As far as I know they are still in the Yuma jail awaiting sentence.

In a conversation with Ted Haas shortly after the incident he informed me proudly that Miller had wanted to put the Kibei under third degree but he had persuaded him to use the regular police technique of telling each person during the interview that the one before him had confessed everything. In this way they had no difficulty in obtaining confessions since all of them were proud of the role they had played in the attack on Kido whom they considered a disturbing influence in Camp II. According to Haas all of them firmly believed that they had beaten Kido "for the welfare of the community" and only when they were informed that a sentence of one to ten years might be passed upon them did they begin to look at it from Western standards and waver in their convictions. In conversations with Camp II friends there is every indication that the Kibei were dead certain of being retained in camp by the residents as in the November strike in Camp I. Their idea seems to have been: "Hell, they can't do anything to us."

It is reported that when Wade Head arrived at the police station about three in the morning he saw a large

crowd armed with clubs and canes standing in front of it and feared a recurrence of the November strike. By this time at least twenty M.P.'s in beeps had been placed on guard in front of the police station. When Head learned that the people there were sympathetic toward the administration and wished to preserve law and order in Camp II he recalled the M.P.'s about 10:30 Sunday morning.

It may be of interest to you that immediately after Kido's attack a guard of eight policemen were thrown around the apartments of Sim Togasaki of Camp III and Tep Ishimaru of Camp I who participated with Kido in the JACL convention at Salt Lake City in November.

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1. You will probably appreciate this report a little better when you read my reports on the reaction to the JACL resolution and the Camouflage Project now in preparation.

THE TACHIBANA CASE

Shortly after the attack on Kido Sunday morning four F.B.I. agents stationed in the M.P. barracks just outside of Camp II and who had been conducting investigations of so-called "agitators" for the last three or four weeks entered camp and began picking up suspects. According to my chief informant in Camp II who lives two barracks away from Tachibana, the reputed head of the anti-administration group in that camp, four F.B.I. agents arrived at Tachibana's door shortly after three o'clock in two separate cars accompanied by M.P.'s in two jeeps. While two of them guarded the entrance, the other two opened the door of the apartment shared by Tachibana and his father-in-law, Kobayashi, walked right in, turned on the lights and aroused the family. They then ordered Tachibana and Kobayashi to pack their suitcases to come along with them. When one of them attempted to snap a handcuff on Tachibana it is reported that he flung it aside angrily claiming that he was not a criminal -- that he was a Japanese and would go peacefully wherever they wanted him to go. The agent, thinking that Tachibana might become difficult, pulled out his pistol. At this point it is claimed that the two sons of Kobayashi -- Ken, aged 22, and Dan, aged 19 -- cursed the F.B.I. roundly and challenged them to shoot the whole family if they wished to use a pistol. According to bystanders the agents appeared afraid and seemed to expect violence on the part of the boys. As he was being led

into the car Tachibana is credited to have said: "I am glad I was able to do my bit for Japan." (X's version obtained from a member of Tachibana's gang in block 211 [Tachibana's block] is slightly different. When the agent pulled out his gun one of the Kobayashi boys taunted: "Now you have the gun out. Go ahead and shoot. If you're scared to shoot, put the gun away." This was accompanied by much abusive language. X does not believe that Tachibana actually uttered the farewell speech credited to him. He has known him for over twenty years and feels that the speech is not in keeping with his personality.)

Five other Issei were picked up by the F.B.I. that morning: Kawahira and Harada of 208, Kojima of 220, Aramaki of 209 and Hanaoka of 222. It is reported that when the agents came to fetch Kawahira he was in the police station being questioned for the beating of Kido, but since they were in such a hurry to remove him the police could not obtain a confession from him. As soon as the "agitators" were picked up one by one they were shot out immediately to M.P. headquarters near Camp I for questioning. According to the latest administrative report the seven men have been transferred from Phoenix and are now in Texas awaiting trial. As far as I know, Dan and Ken Kobayashi, who were also picked up by the F.B.I. later that morning and charged with resisting arrest and participating in the November strike, are still in Phoenix.

ATTITUDES CONCERNING THE INCIDENT

Administrative Attitude:

The job was well done. The culprits were taken out expeditiously after securing the consent of the Judicial Commission.

Crawford, Unit II administrator, has always been anxious to have Tachibana and his gang removed from camp. About three or four weeks ago, allegedly on his encouragement, the F.B.I. came in to check Tachibana's census files. Miller, James, Kennedy, Haas, etc. have constantly maintained that if the few "agitators" in Camp II could be removed they would succeed in running camp the way they desired. The intended arrest of five Issei from Camp II, including Tachibana, was announced by Norris James, Press and Intelligence Officer, at an administrative staff conference in Camp I at 10:30 Saturday morning. It is reported that all those present seemed to be greatly in favor of the idea.

Evacuee Attitudes:

Camp II: Two contrasting sentiments appear to prevail:

- (1) "Now we'll run camp smoothly with those agitators out."
- (2) "They have bungled up everything but this is not the end."

Camp I sentiments picked up at random:

"Tachibana was the restraining force on actionists in Camp II."

"Beating is the best form of chiding intellectuals."

"Oh, we'll have trouble again."

"The forty-seven Ronins waited three years for their revenge."

"We don't have to take revenge while we're in camp; there's plenty of time. Let's take their eyes out and make them blind as soon as we have a chance."

"Gee, it's too bad they bungled up the beating." (Nisei).

"They should have done it a little more intelligently."

Ultra-liberal reaction: Identical with that of the administration.

It is interesting to note that all of the foregoing statements with the exception of the "ultra-liberal" condone the beating of Kido.

X burst into my office the day after Tachibana's arrest and recounted in great detail the conversation he had had with Evans, Unit I administrator and personal friend, concerning the incident. Since X in his public statements portrays the sentiments of possibly three-fourths of the Issei and nearly one-half of the Nisei in Camp I (although in private life he is one of the few real liberals I have met among the Japanese) I shall attempt to reproduce his conversation with Evans as accurately as possible to give you an insight into Camp I sentiments:

X: I didn't know you guys (administrative officials) are a bunch of Nazi storm troopers. You take out those persons who are opposed to your ideologies and put them in concentration camps. At best your administrative philosophy cannot be any better than that of British

administrators in the Far East. How do you expect to run camp without knowing where the social norm is? If you remove camp leaders just because they criticize your point of view I'll say that WRA is a failure. In this camp I've noticed that anyone who criticizes the administration is labeled an agitator and an agitator according to you people is pro-Axis. Don't you know there are quotation marks in the typewriter? Why don't you use them once in a while? ^According to your definition I'm pro-Axis." (Evans flushed when X told him this. ^According to Spicer, he like the rest of the administration was convinced that Camp I residents were supporting the administrative stand 100% this time.)

Evans: Hell you're pro-Axis. I don't believe it. Well, we need people like you in the administration. I want advice. I'm lost. I really want to work for the Japanese people. You know that. Won't you advise me? (Evans has been persuading X for some time to become his Issei advisor but X under no circumstances will tie himself with the administration).

X: I'm not criticizing you. There's nothing personal in what I said. I'm talking like this because you're sitting in that chair in this office. You are the ~~symbol~~ symbol of the incompetent, unintelligent, inefficient administration. My block residents forced me to take the block manager's job but if you

accept me you're going to have a hell of a trouble. I think the block people made a mistake in electing to office one of the strongest anti-administration men in camp. On account of social sanction I took the job but you can refuse me if you want to since no one can tell me what to say and what not to say.

Evans: As far as you're concerned we made a mistake. I'll take anything if it's from you.

X: Regarding the beating I'll say this point-blank: In Paris a German soldier was sniped at by some Frenchmen. The Germans in retaliation shot a few Frenchmen. Yet, more German soldiers were ambushed. Again, a few more Frenchmen were shot. And so on. I'm laughing at you people because you think the whole thing has ended just because the attackers were arrested. You know that when motivational need is too great there is no legal sanction. You have been talking about law and order all this time but you know now how silly it sounds to me.

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Recorded Feb. 3, 1943

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Beating of Saburo Kido

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The attack was scheduled for 3:00 A.M. but the boys became impatient and decided to do it at two o'clock when they noticed that the policecar usually parked in front of Kido's apt. was not there. When the eight assailants arrived on the scene they separated into three groups to perform their assigned tasks. Four of them put wooden pegs about four inches long into the latches of each apt. in barracks 1 and 2 (i.e. Kido's barrack and the one facing it) to prevent his neighbors from getting out to help him. Another group took down the mess hall gong and turned off the lights in the two latrines and laundry room located near Kido's apt. The third group unscrewed the hinges from Kido's door and lifted it off bodily. Then the first group of four stationed themselves between 2A and 1A while two others watched near Kido's apt. to warn Matsuda and Tanaka who had been assigned to do the beating in case of interference.....Matsuda entered the apt. first and as soon as Kido perceived him he called out: You are Matsuda, aren't you?" This completely unnerved Matsuda giving Kido an opportunity to leap out of bed and pin him down. At this moment Tanaka came in and proceeded to whack Kido on the head and shoulders. When the victim lifted one hand to ward off the blows two of his fingers were smashed. By this time Mrs. Kido and Violet

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In the meantime Crawford, adm. of Unit II, Miller, chief of internal security, and Scoot, his assistant, had been notified and arrived at the scene of the crime to interrogate the prisoner Kikuo Edo of the Soc. Welfare Dept. acted as interpreter since Matsuda has been in this country only three years and barely speaks English. At first the prisoner firmly adhered to the story that he was ~~alone~~ the only one involved in the incident---that he alone was responsible for the attack on Kido. By this time the crowd became unruly and an angry voice accused: "You're lying. We saw two or three others running away." Upon this without any third degree being imposed on him Matsuda confessed that he had two accomplices----Tetsuo Inokuchi of block 214 and James Tanaka of 227. He was then taken to the police station for further questioning while the two named were picked up in their homes.

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After signed confessions were obtained from each of the eight fellows involved in the attack (on Saburo Kido) they were escorted to the Yuma jail by Ted Haas, project attorney, and Tom Masuda, member of the Legal Department of Unit I. According to Mich Kunitani, "The Kibeis had the crust to ask Haas to defend them." It is rumored that all of the boys, with the exception of one who pleaded not-guilty, will not receive a hearing in Yuma since they all confessed to the crime. As far as I know they are still in the Yuma jail awaiting sentence.

In a conversation with Ted Haas shortly after the incident he informed me proudly that Miller had wanted to put the Kibei under third degree but he had persuaded him to use the regular police technique of telling each person during the interview that the one before him had confessed everything. In this way they had no difficulty in obtaining confessions since all of them were proud of the role they had played in the attack on Kido whom they considered a disturbing influence in Camp II. According to Haas all of them firmly believed that they had beaten Kido "for the welfare of the community" and only when they were informed that a sentence of one to ten years might be passed upon them did they begin to look at it from Western standards and waver in their convictions. In conversation with Camp II friends there is every indication that the Kibei were dead certain of being retained in camp by the residents as in the November strike in Camp I. Their idea seems to have been: "Hell, they can't do anything to us."

It is reported that when Wade Head arrived at the police station about three in the morning he saw a large crowd around with clubs and canes standing in front of it and feared a recurrence of the November strike. By this time at least twenty MP's in beeps had been placed on guard in front of the police station. When Head learned that the people there were sympathetic toward the adm. and wished to preserve law and order in Camp II he recalled the MP's about 10:30 Sunday morning.

It may be of interest to you that immediately after Kido's attack a guard of eight policemen were thrown around the apartments of Sim Togasaki of Camp III and Tep Ishimaru of Camp I who participated with Kido in the JACL convention at Salt Lake City in November.

(TT)

Rec'd by EHS March 4, 1948

September 14, 1942

Via John Yamauchi

I was at a Record Party given by May Yoshida in Block 227, and it happened around 11:30 (Friday Sept. 11, 1942) at night, somebody knocked at the back kitchen door. The girls were washing the dishes, for the party was over, when a group of boys asked for Kay Yamauchi. The girls told them they didn't know anyone by that name and that the only one present was John Yamauchi. No one knows me by the name of Kay except those fellows from my locality. They told the girls that a girl wanted to see me and would be waiting by the laundry house. I went outside to the laundry house where I saw a group of boys. I thought at first that they were playing a prank on me when they suddenly jumped on me. They pulled me out to the fire break. I didn't do anything to anyone nor do I have any knowledge of hurting anyone's feelings, so I didn't fight back at the time. They pulled me down and started clipping my hair and that was when I started to struggle. I couldn't do anything because they had twisted my two arms and had pinned me down.

Yone o Gota and I, the Police Department and the personnel in this Recreation Department had been keeping our ears and eyes open but have yet found no definite clue. I know for a fact, that they must have been guys from my region because they would not have known that my other name was Kay. A guy kept clearing his throat all the time. To this day I don't know what the motive was. Somebody was wearing a soft felt hat. I felt it when they blind folded me. The only time I heard a voice, was when they told me to "keep quiet".

September 14, 1942

Via Saburo Kido

The attack occurred on Sunday night September 13, between the hours of 11 and 11:30. I was coming home from Mr. Harry Yamamoto's residence, which is in Block 215-4-C, to my place 2-D in the same block. My wife and I went to visit the Yamamoto's around 10 or little after 10. It was around 11 o'clock that we decided to return home. My wife left first. I read a newspaper and then followed a little later. I dropped in at the mens latrine for about ten minutes. Then in front of Dr. Kita's place I stopped for the front was quite muddy. I stepped back and jumped to a dry spot on the elevated bank. All of a sudden I heard 4 or 5 guys running toward me. I thought at first that they were running home. They jumped on me and a handkerchief was put into my mouth. Then they told me to keep quiet. I struggled to take the gag from my mouth but was unsuccessful at the time. In a little while I was able to force the gag from my mouth and yelled lustily for help. Of course at that time of the night there was no help forthcoming. 3 or 4 guys then started to run away. The guy who held me from behind threw me down and kicked me in the head right behind my right ear. I got up and chased him but he ran into the deserted 210 block. Since it was so dark, I gave up the chase. The police force later came down to help me search but couldn't find anything. The Chief of Police and a few of us went back to check on my home. Violet Ishii, who is living with my family, stated that at 10:15 someone knocked at the door and stated that they wanted to see me. She told them that I wasn't home, but that I was over at Mr. Yamamoto's place. When asking for me they stated that Mr. Curtis wanted to see me.

Perhaps from this they were able to trace me to where I was visiting.

DATE: September 18, 1942
TIME: 4:30 P.M.
PLACE: Clinic, Poston II
SUBJECT: Beating of Mr. Teramura of Block 216. A bachelor and
a cook in Kitchen 210.
VIA: Dr. Inouye

Dr. Inouye: He has a cut under his left eye about one inch long and about half inch deep, done by a blunt instrument and not with a knife or anything sharp. Four stitches were required. I am at present waiting for an X-ray report from General Hospital of Poston I, for possible fractures. As far as I can determine, it is more less a concussion of a left eye, cheek and lips. He also has a lump behind his left ear. The left side of his face is all swollen----can't even open his eye. It was some shock for the blood pressure was up to 80. He told me that his mind was clear and that everything happened as if in a dream. He said he didn't even have time to scream. He is at present interned in Ward 5, near the entrance on the left hand side.

His roommates thought that a box had fallen from the ceiling. This case is more less a case of shock. Mentally he is quite all right but was quite dizzy right after the beating. He is not in a critical condition, but it was quite a shock. He is under morphine right now. His recovery will take about two weeks.

It happened a little before 2:00 A.M.----about a quarter to 2. His room was occupied by two or three other persons.

He was beaten three times. On the last one he used his hands for protection. He has a little injury on his left hand. He has a hard time swallowing his food because of his injured lips. He has no teeth broken and no injuries. He will recover but will take time.

(Mits Yamada and Taddy Saiki were the guards on duty near the wood piles located in the fire break to the south of Block 216. They were the first ones to rush over to the scene of beating.)

9-21-42

BEATING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 1942

Via J.S.:

"I was really burned up when I heard that I was accused of the beating which occurred on September 16, from C.Y. This afternoon I went to see Mr. Crawford about it. After talking about this matter for a certain length of time, Mr. Crawford didn't come out directly with it but he hinted around that Dr. Kita told him that we were the ones who were responsible for the beating. He told me that he wants us to go out and find out who were behind the beating in order to clear our names."

(KE)

Via C.Y.:

"Today Mr. Crawford told me that the three of us, J. S., J. T., and myself were accused of the beating which occurred on September 16. He said that we were seen in the vicinity of Block 215 around 11:00 P.M. at which time the beating is said to have occurred. He told me that it was necessary that we clear our name and expose the real culprits."

(KE)

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BEATING OF SEPTEMBER 16

Via J.S.:

"Yesterday afternoon Mr. Crawford picked me up when I was walking toward the Administration Building and told me that he was sorry he thought I was a liar."

(This statement is in reference to the beating of September 16 and the little talk which this person had with Mr. Crawford on September 24.)

(KE)

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NISEI INFORMER

via B.K.:

"I was interested in these beating cases so I asked T.T. if he could get me a job as a special investigator for Mr. James. I know that Tom has a slip authorizing him to act in the capacity of a special investigator signed by Mr. Crawford because he showed it to me.

Tom and I visited Mr. Teramura at the hospital in Camp I to get a confession from him but failed. I acted as a Japanese interpreter. I am wondering now if I had made my questions clear. Tom is becoming disgusted with the case because he cannot get any information. Tom also told me that Mr. James is quite fed up with it and is thinking of having the F.B.I. sent in here to investigate the case thoroughly."

(KE)

C.Y. CONVERSATION WITH SABURO KIDO

Via C.Y.:

"Yesterday I met Saburo Kido and asked him why he had accused me as being one of the fellows who was in on the beating. I told him that I didn't even know him and that the only time I ever saw him was when he first entered camp and I was there to help him unload his baggage. He said that I was accused because I was in the vicinity of Block 216 when the beating had occurred. He told me that my name was now clear. I also told him that any person who tries to prosecute or charge me with something that I didn't do had better look out. Saburo Kido assured me that he would clarify my name."

(KE)

NISEI INFORMER

Via C.Y.:

"I heard that a fellow from 227, working in the Press Bulletin Office, approached by Mr. James to act as a special investigator in these beating cases but had refused. I heard from him that T.T. now has the job and is working for Mr. James and Mr. Crawford. I don't know how true it is but he is just the type of person to act as a stool pigeon."

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Dec. 16, 1942

Dear friend,

I will try to tell you about the little mix up we had here. Well about a month and a half ago, a fellow named Mr. Uneno started to wonder why we didn't get enough sugar. The Manzanar Free Press once stated that we were to get per person. Well the kitchens were asking us to not use so much sugar in our coffee. And they were kicking about not getting enough sugar. Well he checked up and found that the kitchens were not getting what they were supposed to. So he went to Mr. Cambell (who I hear hates the Japanese population) and asked why the kitchens were not getting their share of the sugar. He couldn't say that sugar wasn't coming in because the unloading was done by Japanese and he knew exactly how much was coming in. So he stated that the hospital was getting it. So he came over here to the hospital and checked. Well unfortunately for him, the hospital had a record of every pound that came into the hospital and exactly where every ounce went. So he went back to Mr. Campbell and told him so. So this time he says that it is going to the "Sho-u sauce department where they make the sauce. Well previously a statement came out in the Free Press that, that dept would get a special sugar rationing card, so just to be sure, this fellow went over there and checked. Well it was getting sort of hot for a certain fellow now. Well there were many other minor things in the air which the Japanese population didn't like. The minor population here was making a sucker out of us and also making heaps of money. And it seemed like every one here knew it. Well about three weeks ago the JACL had a emergency meeting and all of the big shots from Frisco (WRA OFFICIALS) and two representatives from each WRA center went to attend in Salt Lake City Utah. Well one of our representatives, Fred Tayama stated something to this effect. "Change the classification of the Nisei from F 3-C to 1-A, because they are not aliens etc." Well it seemed like the Japanese population didn't like that statement or something or other that he stated at the convention. So one day (Saturday I believe) a group of six fellows seemed to have followed him. As he says it --- He was playing cards in the afternoon, and when it was time to eat dinner, they broke it up and went to eat and decided to continue it after dinner. Well they ate at different kitchens I guess, and so he was waiting for the other fellows to come back. I think that there was a show that night at some kitchen, so there were not very many people about. Well he got tired waiting so he went to take a shower. On coming out he noticed someone follow him out. He went back to the house. He was alone with his kid, his wife was taking a shower. As a rule he never goes out side at night time without someone with him. But tonight he went alone. He must have taken a hot shower because he stated that he took off his robe when there was a knock on the door. Thinking it was a friend, he said come in. Well six fellows came in with masks over their face. They all had sticks. They quickly surrounded him and started to try and beat him up. He saw this and grabed an iron chair and struck one fellow with it. Then he grabed one fellow and tried to grab off his mask but they were on fairly tight. He failed in taking it off but he did grab the fellow, but the five other fellows struck him and grabed his arms off and finally he had to protect himself and let go of the fellow. In the short fight, one of the fellows hit him over the head and he had a cut on the back of his head about an inch and a half long. Well the fellows ran off into a couple of directions and a few of his friends who heard the shouts etc. saw the fellows and tried to follow them but it was fruitless. About this time, two girls (all of this fighting happened

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about 8:45 PM) who attended a little get together at the hospital finally persuaded me in taking them home. (I was working on the swing shift from four till midnight) I started down the street and half way to Mr. Tayama's house a fellow I knew hailed me and all excited told me to go to Tayama's house because he was just beat up. Well I know where he lived because just a while back his mother or mother in law died and I had to handle the dead body and take back her personal belongings etc. Well I threw it (the car) into second and dug out, that is as best the beat up ambulance could go, and at that time I was going on a down grade. I got to his house and drove in between the barracks and picked him up. He was sitting on the bed with a towel on his bleeding head. He threw a blanket over his body (He now had on pants and slippers) and came into the ambulance. His little daughter who is about ten or so saw everything and was crying when I came in. As I went in I kicked aside a stick ~~so~~ so that he wouldn't tumble over it. I later found out that it was the stick which opened up his head. Well in the hospital I took him to Minor Surgery and called a doctor who was on call. He started to bandage it up. In the meanwhile the police were notified etc. Mr. Cambell was mad as hell when he heard about it and stated that if he found out who the fellows were, he was going to ship the fellows out to Lone Pines or Independence. Well he got about three stitches in his head, and at this time, when I wanted to hear everything a call came in for an O.B. (pregnant women about to have a baby) So I run the hell out of the ambulance to get there and back so that I could get all the dope about the fight. Well I finally came back and the only way I got into the room was by telling them I was the ambulance driver and I need some dope for our files. I listen to what he said etc. He stated that he didn't get to tear the mask off of the fellows but he was sure that he recognized one of the pairs of eyes, and he said that he was sure it was a certain Uyeno, but not positive of it. The local police heard this and phone up the police station and told Mr. Cambell who was ther, and he ordered that this person be picked up. He was. Late his wife came and they started to talk again. Then his wife stated that don't mention any names unless he is sure of them. But it was too late. Mr. Cambell gave his orders because (as the citizens in Manzanar say) this was a good chance for him to put this Uyeno out of here, because he was getting in his hair about the sugar. Well that night he was shipped out. Mr. Tayama didn't know if he should stay in the hospital or not. But finally his wife convinced him, with the statement that "the fellows might fell satisfied if he had to stay in the hospital for a while." Well he finally decided to stay, then he asked about if he would get a private room or not. We told him that there was a private room in Ward 3, the pediatric ward. Well he kept talking about him not wanting to get into a big ward with out privacy because some of the fellows in the ward wouldn't like him. Can't tell what will happen to him in the dark with a room full of men. Well finally I pushed him up to the room and we hospitalized him. Later Mr. Cambell and Mr. Meritt came to the hospital and greeted Mr. Tayama's brother who is the head of kitchen 24, and kitchen 24 gets the best food in camp, and they always have different kinds of pastery and the best meat. And on top of that, all of the truck drivers plus their crew plus the hospital staff which all together consist of about 125 people get into the kitchen early from the back way. Well the block citizens complained but the kitchen crew stated that their meal were better than most all of the blocks in camp. And that was true. They were feeding a lot of fellows and still feeding the block residents, and feeding them good. Well it was funny how Mr. Cambell greeted Tayama's brother and introduced all of the Tayama clan to Mr. Meritt who is the project director. They went up to question Mr. Tayama and as

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they came back they asked me exactly what time did I pick him up. Well after think and going around when I left a certain ward I told him I picked him up at about 9:00 which is pretty exact to the minute. Well most of the crowd went home. Well next day, the fellows in block 22 had a meeting in the afternoon out side with a loud speaker and all. This fellow Uyeno I think worked in kitchen 22. Well they had speeches too, and decided that they would have another meeting at night. Well at night they were going to have a meeting inside the kitchen, but it was too crowed so they decided to have it out side. But before they decided to they didn't allow any women in the kitchen. Well they had the meeting about 6 pm and about 7:30 a mob started to come to the hospital to get Mr. Tayama out and make him sign a paper stating that it wasn't Uyeno who he stated was one of the fellows that beat him up. Well the Military Police took him out before that. And another group went to the police station. In the after noon, the mob decided to ask Mr. Meritt to bring Uyeno back into the center and they would be satisfied. But they didn't keep their ~~say~~ word. And they decided that they wouldn't go into the hospital but would stay out side and see that he didn't leave the hospital but he had already left about an half hour ago. Well on the contrary the mob came in and went through the whole hospital, including women, men, pedreatric, T.B., and CD wards. But they couldn't find him so they started to take it out of Mrs. Uyemura, Paul's wife, one of the fellows who used to stick around with Toe. Well they threaten her and cused her out etc, until she was so scared she didn't know what to do. Well there was her, the pharmacist, and two Med. Clinic girls and I. The clinic girls went home when they heard the mob, and she asked me to take over for a while but I didn't want to, because I knew that they would beat up a male if he was in the information desk but they wouldn't most likely beat up a woman. Well this kept on for a while and I knew that

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these fellows that didn't listen to the common citizens talk and hear their opinion. Well after the mob left the hospital they went to Mr. Slocum's house and tore the place apart and were going to burn it except for the lady next door told them it was okay to burn that apt down but how about the rest of the barrack. So they finally decided not to burn it down. They also tore up the house of the Tayama's and a few others. They tore them up so badly that they couldn't use a thing after the mob got through with it. Cut the rugs, broke the radios tables, tore and rip all of their clothes, etc. Well they were after a certain John Sonoda who used to be head of the personal and they claimed that he gave all of the good jobs to all of his friends and was very sassy with all of the citizens because he thought that he held such a high positions. Well there was a show in kitchen 7 that night, and he lived in block two and they ran after him and he ran into the show which didn't start yet. They got him and beat him up. The only serious external injury that he got was a cut on the head similar to the one Fred Tayama got. But the mob kicked him so much that he was very seriously beat up internally. Well about that time we got a phone call stating that some one was hurt in the mess hall so I rushed over and saw a mob, but went through it and picked him up. He was laying on the floor with his P jacket over his head, and playing uncoocience. Blood was triking from the collar of his P jaceket which was over his head. I put him on a streacher and put him in the ambulance and took him to the hospital. But I was really scared because some of the mob were talking and I didn't know if they were refering all of those coments to me or not. But everything was done before a minute was over and I put him minor surgery. They patched up the cut and hospitalized him. He was half out, kept on mumblin g if it was bad. He could hardly lift up his legs because he was so badly beaten up. Well guess who was there taking care of him while he was waiting for the

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ambulance. Leon Miyazaki. Well it then became dull for a while then soon another call came in. Same place. Well I went there again, and this time it was a man who got in the crowd or something, but anyhow he thought that his leg was broken. I never did find out who he was or if it was broken or not. There were two of them there but since I had but one stretcher I told him that I would come right back and back I went but some one else took him into the hospital. Then there were call from the Ad., police station, and motor pool that there ~~was~~ was someone hurt here or there. I drove like hell and picked up shot patients from the vicinity of the police station. It so happened that the mob was getting in closer and closer and making statements about the military police. And one of the MP's I guess couldn't stand it so they finally threw a few tear gas bombs into the crowd and the crowd ran back and went right into the gas, finally they running back. But at the same time they opened fire with a automatic rifle or a sub machine gun and shot gun. Every one of the 11 fellows that got shot were shot in the back. The bullet entered from the back. Well I was racing back and forth with the ambulance bring in patients. Well I picked up patients from the police station, block one, block seven and about three other blocks. We had them all over the floor by surgery. Another ambulance was also helping me. And one of the orderlies that went with him picked up a dead guy but he didn't know it and since there wasn't any more room he carried him, dead, — all the way up to the hospital. Well when I came for another stretcher, I was going around looking for a patient who didn't need one and I happened to pick up the cloth over his head when the Doc came by and said that he was gone, well I needed a stretcher so I took the body to one of the empty wards and took the stretcher and went out again. Well after it was all over, one was in the morg with a bullet right through his heart, and ten shot somewhere or other. Three critical. They operated that night one two of them, on one of them, they took about a foot and a half of gut out which

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was all shot up, the rest of his gut, they sewed up. This other one they operated on died, and three of the fellows were discharged from the hospital today. Well after all of the shooting was over, the fellows threw rocks at the MB. And they did not thought them before they shot, they threw the rocks after they had shot. This is definite. Well after the first mob went away from the hospital, the MP's went away but after I brought in John Sonoda, they came back and ever since then they have had four MP's posted at the hospital, even now. Well that night was a mad rush, all of the workers from the two blocks next to the hospital who were off, came and helped, plus citizens. There were more than enough workers. Then carried in the injured, went around carrying them up to the ward and brough in oxygen tanks from the wear house, and other supplies, the attendants and orderlies went to all of the other wards and got blankets and sheets and fixed up the unused ward with beds, mattress, and fixed it up for the patients. Well all in all, I went home about 3 am and they didn't finish operating yet. By this time one of the fellows who were helping in the hospital found out that it was his brother who was in the morg, he identified him by his wallet which we took. We listed the injured and the population came in one after another looking at the list and then copying it down. Well by that time all of the excitement had died down and we were sitting in the hall talking to the MP's. Most of the original MP here are on MP because of A WOL. So they didn't stand at attention or anything. In fact they sat down and put their guns against the wall and slung the bull with us. Attendants came with sandwiches and coffee and we just talked. Well by this time all of the guys that they had named were in the MP garrisons about a fifty of a mile from the camp. On the list was included Mr. Cambll. I think that he was also in the garrisons. The main ones are now in some CCC camp in Death Valley waiting to be relocated, I think. All that night and next

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day, and in fact for the next week, the FBI and military police were picking up suspects and shipping them out to Lone Pine or Independence. (they are two small cities near Manzanar) (Well since they don't give us a second helping I'm hungry so I'm going to the hospital and eat with the graveyard girls who go on pretty soon.)

Dec. 21, 1942

Well coming back to the story. Monday, today, every one was supposed to go back to work. But they only worked half day. The funeral was held for the two fellows who died of bullets two weeks ago. They couldn't hold it within camp because there wasn't anyplace where such a big group could gather and since Lone Pine or Independence didn't care to have the Japanese population in their city, (town) the people had to go out to the woods and have it. They took about ten trucks with the families and three rep. from each block. Well because the Japanese population didn't care to go to work, the cuacasians fired all of the Ad. workers, post office workers and deliveries and truck swamper for the warehouse. The hospital and seven other sub stations where we used to deliver our mail is now out. We have to walk a mile to mail and get our mail. The same is with packages. Well last Sat. when they announced workers to go back to work, they also told us that Mr. Nash and Mr. Campbell were pending sentence (for graft).

Well I think that there will not be a police force, that is one composed of Japanese fellows. They say that there will be a force composed of cuacasian population. Well we could now phone or send telegrams out. I don't know if this letter will be censored or not. I doubt it. I also hear that Mr. Temple is fired, because he was too good and friendly with the Japanese Population. He really is a nice fellow from all I hear about him. He speaks good about the Japanese population and tells us that we should get the hell out of here before

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this becomes a real concentration camp with more MP's guarding us and we will really get a hell of a deal later, mainly because of this incident. Oh yes, there was an editorial in the Times about the nice good food we get here. As I started to write this letter, about graft etc. that is where all our good food went to. It may have come into camp but the Japanese population did not consume it. It either went out or the cuacasions ate it. I know one Japanese girl that works in the cuacasion kitchen and she tell me that they eat gravy, with an additional graph, they all cream. Well at present, they have about twenty guys or so in the can, for questioning. One of the dumb muts tried to commite suicide, but he is a physco case so I guess I can't blame him. Our canteens opened yesterday but as usual they don't have much. I also think that someone is going to make a hell of a lot thr graph in our Co-op.

Well there isn't much more to write about. I don't know how our Ad. will run next week. At present, the teachers are the sec. and stenos, But since school starts again next week, they will have to teach again. But for the last two weeks the cuacasions really worked like hell. They had to do just about everything. Before they ordered the Japanese workers around and sat on their but and creamed left and right with money. Well they had a meeting this morning for the workers that lost their jobs for not reporting to work. Well the Project director spoke to all of them and dismissed the meeting, then some dumb Jap stands up and says not to go out and they continue the meeting after Mr. Merrit leaves.

Oh yes, I enclose the paper that he distributed all over Manzanar. It is typed exactly like it was printed. At present, we have no MP's at the hospital or at all of the other post except at the PBX phone exchange and at the eight towers around the camp. There are about four cars, two peeps and two jeeps with four men in them, they have a radio of some kind with one man maning a sub machine gun, one with ans shot gun and one with ear phones on his head and

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one driving, the cars have a antenna about fifteen feet in the air, I don't know if they are trying to recieve short wave or trying to spot where they are sending it from but this is going on all day. But all of the MP's are still here. They are now living in their barracks and in the camouflage net project site. They seemed to have come from Reno, Mohave desert, and from Boulder Dam. They have one armored car, with all of its machine guns sticking out. Well I can't say much more but I'm sure that there is more to come. The camp is not back to normal yet. Far from it. It seems hat we could feel something in the air.

Well if there is anything I left out or something you want to know, just write and ask. Till I hear from you again. ———

PS. Sorry that I had to make carbon copies but I know that everyone wants to know what it is all about so I'm telling the honest truth to everyone. Oh yes, at first Mr. Merrit said that this was to celebrate Dec. the 7th. It is all a lie. It had nothing to do with it. He was trying to cover up to the public so that the bad impressen wouldn't fall on him. He was also trying to cover up some of his fellow workers.

May I wish you a MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. Love. —

Till the rising sun sinks.

Sunday, Dec. 13, 1942

TO THE PEOPLE OF MANZANAR

It is my desire that you know the facts concerning last Sunday's events. When I met with the committee led by Mr. Joe Kurihara shortly after noon, I agreed to bring Harry Ueno back from Independence to the Manzanar jail where he would await trial. The committee promised that the following conditions would be observed:

1. The committee guaranteed there would be no more mobs or mass meetings.
2. The committee guaranteed there would be no attempt later to free Mr. Ueno from the Manzanar jail.
3. The committee guaranteed that there would be no attempted meetings of any sort until the Center had gone back to normal conditions.
4. The committee agreed to help maintain law and order within the center, and in line with this would work with the police to deliver the men who beat Tayama.

THESE CONDITIONS WERE AGREED TO BY THE COMMITTEE

I KEPT MY WORD AND BROUGHT UENO BACK THAT AFTERNOON

THE COMMITTEE VIOLATED ITS WORD BY CALLING THE MASS MEETING AT 6:00 O'CLOCK TO URGE ONE GROUP TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND THE OTHER GROUP TO BREAK INTO THE JAIL. Law and order must be preserved in any community at any cost. If it cannot be preserved through the police it must be preserved through the military.

When those who said that they represented the people of Manzanar, broke their word and resorted to mob violence, there was but one thing to do, and that was to turn over all authority to the military. I did this as a last resort to protect life and property from the rule of mobs.

There is no martial law.

The military are remaining with us as police to maintain law and order.

Since this is a true statement of the facts I have nothing further to say until the people of Manzanar choose to speak through responsible representatives.

(Sign) Ralph P. Merritt
Ralph P. Merritt
Director