

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at Los Angeles, California

File No. 100-14777

Report made at  
Los Angeles, California

Date when made  
8-10-42

Period for  
which made  
8/4-8/42

Report made by  
Edmund D. Mason GWS

Title  
INTERNAL CONDITIONS, SANTA ANITA ASSEMBLY CENTER,  
Arcadia, California; RIOT OF EVACUEES, August 4, 1942

Character of Case  
INTERNAL SECURITY - J  
ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL

REFERENCE:

Teletype to the Bureau, August 5, 1942.

Copies of this Report

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DETAILS: No investigation was conducted in this matter, but this report is predicated upon instant riot and is compiled for information purposes only.

On August 4, 1942, while the writer was at the Santa Anita Assembly Center on other official business, a riot broke out among the Japanese evacuees. This riot reached such proportions that the Interior Police were unable to handle the situation and found it necessary to request assistance from the Military Police ~~brigade~~ battalion stationed at the camp.

When he arrived at the camp on August 4, the writer was advised by Chief of Interior Police CLYDE O. DAWSON that the Interior Police were at that time undertaking a search of certain Japanese barracks. This search, he stated, had the approval of his San Francisco Office and had been ordered by Mr. H. RUSSELL AMORY, Santa Anita Assembly Center Manager. It was instituted with a view to recovering Government property which had been stolen from the mess halls. This Government property consisted of silverware, plates and such items. In addition, numerous Government towels had disappeared and were believed to be in the possession of Japanese evacuees.

The writer was also advised that hot plates were to be seized, inasmuch as they were numerous throughout the area and had resulted in overloading of the electrical lines.

The Wartime Civil Control Administration Operations Manual issued on July 18, 1942 by the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army by order of COLONEL BENDETSEN contains on Page 20 under the heading "N" the following:

"The Interior police officers are authorized without warrant to enter all buildings and evacuee quarters at any time of the day or night when considered necessary in the performance of their duties."

Section H, on Page 19 prohibits the possession of alcoholic beverages except sacramental wines by evacuees. The Rev. JOHN M. YAMAZAKI is the only person authorized to possess sacramental wines. Section I prohibits



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Washington, D. C.



bits tools which may be used as dangerous weapons, including knives with blades three inches or more in length.

Section A, on Page 17 states that all criminal and civil laws, local, state, and Federal are in full force and effect at the Assembly Centers. Section R, on Page 21 states that property articles or equipment belonging to or in custody of the United States Government or any of its agencies shall not be moved by evacuees from one building or location to another without written permission of the Center Manager.

Section U, on Page 23 prohibits the possession of and serving of food which requires heating or cooking in the quarters of evacuees, with the exception of formula foods for infants. Possession of perishable foods except fresh fruits is also prohibited, except as determined by the Center Manager. The above foods are subject to immediate confiscation.

At approximately 2:20 P. M., August 4, 1942, the Chief of Police received a call from an officer stating that it had been reported to him that 2, 700 mess hall workers, 1, 200 workers on a camouflage project for the Army, and approximately 250 to 300 warehouse workers were on a strike. An inspector and an Assistant Chief investigated this report and determined that these persons had been released by their supervisors. A few moments later upwards of 200 women converged upon the chief of police in his office, where the writer was interviewing a Government prisoner, and demanded an explanation for the search and the immediate return of seized property, particularly hot plates which had been confiscated. These women were highly indignant, and due to the fact that so much noise was being made by them that it was impossible for the chief to discuss the matter, he invited them to form a committee of five to enter his office and discuss the matter. While he was discussing this matter in his office with the women, the writer removed himself to the police station proper where he was advised that there was a fight at the Orange Mess Hall.

Several thousand Japanese had gathered together and had pushed Inspector ARROWOOD from the Orange Mess Hall to the inner gate. This gate separates the military area where military police are quartered from the area lived in by Japanese evacuees. Shortly after this, Inspector ARROWOOD returned to the police station proper where upwards of three thousand Japanese assembled and hurled stones and pieces of wood at the building. Three windows were broken.

Inspector ARROWOOD arose and remonstrated with the mob, advising them that at the present time no action would be taken, but that if the mob did not immediately disperse, he would find it necessary to call in the military police. The ~~wir~~ writer, in company with Special Agent W. H. BROWN, removed two government prisoners to the office of the Center Manager, where they were left under police guard for safety.

The army was at that time called in. While in the office of the Center Manager, the writer was advised by the camp publicity officer that a Japanese named HARRY KAWAGUCHI who had stated that he was a police informant, had been severely beaten at the Self-Government House. It was first reported that KAWAGUCHI had been killed, but subsequent investigation revealed that the mob had broken in the windows and doors of the Self-Government House, had seized KAWAGUCHI, had beaten him ~~ix~~ with rocks, had flayed him with clubs,



and had broken several chairs over his head. It was stated by Sergeant J. C. McKOWN that when KAWAGUCHI was beaten to the floor, he was severely kicked and that several typewriters were thrown on top of him. All the furniture in the building was thereupon piled over his body, and it was not until the camp personnel relations officer, Mr. WILDINSON, or Officer PITKIN (agent was unable to determine which) shouted that KAWAGUCHI would be killed if the mob did not desist that the mob withdrew. KAWAGUCHI was taken immediately to the Center Hospital and later removed to the Los Angeles General Hospital, where he is recovering.

KAWAGUCHI'S common law wife, JEANNETTE SHIMIZU, has been taken into protective custody by the Police Department.

Inasmuch as the writer conducted no investigation in this matter, there is being included in this report information obtained from the following officers. It was ascertained from Police Chief CLYDE O. DAWSON that the riot took place as follows:

"About June 18th, soon after the nose count had been ordered, while in a meeting with Mr. Amory and Inspector Arrowood in Mr. Amory's Office, Mr. Amory stated that a considerable amount of Government property, consisting of Silverware, Chinaware, padlocks and various other equipment, had been taken from the mess halls, and inasmuch as he was the responsible officer for this equipment, he would like for us to make a thorough search of all barracks in this center in order to recover this property. He suggested that evacuees be notified, by notice in Pacemaker, to be in their barracks at a certain time for nose count and that instead we would make search at that time.

"On July 22, I received teletype ordering the search for all Japanese phonograph records. About July 25th I was called to Mr. Amory's office and shown copy of the teletype directed to me, supplementing previous teletype. Asst. Mgr. Gene Wilbur and Mr. Barber were present at this meeting. We agreed on the procedure of collecting these records, to wit: Publish a notice in Pacemaker to all evacuees to immediately bring all records to office where they would be properly tagged and receipted for. Mr. Amory then brought up the question of making a search of all barracks the following week, in order to get records that were not turned in and in order to retrieve other government property and hot plates that were not needed by evacuees. I mentioned the fact that it was going to do the morale ~~of~~ no good, but we all agreed that if a search was to be made, it would be as well to do it now as later. It was planned for the following week. The following week I talked again to Mr. Amory and explained to him that the officers were spending three hours per day, in addition to regular tour of duty, attending Police training program and that I preferred to postpone search until August 4th. This was agreed upon and I made arrangements to have several officers from Pomona Center to supplement Santa Anita Force.

"I conferred Monday, August 3, with Mr. Amory and several of his department heads, about the procedure to be followed in search and they agreed to furnish a display of articles similar to those missing from different center departments so as to enable officers to be able to identify Government property. This display was furnished. At this time I asked Mr. Amory to meet with all officers at the Visitors House, Tuesday at 8 A. M. This he agreed to do.



"Monday morning, August 4th, at 8 A.M., all officers were assembled as planned. Mr. Amory was present. I called officers to order and gave them brief instructions, to wit: That the search be conducted as quietly and diplomatically as possible and to be especially careful so as not to cause any incident that might cause trouble. I explained to officers that the search was going to be harmful to the general morale of the Center, at best, but that they could help by explaining to evacuees that it was merely a routine inspection. I gave a short list of contraband articles that were to be confiscated, including literature printed in Japanese language, phonograph records, butcher knives, etc. I explained that they would encounter questionable articles and for that reason, Inspector Arrowood, Asst. Chief Davies and the four sgts. would be in the field with them to help them in those cases.

"I called upon Mr. Amory to then speak. He read a list of articles that had been taken by evacuees and called attention to the display that was on visitors table. He asked the officers to pick up all electric hot plates and electric hot pads, regardless of whether or not they had a permit from Dr. Kabayashi.

"Assistant Chief Davies then gave the officers specific instructions regarding the receipts to be given evacuees. Sgt. McKown then gave the prearranged assignments for search. Officers were then sent to assigned areas. I then went to a cafe outside the Center and had breakfast with Mr. Amory.

"About 2:20 P.M. I received call from Officer Stipes stating he had report that all Camouflage workers totaling about 1200 workers, the Mess division totaling 2700 workers and the Warehouse crew totaling about 300 workers were on strike. I called Inspector Arrowood and Asst. Chief Davies and asked Arrowood to find out if this report was authentic. I instructed Chief Davies to send Officer T. O. Slack to investigate camouflage strike and for Chief Davies to immediately stop all of the search. During this time I asked Special Agent Mason to call his office and ask them to notify G-2. This he did and while still connected with F.B.I. Office the operator cut in and stated she had important call from San Francisco for me. I took the call and talked with Major Ray Ashworth concerning the investigation of liquor, which was in progress. I informed Major Ashworth of the reported strike and told him Inspector Arrowood had gone to investigate same. Inspector Arrowood returned while I was still talking to Major Ashworth and I gave him the telephone, that he might give the Major a report on the strike report. Arrowood reported there was no strike in progress and that the work had been suspended on the camouflage nets for the afternoon. During all this time Agent Mason and I had a defendant in case under investigation in my office. We resumed questioning of this defendant, Adolph Fields. A few minutes later Miss Bolz, the Secretary, called our attention to three or four hundred women coming toward my office from the direction of the Center Hospital. When they arrived in front of my office, I heard some of the women inquiring 'Where is Chief Dawson's Office?' I stepped outside my office and informed those at head of crowd that I was Chief Dawson. Several of them began complaining to me of having their hot plates confiscated by Police. I attempted to explain to them that by obtaining a permit from Dr. Kabayashi they would be able to get hot plates returned.

"There was some queries from those farther back in the crowd who were unable to hear my explanation, and I told them all to appoint a com-



mittee of five to come into my office and we would get the difficulty straightened out. Several women came in and I talked to them and also had a telephone conversation with Mr. Amory and advised him of the existing situation. He told me that Colonel Dodd was in his office for a meeting we three had planned. I told him that the situation at that time would not permit me to leave the office to attend the meeting.

"Pat Okura came into the office with the women and did quite a bit of the talking. Each time I was able to get the women consoled Okura would bring up some trivial matter. Mr. Amory then came to my office and talked to the women and by agreement the committee of women and Mr. Amory went to the Hospital to make arrangements for permits to be issued for some of the women to have their hot plates returned.

"During the time these women were in my office I received a call from Officer Stipes at Police Station, that there was trouble at the Orange Mess. He stated Inspector Arrowood and some officers had gone to investigate this trouble. I also received a call from Arrowood stating that several thousand Japanese had formed and that ~~th~~ he and several officers had been forced to the Pass Gate, which is the gate leading from Center to Military Area and that it appeared likely that M. P.'s would have to be called in. He stated that he would keep me informed of the situation there and I gave him an account of the women being here and told him I would be able to handle the situation here. Arrowood stated he had informed the M.P.'s of the situation and they had been alerted and were standing by.

"I talked to Colonel Dodd by telephone after he reached the inner gate and he told me he could come in immediately on request from Mr. Amory or myself.

"Several officers from vicinity of inner gate including Inspector Arrowood arrived at Police Station and a large crowd began gathering in front of station. Some of them were using some profanity and began throwing rocks at Police Station, breaking three windows. No officer was injured at this time. A Japanese by name of SANO and some others tried to talk to the crowd. Inspector Arrowood tried to persuade the crowd to disperse but with no success. While the crowd was in front of station I had telephone conversation with M. P. officers a couple of times and advised them of the situation here but at this time I did not ask them to come in. I talked to Colonel Dodd at 4:40 P.M. and he mentioned the fact that it was Mess time and that maybe that would help to break the crowd up. I told him that the crowd was gradually diminishing from in front of the office. Shortly afterward I received a call from Asst. Chief Davies, who was at inner gate, and he informed me that he had just received a report that Interior Officer Pitkin had been seriously beaten and possibly killed at the Government House. I told him to let me talk to the Commanding officer of the M. P. who was there with him. I talked with Lt. Pfaff and told him of the report I had and gave him the location of the Government House and asked him to come in. He asked me if I was making official request and I told him I was. He replied that they would immediately come in, which they did. The M.P.'s slowly dispersed the crowd from in front of office and restored order.

I then received report from Center Hospital that Harry Kawaguchi, a Japanese informer, was severely beaten at Government House, but no Caucasian Police were seriously injured, although several were hit with rocks and other missiles.



"Investigation of entire incident will be continued."

\* \* \*

Assistant Chief B. V. DAVIES gave the following version of the riot:

"This report has been set up for the purpose of setting up the highlights of the important occurrences during the day as set forth in the reports submitted by the officers assigned, a general resume being followed by direct references to the officers' reports and verbatim quotations where of particular import. For this purpose the report will cover three subjects, Inspection period, Riot Period, and Post Riot Period.

"INSPECTION PERIOD

"(a) General Attitude

The re-action of the internees to the inspection was quite favorable during the course of the examination of the premises. In only one instance was a search warrant inquired about and this was done in a facetious manner. (Patton) Not many of the people complained about the fact that the hot plates were being picked up but they did object more strenuously to the confiscation of food supplies, scissors, and small knives.

"(b) Special Incidents.

(From report of Sgt. Sanborn) 'Officers Dea and Slack made an inspection at the home of Joe Oyama, editor of the center "Pacemaker" and discovered considerable quantity of suspected subversive literature and reports made by Oyama. The latter was taken to the station and his father was allowed to remain in the house while the inspection was continued. Every effort was made to make the search as frictionless as possible, and the materials were turned over to Mr. Mason of the F. B. I. for further examination.' Joe Oyama was called home from the office of the 'Pacemaker' to observe the inspection.

"(From report of Officer Ellington) 'I was assigned to guard a bridge between District Six and District Five to prevent internees from carrying contraband from the district being searched into another one. I succeeded in seizing some contraband in this manner. Later I was assigned to the task of inspecting the medical staff's barracks and I received a 100% cooperation from the Japanese.'

"(From report of Officer Chamberlain) 'From the time we commenced the inspection of the barracks to the conclusion thereof, no untoward incidents occurred. Japanese occupants submitted readily and willingly to said inspection.'

"(c) Complaints

"(Report of B. V. Davies) 'Katsugi Oyama, the father of Joe Oyama, complained that certain of his memorandums had been taken from the house and I also that books were taken. He also stated that ~~he~~ he had not been given



a receipt for the things taken but had been told that a receipt would be given to Joe Oyama when he was taken over to the station. Apparently, although a receipt was made out by the Officers Slack and Dea assigned to the inspection, a copy of ~~same~~ was not delivered to Joe Oyama pending further classification of the suspected subversive literature and books.'

"(Report of T. O. Slack of complaints filed Aug. 5th). One Mrs. Donald Nishito. Id. #6002 B claimed that a man's watch and heavy gold chain had been stolen by the officers making the inspection. These were officers Purdy and De Witt. This is refuted by report of Officers Crawford and Lamkin and statements of Purdy and De Witt, same being part of the file from which this report has been compiled.

"These are the only bona-fide reports in the form of a complaint that have been received alleging theft of property during inspections in spite of the numerous rumors.

#### "RIOT PERIOD

##### "(a) Purported Causes

'The Japanese appeared to be definitely looking for an officer without a cap and with black hair' (Officer Ellingson's report): 'The grapevine has sure grown. Peoples houses broken down, three hundred dollars stolen by our men from one person, eight dollars from old lady with no funds, a girl thrown out in the street 'til officers ransacked quarters, gave no receipts, stuff thrown around like junk'. (Officer Farwell's report): 'talked with several of the camouflage workers and determined that one of them had seen a written order over Mr. Fitzpatrick's signature ordering suspension of the camouflage work at 1:30 P.M. It was thought by the persons that I talked with to have been made necessary by the inspections so that the workers could be at their homes when they were being inspected.' (Officer Slack's report): 'I found out while I was in the center of the mob that the trouble started over in the bachelor's quarters. Japanese accuse police-officer of taking money from shelf or bed. Officer's name Hayes. This ~~is~~ is the only excuse I could find from any Japanese for the cause of the trouble.' Officer McGee's report): 'They (meaning the Japanese) were all ~~aggry~~ angry about the inspection and particularly angry about the removal of the hot-plates and baby-food where there were children, also the alleged theft of money from the bachelor's quarters. They described an officer with black bushy hair as being the suspected one. They claimed that they would know the officer if they saw him and would kill him if they saw him. They also resented the fact that outside officers came into the camp to make the inspection and they said, 'we know you boys and would not have minded you so much.' (Officer Slack's report) also in Slack's report, 'Before leaving Avenue Two after the inspection I ascertained that a large group was gathering and I discovered that there were rumors that money had been taken from the bachelor's quarters by an officer who had broken into same. These men could not tell me where the money was supposed to have been stolen from or who was supposed to have taken the same. I reported the matter to the station.'

##### "(b) Incidents.

"There seemed to be the general assortment of cat-calls, throwing of rocks, etc., which attends every riot and these will not be given special mention excepting where same led to further complications. The one incident which seemed to spark the beginning of the actual riot was when a number of the Japanese approached the District Six Canteen and complained to Officers Gonlag and Schraub about the alleged theft of the money from



the bachelor's barracks by the officer. Gonlag then suggested to the canteen manager that it would be a good idea to lock up the canteen which was done. Schraub then started towards the Orange Mess and the crowd which was gradually growing followed him there, hitting him and throwing rocks at him. Upon their arrival there they followed Schraub into the Orange Mess and then these men attempted to attack Mr. Deputy, the Steward. The officers assigned there attempted to protect Mr. Deputy and apprehend his assailants. The situation appeared to be getting out of hand and reinforcements were sent over from the station. By this time the mob had grown to several thousand participants and they were getting very vicious. Rocks were being thrown and fists were flying. Officer Hayes was obliged to draw his side-arm in order to get back to the truck in which he had arrived since the venom of the crowd appeared to be directed toward him in particular. He was about to go down under their feet when he drew his gun to clear a path to the truck. At about this time Inspector Arrowood arrived and got out of the car and attempted to disperse the mob. There were cries of 'Kill the white s. of b.'s', 'get the lousy white trash' and the mob was then being spurred on by what appeared to be well planted agitators in considerable number. Inspector Arrowood's car was driven away and the mob then started in the direction of the visitor's gate. Upon their arrival there they faced the army and hurled insults at them. About this time Officer Hayes was taken back to the police station in a truck along with other officers. The majority of the mob then went after that truck throwing rocks at it and they followed to the police station and to the Government house where they continued the stoning, etc. At the Government House they entered same and captured Harry Kawaguchi, hitting him with chairs, etc. He was knocked out and taken to the Center Hospital. The section of the mob which followed the truck with Hayes to the Police Station made a demand for Hayes, not naming him but by unmistakable description. Hayes had not been brought into the station and so they were finally convinced after they had stoned the Police Station. Concurrently with the riot at the Orange Mess a large group of Japanese women and some men came to the Police Station and made a demand for the return of their hot plates, etc. at Station. Also, they attempted to recover some of the contraband material which was temporarily stacked near the station. The riot at the Orange Mess started at about 2:50 P.M. and the incidents at the Government House and the Police Station occurred about 4:20 P.M. The rioters were largely dispersed by 6:30 P.M.

"(b) Special Incidents.

"ORANGE MESS - This began as mentioned in the above paragraph. Officer Hayes whom the crowd was most interested in became separated from the other officers and he was obliged to draw his gun in order to open a way to the truck. He was just about to go under their feet when he drew his gun and same appeared to be justified as reflected in the report of Officer Slack. The mob tried to tip over the Patrol Wagon and also the car in which Inspector Arrowood arrived at the scene. After Hayes and Inspector Arrowood left the scene the crowd headed in the direction taken by the vehicles.

"VISITOR'S GATE - The mob arrived at the visitor's gate and they then proceeded to jeer the soldiers and also they threw some rocks at the soldiers. No one was injured at the gate. An unusual incident occurred when someone (Japanese) passed an ice-pick through the fence to a person on the outside with the comment that someone might be hurt if the ice-pick was not repossessed. The tires (front) on the car of Officer Clack which had been parked throughout the day near the visitor's gate, were cut with a knife so that they had become deflated. Other cars located near Slack's car had been stood upon and the finish badly marred. None of

Slack?



the windows in the cars were broken. When Hayes was taken in a truck to the Police Station, a great many members of the mob followed same in an effort to upset the truck and in stoning the riders therein. A Japanese refused to give his name to the Colonel and he was picked up for questioning as per the report of Slack.

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE. A large number of the members of the mob which left the visitor's gate came to the Government House and looked for Harry Kawaguchi, a Korean suspected of being friendly to the police department. Officer Pitkin was on duty and his report reflects the full details. The mob finally got hold of Kawaguchi and they administered a very severe beating to him and he was knocked unconscious with chairs. He was taken unconscious to the Center Hospital by Pitkin and one Japanese. When Kawaguchi was being transferred to a Los Angeles General Hospital ambulance another attempt was made to assault him but it was unsuccessful. There was considerable damage done the premises of the Government House by the rioters. (Refer to Officers Pitkin's report for full details).

"POLICE STATION. At the time that the riot started at the Orange Mess a large group of Japanese women and some men appeared at the Chief's office and complained that hot plates belonging to families with small children whose food needed to be heated, had been confiscated in spite of a doctor's order authorizing them to have same. These people appeared to have as their spokesman and leader, one Patrick Okura. They conferred with him and appeared to follow his directions in the presentation of their grievances. An effort was made to explain to them the purpose of the order requiring the collection of the hot plates as explained to the officers this morning by Mr. Amory. Some time later, at the request of Inspector Arrowood, Mr. Amory came to the Police Station and talked with the petitioners. It was then agreed that a small committee should accompany Mr. Amory to the Center Hospital where Dr. Kobayashi could arrange for an investigation of the cases to determine whether there should be a re-issuance of permits for the use of hot plates. Mr. Amory and a small group of Japanese then left for the hospital and the others dispersed shortly thereafter.

"Subsequent to the above a large group of rioters appeared at the Police Station and made a demand for a police officer with dark curly hair, suspected of being the officer accused of stealing the money from the bachelor's barracks. Obviously they had followed the truck with Hayes and the others from the visitor's gate. They stoned the station and did other damages as reflected in the individual reports. They were finally dispersed by the Military Police. Between the time of the Orange Mess incident and this one, someone had let the air escape from the front tire on the police truck so as to disable same.

#### "POST RIOT PERIOD

"The general consensus of opinion observed after the cooling off period seems to be that the general run of American born Japanese were merely members of the rioting group only because of the influence of well placed agitators. There were a great many of the older Japanese, particularly the alien group who urged the younger ones into doing acts of violence. Many of the Officers were kicked on the shins, almost always by an old alien Japanese. Most of the officers were struck by fists and a number, including Russel, Hill, Schraub, White and Beal were struck by stones thrown at them. Incidentally, the size of the rocks thrown were in many cases large enough to fracture a skull or break a limb. Many of the Japanese, the younger ones, have approached the officers and told them how they regretted the incident. There are still a number of insolent and fractious groups around the camp but this can be expected as long as the ringleaders



and agitators are at large. By and large there is still a great deal of resentment directed towards the law-enforcement group by the Japanese. Many slurring remarks are made as the officers pass the Japanese. On the other hand the officers who have been regularly assigned in areas still see many friendly faces in their old areas and it seems obvious that any investigations made should be by the officers in their old territories where they appear to be persona grata.

The Interior Police assigned did everything possible to protect property and preserve law and order and there is no evidence that any man shirked his duty even under the most adverse circumstances. Officer Dwan was assigned in the vicinity of the Orange Mess at the time the riot started there and he rendered valuable assistance in seeing to it that the Police Department was notified so that reinforcements could be sent there. He then became cut off from the Mess Hall and in a position where he could be of no help to anyone unless he could get around a large mob which had formed. He asked permission of the Military Police assigned to the tower near the white mess to go over the fence. This permission was granted, and Dwan went over the fence and hurried to the Baldwin Avenue entrance where he met Asst. Chief Davies and Sgt. Moss. Dwan then came into the Police Station and was then reassigned to help maintain order at the main entrance of the Administration Building."

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Sergeant J. C. McKOWN reported the riot as follows:

"August 3, 1942. Made arrangements with Inspector Arrowood to perform the searching of the barracks at Santa Anita Assembly Center in District land 2, 6 and 7. Made previous arrangements with Pomona for their extra men for the men that would be off shift.

"August 4, 1942, started the search at approximately 9:30 A.M. I had eight of my regular day shift on stationery posts and had six on line duty to keep evacuees from going outside of the searching areas. The gates were locked in Areas 1 and 2 with the exception of the Auxiliary Gate, through which traffic was allowed to move. Gave part of my shift to Sergeant Sanborn to search through District 2. His men were: Beal and Barber; Calvechie and Campbell; Hill and Hain; Turner and Paine; Brown and Robinson; Dea and Sanborn; Smith and Ross; Inzerillo and Slack.

"Sergeant Bertolina's men were: Bertolina and Adams; Harris and Cutler; Hampton and Cross; Bucher and Cole; Pitkin and Gonlag; Schraub and Dwan; Fitzgerald and McLeod; Van Fleet and Cameron; Sullivan and Ashby.

"Sergeant Moss' men consisted of Bell and Jones; Patton and Chamberlain; Crawford and Lamkin; DeWitt and Purdy; Stampley and Yeeman; Richards and Mauch; McCray and Gossum; Hayes and Roberts; Rose and Trabert and Farwell and Turner.

"My men consisted of: Walters and Whipple (Pomona); White and Zuhars (Pomona); Kelly and Alger (Pomona); Zeida and Vaughn, (Pomona); Goudge (P) and Varcoe (P); Seitz (P) and Doyington (P); Staats (P) and Lyons (P); Voss (P) and Humphrey (P); Coughlin (P) and Flanigan (P).

"We had two trucks from the warehouse with Japanese drivers to pick up the contraband and the Mess equipment. We had two of the Police Patrol trucks manned by Cooper and LaGumina, and they acted as a source of communication between the searchers and the office. LaGumina was in area 6 and 7. Cooper in 1 and 2. In District 1 and 2, the search was conducted as



per schedule. The evacuees understood what the search was for and there was no trouble.

"By 3:00 P.M., we had used all of our property receipts and the men had been working over from the graveyard shift and from Moss' 4:00 to 12:00 shift and were getting tired. Therefore, on orders from Chief Dawson, we stopped the search. We reported at the Office approximately at 3:15 P.M. We turned in the property receipts and came back to the station.

"I found Dr. Nakadate, who told me that there was lots of liquor being hidden in the trash cans. I picked up Roberts, Yeoman, Turner and Farwell and started on Avenue 8 and went down Avenues 7, 6, and 5. We found bread, jars of jam, dishes, knives, forks, Japanese literature and about a dozen empty Saki bottles.

"Arrived back at the station approximately 3:55 to learn of a riot at the Pass Gate. Immediately went to the Pass Gate to Assist Inspector Arrowood in the dispersing of the crowd. At approximately 4:15 P. M. was told by Inspector Arrowood to have Sergeant Moss and his men report to the Police Office. Sergeant Moss brought his men through the Pass Gate from the Military Zone in single file and started walking toward the station. As soon as the men got in, all the Japanese that were in the mob, started pointing at Officer Hayes and screaming and yelling that that was the man. At that time a call came through from the Police Station, I answered the telephone and by that time Moss' men were down to the corner of M and Seabiscuit Ave. We immediately jumped into the car of Officer Dea's with four other men and two standing on the running board. We came immediately to the Police Station under continuous shelling of rocks en route.

"We arrived at the station well ahead of the rest of the mob and reported to Chief Dawson's office. Had orders from the Chief to hold the men at the Police Station for further orders. In the meantime a crowd came into the station and fired several rocks at the station, breaking the glass in ~~the windows and some of the rocks came into the station, breaking the glass in~~ the windows and some of the rocks came into the station. Several of the boys were hit but none seriously injured. We stayed at the Police station and Sergeant Moss escorted Hayes safely out the rear gate in Area 7. On the day shift all the boys stayed at the station until released by Chief Dawson. We left at approximately 8:30.

"At 4:30 P.M., Jeanette Shimizu, a girl friend and common law wife of Harry Kawaguchi, a Japanese who was beaten by the mob at Government House, came into the Police Office and asked for Police Protection. I assigned her to the back room and she stayed at the station all night. I asked her for a complete detailed report as to what happened as far as she knew. The report has been submitted to Chief Dawson. She is 25 years of age, is a waitress by profession, was born in Stockton and is Japanese nationality. She was inducted at Santa Anita, May 7, 1942. Her family moved to Tule Lake. She formerly lived at 1765 Vista Del Mar Avenue in Stockton, in a private home.

\* \* \* \*

JEANETTE SHIMIZU, common-law wife of HARRY KAWAGUCHI, reported the riot as follows:

"First sign of the mob I saw was at 3:15 P.M. August 4th from Barrack 10 on 10th St. The mob grew out of that group of people who were looking at the contraband which was piled under the large tree near the Orange



Mess Hall. The crowd roared so I thought that there was going to be trouble, so a girl friend and I ran toward the crowd. As I got there the mob moved into the Orange Mess Hall and made lots of noise, but I couldn't get near to see what really went on, except that the Police were trying their best to get someone out of the Hall and from the mob. I asked the people around me ~~what~~ the trouble was, and I heard several versions of stories. The most popular story was about an American policeman who took money from the Barrack. He was supposed to be a fat policeman.

"After the police drove away in trucks, the people stood in groups and talked, some were breaking away and going away, but I noticed some young boys and men going from group to group whispering something. I knew some of them because I saw them before as Japanese Auxiliary Police, and I saw them at the Police Ball too, I overheard one of them saying something about lynching and beating someone, about going to the Police Station and start something, about getting a gang together and other things like that. I pointed out the man who was trying to start the riot again to the girl who was with me, but she didn't quite see him. Thinking that it was over I went home to clean up so that I can go to work at the Yellow Mess Hall. As I was ready to go to work, a cook who works nights in the Yellow Mess Hall came up to the group in front of my Barrack and said out loud that someone should get the Japanese who lived in that Barrack. I gathered from that that he meant Harry, because Harry is over my place more than he is at his own room. This cook said that when the police took the money this Japanese was in the deal with him, which I knew was not true because Harry was watching the gate between the stable and the new districts all morning and after that he came to my Barrack to take me to lunch. After lunch he was with me to have my Barrack inspected, then went to the Canteen to have Soda with me at the same time to look at the contraband, then walked home when the trucks that were picking up the contraband off the road and street came to pick up the things in front of our Barrack so he jumped on the truck to help. That must have been 2:45 P.M. The rumor of the money taken was going around at about 10:00 A.M.

"At 3:45 I went to work, and again listened to lots of tales about the Police taking money. At 4 o'clock I saw a Housing Department truck stop alongside of the Mess Hall a load of boys, girls in shorts, and some older men. That load went down 10th Street and met up with the mob on foot at Barrack 9, 11th street which is where Harry's room is located. That mob was a good size, but as the truck rounded the corner and stopped in front of my place the mob was large as the mob at front of the Orange Mess Hall at 3:30. They were annoying the old woman who is sharing the room with me, and also her man friend. I can see all this as it is only two Barracks away. The mob allowed the old folks to shut the door after being satisfied that there were no one there that they wanted. I was afraid that the mob might hurt the old woman whose heart was very weak, so I started home a round about way. As I neared home, I heard shouts like these-- 'where is he' 'let's get him' 'I got a knife that the police didn't get' 'that's his girl's room' 'if we can't find him let's go to the police station' 'get him' 'get the fat police' and so forth. I started back to the Mess Hall, but I knew that the mob would recognize me if I wait on the table at the Mess Hall ~~after~~ the mob starts coming in to eat and I was afraid that it will happen so I walk toward the Police Station to get protection as well as finding where Harry was. As I left, the mob was getting larger and louder. When I reached the Station I find that there were another mob at the front of the Police Station, so I walked back to the Post Office and ask to use the tele-



phone with which I called the police for advice. The Police said that it will be all right for me to come to the station so I walk up to the station without coming to any harm.

"I was asked to write down the names of the people who were in the riot, but all I can say is that there were people I see every day in the Mess Hall and many of them were boys that should have been in school because they look awfully young to me--most of them were strangers to me. They sure had free use of commissary trucks, motor pool trucks, and housing trucks for the riot.

\* \* \* \*

Patrolman R. J. PITKIN, Santa Anita Assembly Center Interior Police, reported the riot as follows:

"Approximately 3:15 P.M., August 4, 1942, Officer Gonlag and myself finished up barracks inspection in the barracks next to Canteen in Section 6. Upon completion of our inspection, we met Officers Dwan and Schraub and proceeded east to see if there was any more work to do. We saw that all contraband had been removed, and we were alone. We all walked down to the fence to see if any other Officers were working in streets II and 12. We saw none and returned to the bridge between 5 and 6. As we started toward the bridge we were approached by approximately 20 young fellows who looked rather ugly and boastful. One of them said, 'Now we get our share.'

"I realized that the four of us were alone and conditions were looking serious. Immediately upon realizing the seriousness of the situation, I walked through the crowd to the telephone in Canteen in Section #6. I talked to Sergeant Sanborn and told him that there was really trouble and we needed help.

"I noticed that a crowd was proceeding toward the Orange Mess Hall and I followed along after them. On the way I saw the arrival of my truck coming from the Police Office with several officers on it. They couldn't make any headway in the crowd at all so I walked over to where a large Dodge Truck, marked Carpenters Shop, stood, and told the Japanese boy sitting in it to drive up close to the other truck, as I thought two of us might make a little more headway. However, he refused. I reached in, took the key, and told him to report to his Department Head that I had taken the truck and gave him my name. I started to walk back toward the officers in the truck, decided that it would be impossible to render any assistance, whereupon I got into the Dodge truck and started west. I was surrounded by a group of ugly evacuees. I got out and talked with them and I was immediately told that some Officers had taken \$350.00 from some evacuee. I told the fellow to get five men that he knew and we would immediately go the man that knew all about it. We drove down into section #4 and then contacted the man who was supposed to know all the facts, but he knew nothing.

"I went back up "M" street and proceeded west to the inner section of Seabiscuit Ave. and "M" st., Then I talked to more of these Japanese and tried to disperse them with very little success. I got into the truck and started for the inner gate. I picked up several Japanese on the way there, that I thought were O.K. I drove practically all the way there and then got out and walked through the crowd to the Outside Gate, trying to disperse them as I went. I met a Japanese fellow I knew and trusted, and told him to get into the truck and drive it



through the crowd to see if he could break it up. Approximately 20 cars belonging to other workers were lined up waiting to get out. As they couldn't move for about 20 minutes anyway, I asked each of them to go back and drive through the crowd at intervals to keep them moving. I believe this did help a little towards breaking up the crowd. Immediately after this, Arrowood started a march of the Officers at the gate to the Police Office. I wasn't ordered or asked to go so I remained where I was. I got into my own car and started to go to the Police Station. I wasn't ordered or asked to go and so I remained where I met the Japanese I had sent out with the truck and traded my car for the truck, he promising that he would take care of the car for me. I proceeded to the Police Station in the truck and arrived a short time after the ~~the~~ other officers had arrived. There was no reason to stay at the office and I thought I would go back and see if there was anything that I could do.

I was. I got into my own car and started toward the police station.

"As I reached the Government House at the intersection again, I looked in and saw Harry Kawaguchi inside. Approximately 200 Japanese were looking in the windows in the Government House. I took the key out of the truck and walked in. I went from window to window putting up the best sales talk I could to get them away and met with no success.

"The situation grew steadily worse until a few came through the door. Then they broke the windows and came in that way. I told Harry to get under the desk. Somebody grabbed an inkwell and threw it at him driving him from under the desk. The next thing that I noticed was a Japanese standing on top of the table immediately above Harry. A rather elderly looking man, work clothes, right eye glassy, (possibly a cataract) had a chair in his hands and he let loose with it as Harry came from under the table. Someone else stepped behind the counter and struck Harry with his fist. Then chairs started coming thick and fast at Harry. He was on my right on the floor with his head against the wall, very badly cut and bleeding. The Japanese then piled nearly all the furniture in the office on top of him, violently. I shouted to them that they would kill him if they didn't stop and it seemed to frighten them and they did stop and left.

"Two Japanese fellows, I don't know what their names are, helped me to remove the tables and debris and we carried Harry out to a Dodge Pick-up truck that was standing in front of the building with the key inside it. The key to the truck I had been driving when I arrived had been knocked out of my hand and I had been unable to find it. With one of the Japanese I took Harry to the hospital

"When I first arrived at the Government House, I called into the Police Office and Officer Jones on the desk told me to do the best I could, that they could not send help and for me not to attempt any violence of my own. After the fight I attempted to telephone again but the telephone was out of order. I did telephone from the hospital and talked with Sgt. McKown and he told me to stay there twenty minutes and call back, I did this, there was nothing doing, and I said I would be all right and I left to go look for my car. I found it unharmed by the Main Gate."

\* \* \* \*

Officer R. J. DeWitt gave the following description of the riot:

"At 3:58 P.M., we, C. P. Lamkin and R. J. DeWitt, and D. B. Jones arrived at the Baldwin Avenue Gate. The Military Police asked us if we



wanted to come in, in the middle of the riot, of which we knew nothing.

"We proceeded immediately to the Inner gate and were stopped there by Sergeant Moss and were instructed to remain outside the gate until further orders. At approximately 5:15, Sergeant Moss called the roll of his crew, opened the gate, and instructed us to march to the Police Station.

"About 75 feet inside the gate, an angry mob started following us demanding that we turn one of our officers over to them. We proceeded another 100 feet farther to where one of the Motor Pool trucks was standing, with the motor running. It was being driven by one of the Warehouse personnel, I don't know which one. Sgt. Moss ordered us onto the truck and ordered the driver to proceed at once.

"When the truck started to move, the mob started throwing rocks, light bulbs, at us. We were driven directly to the station, arriving there at 5:25. The mob following us on foot and congregating in front of the Police Station where they remained. They occasionally threw rocks into the station breaking the windows, etc. The rocks occasionally hit some of the officers, but none were seriously hurt.

"The Japanese were there until dispersed by the Military Police."

\* \* \* \*

Officer J. G. Gonlag gave the following report concerning the riot:

"When we had completed our search of 9 and 10, we looked to see if we could find any other officers but could not. I lost sight of Pitkin, and before I knew it, as I was talking to Schraub, a large crowd formed around us. I said that we had better try to get out, the crowd had started to swing on us. When we moved they would follow us and form in front of us again.

"I started to go one way and Schraub started in the other direction. As I started about six elderly Japanese fellows came up and formed in a circle around me. This one chap said 'don't worry, we will protect you'. They took me to the Canteen and I called Sgt. Sanborn to send a squad of men down, that there was a lot of trouble. I also told the manager of the Canteen that he had better lock it up.

"When I came out, the crowd was following Schraub to the Orange Mess. The truck with the other officers came in and I talked with some of them and they said we couldn't do anything. I decided to get away from the area and leave them alone.

"Sgt. McKown commandeered my car to go to the front gate. When we got to the gate the same Japanese that had helped me before were there and gathered around me again. They said 'Leave it to us, we will take care of it.'

"There was one fellow I knew, I believe he lives on 12 St. Unit 1, Barr. I have had trouble with him before at the Blue Mess, that was very ugly and, I believe that he is a dangerous character. I can identify him at any time.



"We were ordered back to the Police Station."

\* \* \* \*

Sergeant Bertolina reported the riot as follows:

"The morning watch (12M to 8 A.M.) reported to the Visitor's house at 7:30 this date with all men present. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 A.M.

"Mr. Amory issued instructions regarding Government material such as dishes, silverware, towels, etc. that were missing in large quantities, and asked for these items to be picked up. He also explained the question of Hot Plates--that these also were to be picked up, and that a new Doctor's order would have to be issued for the plates to be returned to the owners. He also requested other electrical items such as hot pads, fans, toasters, radios with short wave etc. to be picked up.

"Chief Dawson in detail explained other items to be picked up and in all cases a receipt be given for each item taken.

"Articles included butcher knives, toasters, chisels, hatchets or anything classed as a weapon, Japanese Literature, records, liquor.

"I took the crew assigned to me to District #6 and with Officer Adams supervised the men during the inspection, and to clear up anything or difficulty that might arise.

"At approximately orders were received from Asst. Chief B. V. Davies to cease the inspection as soon as possible. I did as directed and Office La Gumina with the truck arrived and picked up the contraband that we confiscated taking same to our central pile at the east end of Ave. M.

"At no time during the search did we have any trouble of any description in District #6 regarding the inspection of the barracks.

"I left the Center about 3:15 P.M. together with Officers Adams, Bucher, Van Fleet, and McLeod."

\* \* \* \*

Officer ELLINGTON made the following report:

"At 7:20 A.M. this morning upon arriving at the center I was told to report at the visitor's house. Here I was told that there was to be a general inspection made of the center. The instructions were to make a general search of each barracks. We were to be on the lookout for missing mess hall equipment along with other items of contraband. We were ~~also~~ also instructed to act in a courteous and friendly manner paying particular attention to our handling of the situation so as to cause no ill will among the internees. These instructions were given to us by Chief Dawson, Asst. Chief Davies and Mr. Amory.

"My particular assignment was to maintain a watch on the bridge between District #6 and District #5, the purpose being to prevent the Japanese from carrying contraband from the 6th District which was then being searched, into District #5 where the contraband could be secreted by their Japanese friends.

"I stood watch at this point until approximately one-thirty



o'clock when I was relieved for lunch. During the time I was on duty I did seize numerous contraband items which were being concealed in various ways. (in laundry tubs under clothes, etc) and ~~Y~~ carried towards a District #5 to be hidden. The items which I seized were then labeled by me and receipts were given in accordance with the instructions received at the morning meeting.

"At approximately 2:00 P.M. I returned from lunch and was assigned to assist in searching the barracks of the medical staff who were anxious to return to the hospital. Officer Cutler and I worked together and were particularly careful to knock before entering any barracks; we did not enter any unless the resident was within. We cultivated a very friendly spirit in each home we inspected. We continued searching for approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour when Officer Adams informed us that the search was over.

"At approximately 3:00 P.M. I reported to the Police Station immediately after leaving District #6. While at the station a call came in that there was a riot at the Orange Mess. Chief Davies took his car with the following passengers, to wit: Inspector Arrowood, Officer Rose and myself.

"We started for the mess hall riot however the mob had grown to such proportions that it almost filled Man of War Avenue from the Orange Mess to Biscuit Avenue. We started to drive directly through, later on the siren was turned on after we had entered the crowd. We found this necessary in order to proceed on. We stopped in the center where Inspector Arrowood attempted to quiet the mob, (this turned out to be impossible) He seemed to be having difficulty with the Japanese and I stepped out to assist him, however he managed to get back on the front fender, and I got back in the car. All this time rocks, fruit, milk bottles, etc., were being thrown at us and at the car. As we ~~xx~~ started driving away and after we had driven some distance I looked back at the spot where we had just departed from and saw an officer standing there alone at about the spot where Mr. Arrowood had been talking to the Japanese. It was impossible to ~~turn~~ turn around and so we continued driving to the inner inspection gate, which we closed. I have since learned this was Slack.

"At this point I asked someone what had happened to the seized contraband which had been placed in various locations and which the Japanese definitely were looking for. I was informed that this had all been picked up by the police trucks and placed in safekeeping. However, I questioned this because contraband had been placed in piles on the bridge that I had been watching over two hours and it had not been picked up when I left that point. I was particularly concerned because there were quite a number of long knives in that pile that I had seized and I was afraid that they might fall into the hands of some members of the Japanese mob.

"The Japanese seemed to be definitely looking for an officer with a revolver hanging at his side and with black hair and no cap. They complained that he had drawn a gun on them after the riot had started; however I did not see this incident and cannot be sure. I believe that an officer answering to this description rode out of the mob on the running board of Chief Davies' car with the rest of us.

"It appeared to me that the whole incident was caused by malicious rumors instigated at the beginning of the search and which had spread very rapidly. I have no idea who started the rumors, the rumors being that thousands of dollars had been stolen, along with other valuables such as watches, jewelry, etc.



"The following incident particularly stands out in my mind: early in the morning when I first went to my post a young Japanese boy about 21 years of age approached me and said, 'I knew this was coming; yesterday Mr. Barber sent me with a message requesting that two trucks be sent to the gate to be used by the Police Department in picking up stuff by the police tomorrow.' This seemed strange to me because I wondered how a Japanese could know about the search when I did not learn until the following day when I reported for duty.

"The Army M. P.s eventually took over; I was surprised when they did take over because they were subject to thrown rocks, bottles, etc., just the same as we police officers were.

"At approximately 6:30 P.M. I was relieved and returned home."

\* \* \* \*

Sergeant D. M. SANBORN gave the following version of the riot:

"On the morning of August 4th, I was given orders to take sixteen men and search all of the quarters in Area #2. All men attended the meeting at the visitors house and were given instructions and at about 9:30 A.M. we started.

"We searched barracks #45-52-54-56-61-62-64-66. We met with no trouble at any place and at most of the places the people spread a lot of their things out on the floor to help the officers.

"All units were well gone over, all things that were removed were tagged and marked, placed in front of the quarters Mr. Lane was right behind us picking everything up. Officers Brown and Robinson made a mistake at one place over some silver. I returned same at once and all was O.K.

"At the Unit of Joe Oyama, who lives in the same unit with his father and mother, there was no one at home and so I sent for Joe Oyama who works at the Pacemaker, the center paper. Mr. Oyama arrived and the two officers on that unit, Dea and Slack, proceeded with their search. There was quite a bit of typewritten material and some books that I asked Sgt. McKown to look at. He took a look and ~~six~~ said he was going to take Oyama to the station. We bundled up his things and Officers Dea and Slack took them to the Station. At the time that Mr. Joe Oyama left the place with Sgt. McKown, his father arrived at the house. He asked me if the F.B.I. was taking Joe and I said 'No'.

"We went on our searching of other quarters split up half and half and had lunch. About 2:00 P.M. I received word to call off the search. We returned to the Police Station.

"About 2:45 P.M. a call came in from the Orange Mess that there was a riot over there. I sent Frank LaGumina at once with a truck and about six men. In about five minutes another call came in and I notified Chief Arrowood and Assistant Chief Davies and they left at once with a couple of men.

"About 3:30 a mob began to gather in front of the station and after Chief Arrowood had tried to talk them into breaking up and they would not and stones began to fly, the military arrived on the scene."



\* \* \* \*

Officer Schraub made the following report of the riot:

"On the day of Aug. 4, 1942 upon the completion of a barrack inspection detail in district #6 I was approached by an angry group of Japanese at about 2:40 P.M. at the border of district #6 and district #4.

"They entered a complaint to me about some of the officers who were on a similar detail on this date, to the effect that they entered their apartments forcibly during their absence and taken money and babies food. I told them to take what information they had and give it to the chief for investigation.

"This answer was not satisfactory to this group which had mounted to about 2000 Japanese by this time. Someone suggested cleaning up on all the patrolmen and they proceeded to punch me with their first from my rear.

"I was struck about 12 times by various members of this group, hit in the neck by a rock, hit in the back by a pop bottle that was thrown.

"At no time did I attempt to strike at any of the Japanese.

"Slowly I worked my way to the Orange Mess Hall #5 in order to telephone for help where upon this group followed me, stoning me all the way. Once in the mess hall the entire group followed me into the Mess Hall still throwing rocks and china cups.

"I finally reached the Mess Hall stewards office closed the door of this office and called for immediately help, which was given.

"I was not injured. After about one hour the Mess Hall was cleared, and I was picked up by Mr. Brewster, Supervisor of Mess Halls, and brought to the Police Station at the Grand Stand for safety.

"Shortly after my arrival at the Police Station between 2000 and 3000 of this mob arrived in front of the police station cursing and stoning Patrolmen and shattering the windows. Inspector Arrowood made an urgent plea to this group to disperse but of no avail. The military police finally arrived and dispersed the crowd."

\* \* \* \*

The writer was requested by COLONEL BENDETSSEN, United States Army, to photograph for him the contraband seized by the police. This was done on August 7, 1942. Copies of these photographs are being forwarded to the Bureau with this report.

Confidential National Defense Informant Los Angeles No. 10-2 on June 8, 1942 advised with regard to conditions at the Santa Anita Assembly Center that there is considerable unrest at this camp, and that particular attention should be directed to the Self-Government of these evacuees which clearly shows the dominating influence of alien Japanese. This informant was advised by a Nisei as follows:

"These Issei leaders came here first because they were afraid of being apprehended by the FBI. They have no intentions of staying in this country after the war. Because they are the most obedient and seemingly most industrious, they have won



the confidence of the administrative staff here in charge who know nothing about their background and intentions."

A Kibei informant advised Confidential National Defense Informant Los Angeles 10-2 on May 29, 1942 that:

"Trouble might result from the unrest and general conditions at the center, primarily in the food department, due to the treatment of Japanese employed in that department as waitresses by the Caucasian stewards in charge."

An example of this is information obtained from Confidential Source of Information A relative to trouble at the Orange Mess Hall on May 31, 1942, as follows:

"A call came into police headquarters advising of a disturbance at the Orange Mess, and on arriving, according to Officer MOSS, he found there were from 250 to 300 people milling around in the front and in the inside of the mess hall. About 50 or 60 had not had anything to eat and according to them the chief steward, a Mr. DEPUTY, had attempted to serve them some weiners which had been taken out of the can three days previous. MOSS said that when he got inside and asked DEPUTY what the trouble was, DEPUTY answered in a loud voice right in front of the whole crowd: 'The G-- D-- S-- o-- B--'s had a chance to eat and wouldn't, and now they can all go to hell!'

MOSS said that he quieted DEPUTY down and told him to go into the back room and stay there and he would attempt to handle the crowd. He said that when DEPUTY left the crowd quieted down some, and that he talked to them and told them that he would arrange to get them something to eat. Some of the Japanese cooks told him they would prepare some chop suey for those who had not yet eaten. MOSS said that everything was O.K., and about the time the steward from the Red Mess, a Mr. HART, came in and walked up in front of the crowd and picked up one of the weiners and said: 'I eat them, and these bas----- can eat them too.'

"According to MOSS, HART had been drinking. MOSS then got HART quieted down and told him that he had better leave, for the crowd was beginning to clamor again. After HART left, MOSS was able again to quiet the crowd, but before the cooks had a chance to serve the chop suey, Mr. BREWSTER, head of the mess hall and kitchens, came in. He had been notified that there was trouble in the orange mess. MOSS said that when BREWSTER was told what was going on, he replied: 'Oh, the G-- D-- S-- O-- B--'s are always complaining, and they are better fed and housed than they ever were before in their lives!'

"Officer MOSS stated that he told Mr. BREWSTER that that was no way to talk, and that he, MOSS, would take care of the situation."

Within the camp during the search of August 4, 1942, the police discovered large quantities of contraband. Among this contraband was sugar and whiskey. In one barracks whiskey was discovered secreted beneath the floor boards.

During the riot Japanese/ persons, identity unknown, shouted to a police officer that upon the fall of night, they would ambush the officials. Due to the fact that during the night and the following two days military police patrolled the area, no ambush or outbreak took place.



No firearms or knives were noticed among the rioting Japanese, and their weapons appeared to consist solely of stones and pieces of wood.

On August 9, 1942, the Wartime Civil Control Authority released to the press an announcement that a riot had taken place within the camp. This newspaper clipping read as though the riot was instigated in order to set upon HARRY KAWAGUCHI, previously mentioned in this report. No mention was made of the fact that camp employees were confined to the camp area and not permitted to return to their homes; that incoming and outgoing mail had been cut off for two days, and that telephone calls from the camp were suspended.

The Santa Anita Assembly Center "Pacemaker", a newspaper published within the Camp by Japanese evacuees, the ~~xx~~ editor in chief of which is EDDIE SHIMANO, alleged by Source of Information B to be a Communist, states:

"MILITARY POLICE LEAVE CENTER

"Inspection Disturbance Causes Two-Day  
Army Control

"After being stationed within the Japanese Assembly Center at Santa Anita for two days as a result of a disturbance accentuated by the beating of an evacuee of mixed Japanese and Korean ancestry Tuesday afternoon, the military police were withdrawn yesterday evening.

"The assault on the evacuee occurred during a routine inspection by the Interior Police. Suspected of being an informer, the evacuee was set upon by several hundred other evacuees.

"A milling crowd of about 2000 Japanese gathered almost at once. The military police stationed outside the center were summoned. Some 200 were ordered in.

"The beaten evacuee, badly but not seriously hurt, was rescued by the soldiers and removed to a hospital. The Santa Anita Center contains a total population of almost 19,000 evacuated from military areas on the Pacific Coast."

As a result of this riot, approximately 19 police officers resigned or were fired. Some expressed their reluctance to patrol the camp at night alone upon the withdrawal of the military police.

Center Manager H. RUSSELL AMORY ~~and~~ and Chief of the Mess and Lodging Division, BREWSTER, have been replaced, according to informant C.

The Interior Police Department has been making frequent raids in an endeavor to control whiskey importation, gambling and other vice.

The Military Police have now withdrawn and the camp is now proceeding with normal routine on a quiet basis.

ENCLOSURES: TO THE BUREAU - 11 photographs of the riot scene and contraband seized.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Washington, D. C.

Sep 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARD J. ENNIS  
DIRECTOR, ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL UNIT

RE: Japanese Riots at Santa Anita  
Assembly Center

Reference is made to your memorandum of August 18, 1942, acknowledging receipt of a copy of my memorandum of August 7, 1942, to the Attorney General concerning the riots on August 4, 1942, at the Santa Anita Assembly Center.

I have been informed that the Military Police were withdrawn from the Assembly Center on August 6, 1942.

For your further information in this matter, there is attached hereto a copy of the report of Special Agent Edmund D. Mason dated August 10, 1942, at Los Angeles, California, in the case entitled "Internal Conditions, Santa Anita Assembly Center, ~~xxx~~ Arcadia, California; Riot of Evacuees, August 4, 1942: Internal Security -J, Alien Enemy Control".

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover (signed)  
Director

Enclosure



September 22, 1942

Colonel Karl E. Bendetson  
Wartime Civil Control Administration  
Western Defense Command And Fourth Army  
1231 Market Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Karl:

An FBI report which has just come to my attention sets forth in some detail information regarding disturbances at the Santa Anita Assembly Center. Unfortunately none of the participants' names are mentioned. I would appreciate your advising me whether you have any information indicating who the leaders or the inciters of these disturbances might be as well as those who took an active part in the affair after it had gotten underway.

Needless to say, I shall be very happy to cooperate in every way in order to aid discipline of these camps. If any individual responsible for any disturbance is an alien, I should appreciate your promptly advising me.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Ennis,  
Director.

JFT:nr



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL UNIT

9/17/42

Date

MEMO FOR MR. ENNIS

I suppose riots at Japanese centers are not really our problem but the problem of the War Relocation Authority. It does affect us indirectly however in that it builds up a pressure to compel us to be harsher in our treatment of the Japanese. If these riots are caused by Japanese sympathizers, these Japanese sympathizers should be apprehended and interned. I suggest that we write to War Relocation Authority and ask it if it can furnish us the names of the persons responsible for causing a disturbance as well as the names of those who were heard to yell "get the white s. of b.'s". If these individuals were apprehended and interned, I am sure it would have a very salutary effect upon maintaining discipline and putting the quietus on Potential agitators.

JFT



Document

May 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Ferguson

SUBJECT: Incident at Del Rey, California

On the night of April 12, 1942, five young Japanese voluntary evacuees from southern California engaged in an argument with Constable John Swan at Del Rey. They overpowered the Constable, knocked him unconscious, took away his gun and his handcuffs. Later three of them voluntarily surrendered to the police at Reedley about fifteen miles away, saying, however, that they had contacted a holdup man and had taken away his gun. Later it developed that it was the Constable from whom they had taken the gun. The two others were arrested later in the Del Rey area upon information provided by Roy Moto, an old-time Japanese resident of that section. The five are still in jail in Fresno.

The following night several people in the area gathered in Del Rey. I am informed by Constable Swan that some of them were armed with shotguns. The constable stated that it was their intention to go out to the Japanese camp about three miles from Del Rey where about 125 Japanese were housed. The Constable heard of the gathering and went there. He explained to the gathering that this was an incident that might have happened had the five men been Mexicans, Filipinos, or white people. It was just unfortunate, under the circumstances, that they were Japanese. He told them that he was the aggrieved person, and he felt no personal animosity toward the Japanese. He further warned them that any direct action against the Japanese residents in that area might lead to serious consequences in that the Japanese Government certainly would retaliate against our prisoners of war. The gathering broke up.

Later that night, however, the windows in three stores in the Japanese section of Del Rey were broken. Among these were the windows in the store at the corner of Railroad and Third Streets which the owners of the Japanese newspaper "Nichi Bei" had leased about two weeks previously. On the following night, windows were broken in one more Japanese store in the same area.

At 2 A.M. on March 12 in the town of Sultana, about 20 miles southeast of Del Rey, two Americans set fire to the automobile of a Japanese which was parked along side of a Japanese-owned, Japanese-operated hotel. The hotel, at the time, was crowded with Japanese



evacuees. The automobile was destroyed, but neighbors put out the fire before it had ignited the hotel. The men admitted it was their purpose to burn down the hotel, saying that they believed they were acting with patriotic motives in attempting to burn the Japanese property. The men were arrested, and pleaded guilty in the superior court. They ~~have~~ asked for probation, ~~and their case is still pending.~~ *which was granted.*

These are the two most serious incidents which have occurred in the area. However, the windows of Japanese stores also have been broken in Reedley, 10 miles south-east from Del Rey, and at Kingsburg, about 12 miles south of Del Rey. About a week ago in Del Rey, Constable Swan received two or three reports of a Japanese driving recklessly through the town. It was reported to him that a Japanese driving at a very rapid rate of speed, possibly 50 miles an hour through the town, had made an apparently deliberate attempt to run down a woman carrying a baby in her arms. He chased her up onto the sidewalk, narrowly missing her. This incident, while minor, created considerable resentment throughout the area.

In the vicinity of Orosi, 12 miles east of Dinuba and about 25 miles south-east of Del Rey, farmers, Legion members, and business men have formed an organization which they call the "Bald Eagles". They are not uniformed, but all are armed. They are seeking to obtain a total of 1,000 members in the area between Orosi and Del Rey. The avowed purpose of this organization is to "take care" of the Japanese in that section "in the event of an invasion." They have blocked off the district into areas, have assigned certain members to certain blocks of land on which the Japanese are located. The specific instructions are that these members shall take care of the Japanese assigned to them. While this organization ostensibly was founded to deal with invasion from the outside and with the parachute troops, Sheriff Sherman and District Attorney Walter Haight of Tulare County informed me there is a distinct possibility that this organization would go into action if there occurred any local incident of serious proportions. However, this is an opinion on his part. It is an opinion which is shared a little more definitely by the Publisher and City Editor of the "Visalia Times Delta."

In the southeast part of Tulare County, quite remote from Del Rey and the Dinuba sections, between 50 and 100 Japanese have settled at a resort called "California Hot Springs". These Japanese are not working and there appears no opportunities in that district for engaging in useful occupations. The California Hot Springs is located about on the boundary line between the timber area and grain and grazing lands. In the summer the fire hazard in this area is particularly acute. The feeling on the part of the people in this section of Tulare County is reported to me by the authorities to be especially bitter against the Japanese. There has grown up a very deep-rooted suspicion



of the evacuees at the Hot Springs Resort. I happened to meet in Visalia a Forest Ranger named Theodore William Bullock, attached to the State Division of Forestry. He told me that men in the CCC Camp at Fountain Springs about 15 miles from California Hot Springs very recently had organized a mob armed with clubs to pay a visit on the Japanese at the Resort with the threat to drive them out of the county. They had gotten so far on the plan as to have them loaded into a truck when they were stopped by the authorities. I have not had an opportunity to verify this from official sources, and all I know about it is what I was told by Bullock. It is the belief of all people with whom I talked that if the Japanese remain in Hot Springs, any fires occurring in that area this summer, no matter what the origin, will be blamed to sabotage by the Japanese.

I might add that the feeling in this area is directed against voluntary evacuees, and there is apparently no resentment against the establishment of the Assembly Center in the City of Tulare. The people realize that this will be only a temporary affair and the Japanese soon will be moved out. Official figures on the movement of Japanese in Northern Tulare County and Southern Fresno County are difficult to obtain. The best guess is that before the period of voluntary evacuation there were about 8,000 Japanese in that area. The officials believe that the population now is at least 4,000 - might possibly run as high as 5,000. They are quartered most everywhere they could find housing facilities; in addition, many are camped on the farms leased or owned by the Japanese. On one such farm are quartered more than 100 Japanese. The Reedley Chamber of Commerce prepared a Resolution condemning the rental, sale, or leasing of any property to a Japanese. It might be remarked in this connection that the rents being charged the Japanese are, for the most part, nearly double what they were before the evacuation.

George Dean  
Senior Information Specialist



The Riot At Santa Anita Assembly Center

Sept. 3, 1942

The following is an excerpt from a personal letter sent to me by my sister-in-law. In it is described vividly and rather at length the riot which took place on August 4 at the Santa Anita Assembly Center. The excerpt is given here with the belief that it be used only as it is of value to the field of sociological research in the study of evacuee behavior and readjustment.

J. N. Fukushima (Poston)

As for news here, I imagine the 'riot' here will make good copy, or have you heard all about it from the various people down there who have friends up here? It happened way back on Aug. 4. I never bothered to write, at first, because we heard rumors (they're forever popping up) that all mail was to be censored, and I was darned if I was going to write only for the benefit of the censors, so I desisted. It seems that the hakujin coppers here plus two hundred new ones were given orders to search the barracks for contraband, and they started out early in the morning all down the barracks across the street from us. Then soon rumors drifted down that some of the police were getting sort of cocky, and confiscating things left and right, many things unnecessarily such as scissors, needles, canned food, and even the stoves from those who had permits to keep them. Then one indignant friend would call another, until finally the cops were getting a close packed audience watching every article they brought out. They were asked to move back but the people only gave room enough for the cops to squeeze through, and they were just getting ominouser and ominouser, until the police began to fear for their hides and decided to call it a day. But then rumors drifted upward from the seventh district, that there the police were even more bold. They were ordering people out of their barracks during the inspection, and some people were finding money disappeared when they returned to their rooms. Well when that bit of news got around, the Recreation department and the Camouflage workers were given leave to come home to watch out for their valuables. Their hakujin bosses told them they could; so of course they did on the look out for some dirty work. Well in due time, one man who had gone back into his barrack after inspection to find some money gone, came running out and chased the cop that had been inspecting his room, and point-blackly asked for his money back. Of course, he had as large an audience as we did over on our side, and each person went over to listen in. Soon the talking got pretty fiery, and people were telling each other what had been taken away. One young squirt said a cop had even taken his coupon book from him. Well all this while the cop had been rapidly walking away--some say there were three of them, I don't know--, anyhow some started to throw rocks at the cop. And naturally, this started practically an avalanche of them. So the cop started running for the orange mess hall. That



didn't seem to daunt the boys any; they followed right on his heels, and since they had no rocks at hand in the mess hall, they just picked up the porcelain cups and threw them. Of course they soon cornered the cop, and he whipped out his gun, which they naturally respected. But they still kept on closing in. Well, they saw the cops fingers were beginning to itch, so one boy said, "Go ahead and shoot; we'll kill you anyhow." At this the cop just turned dead white, but still keeping them at bay, until finally a cop, that the booches here like, came to his rescue and told the boys to be reasonable, I guess. Anyhow when we came on the scene, here was the mob coming up the street with the bad cop and a booch still arguing and the good cop firmly keeping his grasp on the bad one, smilingly trying to quiet the people. Golly, it gives you the funniest feeling, like your stomach did a full flip-flop, to see a swarm of people all bearing down the road towards you. You see we were late for this melee because Ken and I were at home worrying how thorough the cops would be. We'd heard that some cops even went thru boxes of Kotex and Fibs besides dumping clothes and other personals upon the bed for inspection, and my fastidious soul was in a whirl, and I was arguing with Ken whether it'd be all right to request the cops to wash their hands first in Lysol water or not. He said sure--demand it. But I was afraid I might antagonize them and they would even trample on my sterilized goods. But Mits comes rushing home from work, to interrupt the argument, and says there must be a fire over by the orange mess, because there's a fire engine and a whole slew of people out that way, so of course our natural curiosity got the better of us and we rushed out to see, and came upon the above scene. Well, in time a car came around for the coppers, and they drove him out the gate. The people followed right behind the car but were stopped at the gate by a line of soldiers, bayonets up. Soldiers couldn't come in, until they received orders from Frisco. Arguments still continued at the gate, nor would the people disperse, because the cop stuck around and wouldn't go away--perhaps his car was parked inside--but he stuck around anyhow. And pretty soon some kids started throwing milk bottles. The gate is near the green mess. Well, Ken and I went around to the Anita Chiquita track and looked down on the scene where we could see on both sides of the gate. When the milk bottles started coming, the army put on a show for us. Even the yard birds were taken out of the hoosegow, to help in the show. An armored car would come rushing up to the gates, disgorging about three or four soldiers. Then back out and away, and then another armored car would come up. This kept up intermittently with jeeps rushing to the fore in between times. Couple of the cars had machine guns mounted ready for action--that wasn't. Now I bet three-quarters of the people were just sticking around out of mere curiosity to see what the army would do next. Of course, three-quarters had formed the mob out of curiosity too, so they wouldn't have stuck around so long if the soldiers didn't put on such a delicious show; but it was rather funny watching the soldiers trying to keep up an appearance of fast action and a lot of it when there was nothing



they could do, and so few of them to do it. About thirty would form a line, then they'd disperse, and a few would man the machine guns, another would run like heck back to the barracks, then another armored car would come shooting out, another one would back out and away. A truck would come up with a box of ammunition. Pretty soon half of us were grinning away wondering--what next. Some of the soldiers even started grinning sheepishly, because the people though they still remained at the gate, did nothing but watch. Whereas the soldiers, except those forming a front line guard, had to run about like a chicken with nothing to do. Well this all got monotonous for Ken and me soon enough so since it was nearly four and time for Ken to check out from work we ambled away towards the grandstand. When we got there we found out that we couldn't get in because the soldiers had taken over and while we were gabbing away with those who had been driven out of the Recreation hall, we saw the mob coming back towards the police office. (It seems one of the soldiers coming in to take over the grandstand think that we smell, because he commented none too softly-- "Whew, this place could stand some chlorine".) Well, to get back to the mob, after standing around some while for lack of anything better to do, someone started throwing rocks again and a window was broken, so soon various people got up to talk and one hakujin who is very well liked got cheered. This didn't promise any excitement however, and since we couldn't hear anyway, we left. Then on the way home coming by the government house, we heard somebody had been killed so we went to investigate, just in time to see a pick-up pulling away with only a pair of jeans and two big feet visible. It was the Korean informer here that had made himself so obnoxious that a few had already decided to gang up on him and teach him a lesson, and had decided that that day proved to be a most opportune time. As we heard from a very "reliable source"--he was there--the Korean had been talking with a Mr. Wilkinson asking who had called him to the Govt. house, when pretty soon some boys came ankling up and told the Korean to come out, they started badgering then and told him if he didn't they'd come in. All this while the four looker-ons remained to see what would happen. They'd been there when the Korean had come in, and though they didn't participate they saw everything. Well, in time the boys got impatient and did come in. Though Mr. Wilkinson left immediately after he'd telephoned the office an SOS. A couple of the boys went at the Korean with chairs taking one right from under a spectator. Then someone picked up a typewriter and rammed it down square upon his head, with the poor battered Korean in an attitude of prayer. The typewriter naturally sent him out like a light. And soon it was--Jiggers, the soldiers--so they all went sailing out, though one guy was mean enough to step right onto the Korean's chest on his way out. It's a darned lucky thing for all of them that he didn't die, though they did make mince meat of him. When people heard of this episode they all started crowding around to hear all about this, and so another mob formed, but in a couple of hours this too was dispelled when a hakujin asked them to be kind enough to go home which they kindly did. Well, the next day, the government



house was still guarded by soldiers as was the grandstand. Oh yes, I forgot to mention that the orders for the soldiers to come into the camp finally came from Frisco and so the soldiers had to finally come marching in. According to the reports, they were scared stiff. Thirty soldiers coming into the midst of about fifteen thousand people with only their bayonets standing between them at such a close range--naturally scare anyone I guess, even with machine guns behind one. Anyhow, they were so shaky everyone could see they were scared so they started to laugh. And one smart-alec even reached over touching a bayonet and said-- Is it sharp, mister?-- Evidently the soldiers were given orders not to shoot unless necessary, but I bet a lot had itchy fingers to be so laughed at. The soldiers stayed in until Saturday afternoon guarding besides the above two, all the post offices and the large boiler room. So Ken didn't get back to work that week. They had to live in the Grandstand and eat our same food, and they couldn't communicate with the outside, so by the end of the week I bet they were somewhat sympathetic with us cooped in here. The hakujin bosses had to stay in too, and one commented he didn't see how we could eat the stuff we get, and as for the coffee, he'd prefer dish water.

Then yesterday, thirty-four boy--many of the Exclusive twenty--were sent out to various camps. So it was said, to remove a bad influence from the camp. The manager had written Frisco to remove the boys, but when the Y. M. C. A. boys like Mas Sato heard they were to be removed they went up and talked to the manager far into the night arguing that those boys weren't really bad only wild--they'd been getting into fights staged in some of the mess halls--Masao said that all boys go through a wild stage generally and they only need a guiding hand to steer them out. But if they were treated like incorrigibles, they might really go bad, especially when they were shipped away from family and home. Well, they convinced the manager and he telephoned the army to cancel his request but they said he was too late, the order must go through. So they've been shipped. Some for even the slighted misdemeanor. One boy, a Hawaiian, according to our bridge teacher, was only watching a fight not participating, and he got put into the jug for a week, and was sent yesterday to Gila. The poor Hawaiians only worry seems to be that he won't find any decent bridge players down there. Can you imagine he learned only a six that morning that he had to go, but at one that afternoon he showed up to play some bridge, when he was leaving at 5:30 that evening. Gee, I wished that Ken and I could throw our things together that quickly.