

To Mitch Kunitani from His Brother
at Manzanar

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 what 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 the 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. Cambell and told him so. So this time he says that it is going to the "Sho-u sauce dept. 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 ~~C-E~~ 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 grabbed an iron chair and struck one fellow with it. Then he grabed one fellow and tried to grab off his maks 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 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 knew 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 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 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 mean while 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 stiches in his head, and at this time, when I wanted to hear everything a call came in for an O.B. (pregnent 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 had 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 there, and he ordered that this person be picked up. He was. Later 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 feel 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 without 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 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 etc. 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 crowded so they decided to have it outside. 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 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 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 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 so 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 about 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 get 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.----Ohey, 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 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 uncocience. Blood was triking from the collar of his P jacket 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 about beating him but, hit him, break the glass, (of the ambulance) etc. 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 in minor surgery. They

patched up the cut and hospitalized him. He was half out, kept on mumbling if it was bad, He could hardly lift up his legs because he was badly beaten up. Well gess who was there taking care of him while he was waiting for the 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 though 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 strecher 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 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 gues 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 strecher, 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 strecher so I took the body to one of the empty wards and took the strecher 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 some where or other. Three criticall. They operated that night one two of them, one of them, the took about a food and a half of gut out which was all shot, 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 shoting was over, the fellows threw rocks at the MP. And they did not throught 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, aall 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 carring 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 mogg., he identified him by his wallet which we took out. We listed the injured and thepopulation 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 AWOL. 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 fifth of a mile from the camp. On the list was included Mr. Cambell. I think that he was also in the garrisons. The main ones are not in some CCC camp in Death Valley waiting to be relocated, I think. All that night and next 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 caucasians fired all of the Ad. workers post office workers and deliveries and truck swappers 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 the packages. Well last Sat. when they announced workers to go back to work they also told us that Mr. Nash and Mr. Cambell 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 cuacasion population. Well we could not 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 concentration camp with more MP's guarding us and we will really get a hell of a heal later, mainly because of this incident. Oh yes, there was an editorial in the Times today about the nice good food we get here. As I started to write this letter, about gramp 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 tells me that they eat gravy, with an additional graph, they all cream. Well at present, they have about twenty guys or so in the cam, for questioning. One of the dumb muts tried to comite suicide, but he is a physco case so I guess I can't blame him. Our canteens opened yesterday but as usuall they don't have much. I also think that someone is going to make a hell of a hot thro graph on 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 caucasions 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 mroning for the workers and lost theirjobs 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 right 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 and shot gun and one with ear phones on his head and one driving, the cars have a antenna about fifteen feet in the air, I don't know if they are trying to receive 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 not living in their barrakcs and in the camou- fladge net project site. They seemed to have 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 that 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.-----

Kaz

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,-----