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Relocation Division

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FINAL REPORT OF THE
RELOCATION DIVISION

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER

HUNT, IDAHO

Compiled by:

Victor V. McLaughlin, Relocation Program Officer

Section Heads:

Harold James, October 1, 1942 to February 3, 1943

Joseph Beeson, March, 1943 to September 30, 1944

Victor V. McLaughlin, September 30, 1944 to December 14, 1945

Relocation Final Report
Minidoka Relocation Center

Written by Victor V. McLaughlin - Relocation Program Officer
Term of Service: September 16, 1942, to December 14, 1945

I. Organization

A. Appointive Staff

Appointive Staff members in the early days of what later became the Relocation Division were few. In fact, the Employment Division was headed by one, the Senior Employment Officer, and he constituted the entire staff of appointive help. All other positions were filled by Evacuee help. Chart # 1 gives an idea of the early set up. During September of 1942 staff members were borrowed from Education to assist in issuance of seasonal leaves.

Late in November 1942 a Leave Officer was added to the staff and a change was made in the position of Senior Employment Officer.

These two appointed personnel were all the staff until June 1943 when an Outside Employment Officer was added. The outside Employment Office was set up in a separate building next to the Leave Office which shared a building with the Statistics Office. The arrangement of Senior Employment Officer, Leave Officer, and Outside Employment Officer was again changed in the fall of 1943 when the initial steps were taken to set up the Relocation Division

headed by Relocation Program Officer, Assistant Relocation Program Officer and Leave Officer with the duties divided somewhat in this manner.

The program officer to direct the entire program, the assistant program officer to direct the office function, leave office and over all supervision of the staff. The leave officers duties consisted of all leave determinations and clearance.

No other additions of staff were made until February 1944 when again the outside employment office was headed by an appointive staff member, whose duties were mostly confined to placement of evacuee residents in various jobs submitted by the field.

In May 1944 the family interviewing program was organized with three interviewers add to the staff. This group was charged with the interviewing of every family in the project and the family outlook forms came into the files for what was to be the final relocation plans for all project residents. The interviewing program did not progress as rapidly as it should have because of a lack of help. Two of the interviewers assigned to this project to initiate the program were on temporary assignment and remained only during May and June, leaving the job only partially finished.

Other staff members were detailed from Welfare Section to complete the task of family files, but adequate staff was slow in materializing.

On August 1, 1944 one Assistant Relocation Adviser was added, another October 1, and two more November 1. These four people continued on the family interviewing program and by the first of January 1945 considerable progress was noted.

November 15, 1944 the Relocation Division was given a much needed appointive secretary.

After serving as Senior Employment for one year and Relocation Program Officer for another year, Joseph Beeson transferred to the Veterans Administration leaving a staff of seven to continue what he had so well begun.

Another interviewer was added to the staff on January 1, 1945. The interviewing staff was then made up of one adviser and four assistants. The staff was unable to do more than keep current with the people desiring to relocate. In March the press of work caused one urgent to be sent to Washington for more help. By May 15 the staff consisted of Relocation Adviser and eight assistants.

At the completion of the school term four teachers were detailed to assist in the interviewing program. This group completed the final composition of the interviewing section and were able to complete family relocation in advance of closure date.

Except for secretarial help that was added during the summer of 1945 as the Evacuee help diminished this with the Relocation Program Officer, Assistant Program Officer, Leave Officer and his staff, and the Relocation Adviser who headed the office of Relocation information completed the appointive staff. See Chart # 2.

B. Evacuee Personnel

From the very outset of this project there was available quite a number of well qualified evacuees for many of the positions. Evacuees were used in every position where qualified people could be found to fill positions.

Until the arrival of a Leave Officer in November 194²~~3~~ Evacuee help under Harold James, Senior Employment Officer carried on all functions of the employment division.

With the establishment of the leave office and later

outside employment which were headed by appointive staff members, the offices were completely manned by evacuees. Chart # 1 gives a complete picture of evacuee help used in performing the functions of the division.

Very little change was made from the original leave office set up. Outside employment which later became the interviewing section change materially from totally evacuee help to appointive help. This was caused by the fact that abuses crept in and also that residents were reluctant to talk relocation to any resident who was the least bit hostile toward relocation. The abuses mentioned were of the job selling type and numerous attempts to force wage raises in offers submitted.

The Leave Office functioned at the close of center practically as it was when first established. Working under the supervision of the Leave Officer were an Assistant Leave Officer who assumed much of the routine in clearance for leave, the supervision of indefinite leave, seasonal and short term, processed all necessary papers for leave officer signature. Late in the program a second Assistant Leave Officer was employed to care for parolees and his duties were confined to processing of papers in preparation for leave.

During the leave clearance program much of the leave staff occupied in paper work pertaining to this program. The volume of work carried on by this leave office staff all during center operation was amazing and it would be incomplete if it were not mentioned that the work was well done.

C. Evacuee and staff committees functioning in the field of Relocation.

The first committee to function in the field of re-

location was the Relocation Guidance Committee, a copy of the memorandum establishing this group is attached as Exhibit # 3. This committee was probably the most successful of all relocation committees since it was formed from the best evacuee leaders in the community. Different from later members these early members had the courage of their convictions and were little hampered by political expediency which later entangled the responsible residents.

Out of this Relocation Guidance Committee grew a Relocation Sub Committee to serve as an advisory Committee as relocation. Exhibit #4 with attachments gives a fair idea of the functions of the sub committee and the guidance council.

The Relocation Program Officer served as chairman of this committee and many suggestions were made by this group which were later incorporated in the leave regulation that improved the program.

This Relocation Guidance Committee was later replaced by a staff committee and a Evacuee Commission. It is our observation that the staff members functioned quite satisfactorily all through the program, however as relocation progress the best evacuee leadership was relocated and the functioning of the Evacuee Commission became less and less potent. With the formation of the Community Council the Evacuee Commission disbanded in April of 1944 to give the council a free hand in appointing a new commission which was never done for various reasons the main one of which could be classed as political expediency because it was felt by the council the majority of their constituents were opposed to relocation and the administration because the administration favored relocation.

After waiting nearly a year for the council to appoint a Commission with no success a commission was finally

picked by the Relocation Program Officer in February of 1945. This Commission functioned quite well, but it was very difficult to keep the Commission functioning because of relocation of members. Through these commissions it was possible to keep in close contact with the residents and assist them in solving their problems.

II. Description of Physical Quarters.

In the early part of the program relocation shared a barrack with the Statistics section. This arrangement continued until June 1943 when Outside Employment was moved to part of an adjacent building both in the administrative area.

The Relocation Library was first set up in block 22 under the supervision of an evacuee. The space occupied was about a fourth of a barrack and served as a meeting place for the Relocation commission. In the late spring of 1945 because of a need for this space the relocation library was closed, and brought to the administrative area where it was set up in the interviewing building.

As the family interviewing program began to expand this unit was set up in the entire barrack with the leave office occupying an adjacent building. Exhibit # 5 give the final physical arrangement of this administrative area for the completion of the program.

This final arrangement worked quite well and decreased the confusion experienced earlier. As to the material in the relocation library it seemed quite adequate for staff members, but never quite reached the desired results as far as residents were concerned, not because of a lack of material, but because of a lack of interest on their part. The field offices and Washington kept us supplied with nearly every type of material both in English and Japanese.

III. Purposes of Relocation Division -- changes and development of program.

A. Seasonal and Indefinite Leave.

Seasonal leave was the most popular leave in the first two years and half of project operation. Many of the early indefinite leaves were the result of seasonal leaves. This leave also gave the more ambitious residents a chance to augment their finances for later relocation. As the program progressed it became a means of evading indefinite leaves. Finally in 1944 only two seasonal leaves were allowed during the year, this caused considerable grumbling among some residents who wanted to go out but have one foot still in the project. It was indeed a blessing when seasonal leave was finally abolished in 1945, and all those who remained out on season were given a change in status by March of 1945. Outside of the benefit to the farmers in this area seasonal leave passed its usefulness by spring of 1944 and it might have been smart to abolish this type of leave at that time. In the fall of 1944 this program became very difficult to administer because of a lack of good workers and a "devil may care" attitude. Many high school students were sent out and they showed a lack of stability in every way. Chart # 6 gives a good idea of the ups and downs of seasonal leaves. This program took the time of a large staff to administer. During the fall harvest season this program nearly swamped both the project staff and field staff, but as stated previously the violations occurring in 1944 far exceeded any previous year.

B. Trial indefinite leave was never very popular in this center mostly because of the travel involved and also because it was not pushed as was indefinite leave. Less than 100 trial indefinite

leaves were issued mostly to Chicago, the returns from this type of leave were few however.

C. Short term leave was used extensively in this center for all types of emergencies and inspection trips to look over relocation possibilities. Many conversions were made from short term to indefinite leave throughout the program. Chart # 7 gives a graphic picture of the short term program.

The indefinite leave program in this center was the program from the outset, reaching its highest point in September 1945. This program was successful because it had administrative backing from the beginning. Emphases were placed on relocation from all angles. Early the better equipped residents moved out to reestablish themselves in Denver, Colorado, Salt Lake City and later Chicago, Illinois. Not many of the residents had been very far east and this was a new experience for them. The residents settled early in the nearby large cities and gradually expanded to the mid-west and east. Chart # 8 gives state by state settlement of residents during the program. Excluding the final movement Chicago proved to be the best relocation. This condition existed until the middle of the summer 1945 when the coast movements began to exceed eastward movements.

Early relocation was more relocation for specific jobs and accomplished family relocation later as the wage earn became established.

It seems to me the reason for rapid relocation in this center was accomplished by the personal touch maintained by the Relocation Division and the establishment of the entire division as a service unit.

Staff turn over was held to minimum during the entire

program and this division worked in complete harmony throughout.

The developement of the family interviewing program is quite adequately described in the attached report.

D. the information program had its ups and downs throughout the program. A change in reports officers probably caused thas more than any thing else. The relocation division carried on quite an extensive program of information throughout the program by means of bulletings and various meeting such as Relocation Commission, Council, Church groups and others. In the final closing operations regular weekly bulletins were published and circulated under the direction of Relocation Information Unit headed by an appointive personnel. This bulletin was published in both English and Japanese and contained information regarding housing, relocation information and job offers. This information was delivered to every apartment and to insure delivery this task was done by appointed personnel.

During the later closing months this program reached its height after a rather rugged start, due to delays in publication, distribution and a general lack of enthusiasm on the part of the reports office.

Motion picture were tried earlier in the program and these met with varing success depending in the type of picture. Sufficient good pictures could not be obtained to stimulate much enthusiasm in this line.

IV. Problems and solutions.

Staff turn over was not as great a problem in the Relocation Division as a shortage of help, especially in the later stages of the program when interviewers were badly needed. By April of 1945 a full staff was finally obtained and this staff

carried through until late September 1945 when the task of relocation had been accomplished.

Language difficulty was never a stumbling block since we were able to keep first rate interpreters in the division.

The greatest problem was to convince the residents that the center was actually going to close. Every adverse story from the coast was used by certain "anti"-elements in the center to scare the residents. This group of "Antis" were what might be called a "pro-Japanese" group and were very trying at times because little solution to their problems seemed to be forthcoming until late in September when we received permission to relocate them. This was done with little delay and made the final weeks of the project comparatively simple.

The greatest help to relocation in this project was the community invitation plan. This was especially effective in the Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago areas. Under this plan many Issei were able to relocate and seek suitable opportunities where hostel arrangements could be had.

During late 1943 and 1944 leave clearance occupied a great deal of time of the staff and many residents were found to be anxious to relocate if they could be cleared. Some 1200 cases were processed in the project and except for the slowness in obtaining clearance the program worked out with fair success.

As reports came into the project from relocated evacuees, there was considerable consternation caused by some of the letters. However, the majority of such were favorable but wide circulation was given to adverse letters and reports and such reports were used but those opposed relocation to firestall plans for their own and others relocation. It was the popular thing to be verbally

opposed to relocation.

In case of the aged residents satisfactory arrangements were made for their relocation as soon as housing was made available on the coast. Many requests were made by various project groups for increase in financial aid for relocatees. However, the arrangement used all during 1945 proved to be quite satisfactory for the greater majority that is railroad fare and meals enroute plus \$25.00.

Evacuee participation in relocation planning was carried on quite successfully in this project on an individual or family basis rather than group planning.

V. Services and accomplishments of the Relocation Division.

With the Project Director pointing the way for relocation from the outset of this project staff coordination was not too difficult a situation. The staff Relocation Committee met weekly and this gave the Program Officer an opportunity to keep the group abreast of relocation progress and also avail himself of the thinking of the entire staff. During the final closing operation the staff was able to step in and assist the relocation division in a number of places where additional assistance was required.

The family interviewing program is quite adequately covered in the attached report of the Relocation Adviser under whose direction the program moved smoothly to a successful conclusion a week ahead of the closing date.

Information sent in by field offices was a great help in planning family relocation. Much material and information regarding the Southern States was received but was of little value because there was little or no interest among the residents shown for that part of the country. It should also be mentioned here that the public relations program carried on by W.R.A. had its

desired effect but more of this type of thing could have been used.

From January 1943 to center closure an extensive program was carried on in this project for army enlistment and selective service. The enlistment program was very successful both from the standpoint of the enlistees and relocation created by this program. Selective Service was handled by an appointed personnel and through the local selective service board. Fine working relations were maintained between the project and the local board, but a great deal of difficulty was encountered with the coast boards. Papers were delayed, mislaid, and lost by many of the coast boards and this caused untold difficulties in movement of both enlistees and selectees. The Relocation Division was instrumental in solving a great many difficulties encountered by residents. The Relocation Division in this project never laid claims as a record keeping unit though the responsibility for this fell on this division in the whole Selective Service Program. Approximately 1500 cases were handled by this Division in this program and the results were more encouraging than the figures.

VI. Relationship with other Agencies and Division.

With the exception of the F.S.A., our relations with other agencies was splended and should have been the same with the F.S.A. except that they through their own mistake failed to pay for about \$2000.00 worth of services rendered by evacuee help. This was a result of the season work contracts which were not closely checked by that agency and they found they could not pay the cooks hired in the various camps. I think there is still money due some of these workers.

The Relocation Division made an honest and successful effort to maintain good working relationship with all Divisions.

This relationship was completely harmonious except with the Welfare with whom there was considerable difference of opinion on how things should be done. This relationship was made worse from time to time by Washington Representatives of the Welfare Staff who consistently gave unfavorable reports even though relocation in this project progressed more successfully than in any other project. It was quite apparent that there was little unity of thinking between the relocation and welfare staffs in Washington.

Upon the closure of the relocation office in this project all record disposal was completed with the relocation of the last evacuee and the relocation staff was made available for detail to new jobs to assist in center closure operation.

Relocation in Minidoka was a huge task, but it was accomplished by a smoothly functioning staff that was given a job to do and did just that in spite of any and all obstacles.

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. V. V. McLaughlin, Relocation Program Officer DATE:
FROM: Mr. Dallas S. Newell, Relocation Advisor
Term of Service: February 10, 1944, to January 31, 1946
SUBJECT: Final Report - Interviewing Section

A. Physical Arrangements.

The physical properties of the Interviewing Section, having its source in the "Outside Employment Unit," evolved itself from virtual nonentity into a separate and specific working body occupying the dominant position on the Project over a period of time covering the greater part of the history of the Relocation Program.

Prior to mid-winter of 1944-45, a few interviewers were sandwiched in among the Leaves Section, Travel Counseling, Outside Employment, and all the other charges that fell to the Relocation Program, and in one building with only one partition that partly separated the Leaves Section from the general melee and confusion of the entire building.

With the coming of more interviewers in October and November 1944, an interviewing unit began to take more definite form and was moved to the rear of the building and was thus partially partitioned off in about one-third



of the building. In this space was included a photographic unit which occupied about one-third of that space. The interviewers and their evacuee stenographers were stationed along the walls which, of course, offered inadequate space and no privacy.

Following the lifting of the evacuation orders and in January 1945, a stepped-up Relocation Program required additional physical changes. The Photographic Unit was removed. Individual booths were made for the interviewers on either side of the building with one central booth reserved as a file room along the mid-section of the building. Each interviewer with his evacuee stenographer was placed in a booth and each two booths were serviced by one telephone. This arrangement was necessary on the part of the stenographers for the want of space and adequate stenographic supervision, though for interviewing purposes this arrangement was obviously undesirable. At the rear of the building the Relocation Program Officer had his offices, and the forepart of the building was occupied by a condensed Leave Section. The Interviewing Section now occupied about two-thirds of one building.

This arrangement continued until mid-spring when it was possible to secure additional buildings. By April the Interviewing Section occupied one full barrack along with the Relocation Library.

Now fully established as a separate unit, eleven booths measuring $7\frac{1}{2}'$ x $8'$, inside measurement, were built of which one central booth was reserved as a file room. One large booth having the over-all measurements of two booths was converted into a stenographic pool. These booths were lined on the outside with celotex which was very useful for the purpose of tacking up displays and pictures of relocated evacuees. For the purpose of ventilation, the booth walls were raised approximately 13" from the floor and lowered about 28" from a $7\frac{1}{2}'$ ceiling. At least one ceiling light was afforded each booth which was not particularly satisfactory. At the rear of the building a space measuring approximately $15'$ x $20'$ was reserved as office space for the Relocation Advisor and for staff meetings. The fore-part of the building, constituting about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total space, was reserved as a combination Relocation Library and reception room. On one side of this space a slanting bulletin board was built onto the wall onto which could be tacked job offers. Against the opposite wall was a large four-shelf bookcase. Wall space and two tables were used to display material. Two army stoves, one in the rear and one in the front of the barrack, provided ample heat.

B. Physical Relationship To Other Units.

The proximity of the Interviewing Section to such other units as Housing, Evacuee Property, Finance, Welfare, Ration

Board, Leaves Section, and the Main Gate, could not be described as being particularly satisfactory especially on the part of the evacuee. (See exhibit A). It was necessary for the relocating person to go to nearly as many buildings as there were steps in his process of relocating. This, of course, was confusing, cumbersome, and expensive. This detached arrangement was confusing to the interviewer as well and contributed to a lack of understanding of the functions and relationships of other units.

By late spring the various steps of relocation had been concentrated in the administrative area with the exception of the business pertaining to the crating and shipping of property which was done in the warehouse area some one-half mile distant.

C. Organization.

The Interviewing Section was headed by one Relocation Advisor who directed the work of eleven Assistant Relocation Advisors, three Junior Relocation Advisors, one or two File Clerks, a Stenographic Supervisor, and a varied number of Stenographers up to the number of ten. After being established, the Relocation Library was left to the direction of the Relocation Advisor. In July, 1945, the Student Counselor was also placed in this section (see exhibit B).

The Project was divided into five zones consisting of seven residential blocks each, to which two Assistant Relocation Advisors were assigned to work as a team. Each team was provided with a car and their time was so divided that each person spent one-half day in the office and one-half day in the field. Thus, the office and the field were covered by one or the other at all times.

The afore-mentioned Junior Advisors were male evacuees whose duties were to help as receptionists and act as interpreters.

All stenographic services were placed under one supervisor to whom all requests were made for such services. Depending upon the supply of stenographers, each team was assigned one or two stenographers for regular work on a fluid basis where reassignment could be made as needed. As evacuee help diminished, stenographers worked on assignment only. This continued until sufficient Caucasian help was available. The continued need for stenographic help and the lack of such services was one of the great handicaps.

The file room (see exhibit B) was under the supervision of an exceptional adept evacuee girl responsible to the Advisor. Standard sized file cabinets were furnished in which family folders were filed alphabetically.

In addition, she maintained a master index file of 3" x 5" cards on which were recorded family name, given names of family members, family number and center address; also names and destinations of relocated members.

The file clerk also maintained a standard sized file of individual folders containing original job offers filed numerically by states.

A system was established whereby the family and job offer files could be checked out to the Interviewers.

The Relocation Library, (see exhibit B), was established by the Reports Officer, School Superintendent, and Librarian, and then was left to the direction of the Relocation Advisor.

It contained many ordinary library books offering detailed information on relocation opportunities along with a variety of periodicals. This source of information was seldom used by evacuees for relocation purposes. The library, as such, had very little value. The bulletin board, however, on which job offers were posted proved popular.

D. Functions and Routines.

During the late spring and early summer of 1944, the Relocation Advisor with the assistance of two temporary interviewers and in conjunction with the Welfare Counselors, conducted a camp-wide interviewing program by family units to determine relocation plans and deterring factors appertaining to relocation. At this

time two specific forms were completed: a family face sheet, WRA 329 (see exhibit C); and the family outlook, Form WRA 340 (see exhibit D).

This instituted the first records maintained by the Interviewing Section and were necessarily incomplete due to the shortage of staff in not being able to follow-up on those families which were missed and to write up the acquired basic information into a running record form. About all that could be completed until additional staff was added in the late fall was to prepare folders on those families interviewed including typed copies of the outlook and face sheet in addition to which copies had to be made for the Statistics Section where certain relocation reports were prepared.

With the coming of additional staff in the fall, completion of adequate office space, and the formation of teams for zoning as previously described, the Interviewers were armed with such incomplete family files as were available in addition to a file of job offers with which to begin encouraging evacuees to relocate.

In order to arrive at a complete census of the residents actually living in the respective zones, another file of 3" x 5" cards was made by blocks. These cards depicted by family unit the names, addresses.

and family numbers in chronological order by barrack and apartment. This information was gathered from census information in the Statistics Section and the Housing files, all of which was rechecked by actual census taken by interviewers. This file was maintained solely for the information of the interviewers, and relocated people were deleted from these files by the aid of Form WRA 176a issued by the Statistics Section.

The interviewer's job offer file was kept current as nearly as stenographic help permitted. Incoming offers were numbered and filed by state in a master file. The essential information was types upon a form (see exhibit E) which was given to the interviewer for his information. A duplicate of this was posted on the bulletin board in the library for the evacuees convenience. These offers were also circulated in bulletin form around the Project.

As previously described, one interviewer was in the office while the other was in the field. When an evacuee came to the office for an interview or information, he was conducted to the interviewer representing his particular zone. The interpreter sat in on the interview if necessary. His particular file was checked out of the file room and given to the interviewer. If

the interview was of an informational nature, the essence of the interview was recorded in a running record under the date and name of the interviewer.

If the evacuee wished to complete plans for relocation, the interviewer followed an outline (see exhibit F) in order to gather all information that was necessary to transmit the family summary to the Relocation Officer. At this period, this information was dictated to a stenographer in its entirety along with a cover letter. Included with this summary was a medical report, Internal Security report, health and school reports which were obtained from these respective units by mimeographed forms (see exhibits G & H).

As stenographic services diminished and the business of relocation was becoming more pressing, it became necessary to make further changes in order to get the necessary information to the Field Officer. To this end, a short mimeographed summary (see exhibit I) was devised by the Relocation Advisor along with a mimeographed cover letter (see exhibit J). These forms enabled the interviewer to save considerable time both for himself and the stenographer and it was possible for the interviewer to complete this summary quickly and efficiently by himself if necessary. These forms were

in use up to the time summaries were discontinued.

At the conclusion of the interview and at the time the evacuee's plans were completed for his resettlement, he was issued a "Clearance Slip for Terminal Leave" (see exhibit K), a form printed in both English and Japanese directing the evacuee to the various places he must go to complete final arrangements. In so doing, it will again be noted that the routing places where the evacuee must go was confusing and cumbersome. Exhibit A roughly depicts the route which he had to follow in relocating. This, of course, does not include other places he may have had to go such as Legal Aid, Clothing Allowance Office and other units which had to do with the administration.

Regular staff meetings were held once a week along with such meetings as might be necessary. Memorandums on changes of policy, etc, were kept at a minimum for obvious reasons. Besides the usual business appertaining to the Interviewing Section, representatives from other departments and units were often called in to enlighten the staff on their duties and problems.

E. Closing Procedure.

Minidoka was scheduled to close on November 1, so far as evacuee population was concerned, but this date was later set by the Project Director for October 23.

Until late August little planning emanated from the administration. The problem of relocating the evacuees had been left up to the organization and personnel in the Relocation Division. To insure the meeting of the closing deadline and during the last week in August, the Project Director deemed it proper to set up a camp-wide organization according to plans he had drawn up.

The first step in this plan was to decentralize the Interviewing Section and to establish branch offices in each of the five zones. Office space was made up of three adjoining rooms in one barrack. The central room was used as a reception room and for stenographic services and was manned by a stenographer from the Interviewing Section. A second room was to be occupied by a worker from the Welfare Section. A third room housed the two Relocation Interviewers assigned to a particular zone. By the last week in August, this organization had been completed and was in operation, so far as the Relocation Unit was concerned, with each zone being now more or less an individual unit; but,

without communication facilities to the administration area, except by making special trips or through the Relocation Advisor who made routine trips from office to office. The original interviewing building was retained as the Relocation Advisor's office and for staff meetings, but was otherwise abandoned. The Relocation Library was also disbanded. This organization continued until October 15 at which time plans had been completed for the departure of all evacuees.

With the coming of reorganization, certain changes in procedure and approach were made in an effort to accomplish total relocation, inasmuch as it was now necessary for the evacuees to come to some definite decision concerning the place and time of his relocation; thus it was necessary for the interviewers to approach with a more firm attitude and to be equipped with tools that would accomplish the desired results.

All the remaining evacuees were classified according to their relocation plans. Those evacuees with definite plans and departure dates set were classified as "A" people who had nothing more to do than to arrange for shipment of their property, grants, passes, etc. Those people who had a destination but no departure date were classified as "B" people and were given until September 15 to set their departure dates, after which time they would be subject to the administration's pleasure in the matter

of having the departure date designated for them. Those people who were either segregees or excludees were classified for future consideration as soon as such regulations pertaining to them might be rescinded. Those people who refused or had been unable to set a destination and departure time were classified as "C" people and after September 1, were subject to what was termed "a two weeks notice" (see exhibit L). This notice advised them that they had a two week period in which to set their destination and departure date and was served by the interviewer. After the expiration of this time, they would lose their individual discretion in the matter and would be subject to the pleasure of the administration in setting a date and destination for them. At the expiration of the two-weeks notice and the evacuee still had not arrived at a decision, he became subject to a "three-day notice," served upon him by the Internal Security Department under the supervision of the Project Attorney. These were also called "forced cases." The essence of this notice was that at the expiration of the three days the evacuee would be forcibly ejected from the Project.

After plans had been completed for all evacuees and those cases which refused to make plans had been

turned over to the Project Attorney for service of the three-day notice, the relocation interviewers spent their time helping individual cases prepare for their departure and personally conducted such cases as old people through the Leaves regulations and to the bus.

F. Criticisms.

As a whole, the Interviewing Section functioned exceptionally well due largely to the fine type of personnel, high morale, and a very low rate of personnel turnover along with the splendid cooperation and backing of the Relocation Program Officer. Only on two occasions was it necessary to make changes among the interviewers. However, the section was fortunate enough to have interviewers sufficiently progressed with their work that they would assume the work of other zones. Except for the replacements mentioned above, the first interviewers to leave the staff did not depart until the first of October at which time the relocation work was sufficiently advanced that the remaining work could be handled by other interviewers.

The success of the Interviewing Section was in no small part due to cooperation received from other sections

and divisions on the Project whose supplemental services were of the utmost necessity. Much credit should go to all sections within the Relocation Division and the backing of the first Project Director along with the services rendered by the Motor Pool, the Finance Section, the Operations Division, and several others.

There were, however, "bottle necks", handicaps and frustrations with which to cope. Among these were the relations with the Welfare Department which, in terms of the objectives set for all projects and all personnel by the National Director, could not be described as being particularly satisfactory. Among the reasons for the lack of cooperation and smooth functioning of services between Relocation and Welfare was the organization. Welfare was a separate and individual agency functioning under a different division; and secondly, those people who were administratively responsible for the organization and functioning of the Welfare Section allowed professional standards, which necessarily had a diminished value under these abnormal circumstances, and personal jealousy to inhibit the desired cooperation and flow of services; also, Welfare procedures seemed to be unduly cumbersome. The Welfare section had "flagged" hundreds of cases without investigation and failed to release them until a late date after discovering that there were no Welfare factors present. This necessarily "bottlenecked" many cases

which Relocation might have been working on. Then, too, the section was administratively top-heavy--too many supervisors and too few people doing the work. This state of affairs culminated in the Project Director's defining for the unit what its work was to be and turned all Welfare intake work to the Interviewing Section. The Interviewing Section unanimously recommends that should it be necessary to repeat the experiences of evacuation, a Welfare Department, after it became an agency engaged in Relocation services only, should be administratively responsible to the direct supervision of the Relocation Division and to be immediately responsible to the Interviewing Section.

A second basic criticism as previously suggested (see exhibit A) is that of the physical arrangements in completing the necessary steps of relocation. Specifically this: There were many steps in the process and required the evacuee to go to many offices and often he had to wait in line for service once he found the proper unit. It is recommended that an administration building large enough to house all the various steps such as interviewers, Welfare counselors, Finance, Leaves Section, and so forth, be housed in such manner that the evacuee could start at one end of the building and proceed down the length of the building completing all the steps of relocation on his way and that upon reaching the far end of such a build-

ing he would have completed all of these steps without further repetition.

A third fundamental criticism advanced by the Interviewing Section was that the unit often found itself in an awkward and doubtful if not an ignorant position concerning administrative policies, regulations, and rules. Inasmuch as the Interviewing Section was given precedence and priority above all other units on the Project, and whereas it was the unit in which all functions of relocation emanated, the severance from direct administrative participation was felt to be a handicap. Recommendations for a remedy of this would be that the Relocation Advisor had been called to attend all meetings involving relocation policies, procedures, and criticisms called by the Project Director and to have participated in the meetings of the various evacuee groups; and secondly, the entire staff should have been called frequently by the Project Director for a general discussion of relocation problems and to have given them the opportunity to voice their opinions and objections. This, it seems, would have been most desirable because no unit or people were more intimately acquainted with the problems of the evacuees and the difficulties of the administrative procedure than were the advisor and assistant advisors. For the want of this coordination the necessary information did not flow freely from the administration to the individual

interviewers, which again caused loss of time and expense and often placed the interviewer in an embarrassing position with his clients. This difficulty of not having a clear and workable knowledge of necessary procedure was considerably illuminated during the heightened pressure period during the "closing weeks."

Some commentary should probably be made concerning the closing procedure, even though the desired objectives were commendably achieved.

The decision by the Project Director to decentralize the Interviewing Section, which had taken years to perfect, came at an inopportune time. It came during the last week of August when the interviewers were already well into the rush period of the final relocation days and the evacuee population had well learned where to go for relocation purposes; in addition to which it was necessary for them to come to the administration area in any event to complete relocation routines. The creation of five branch offices cost the loss of at least a week's work in reorganizing and resettling. Detaching the interviewers from the center of relocation machinery without communications complicated and handicapped their work in many ways. Reeducating the evacuees was never accomplished and this new, unexpected arrangement was confusing to them up to the departure of the last evacuee.

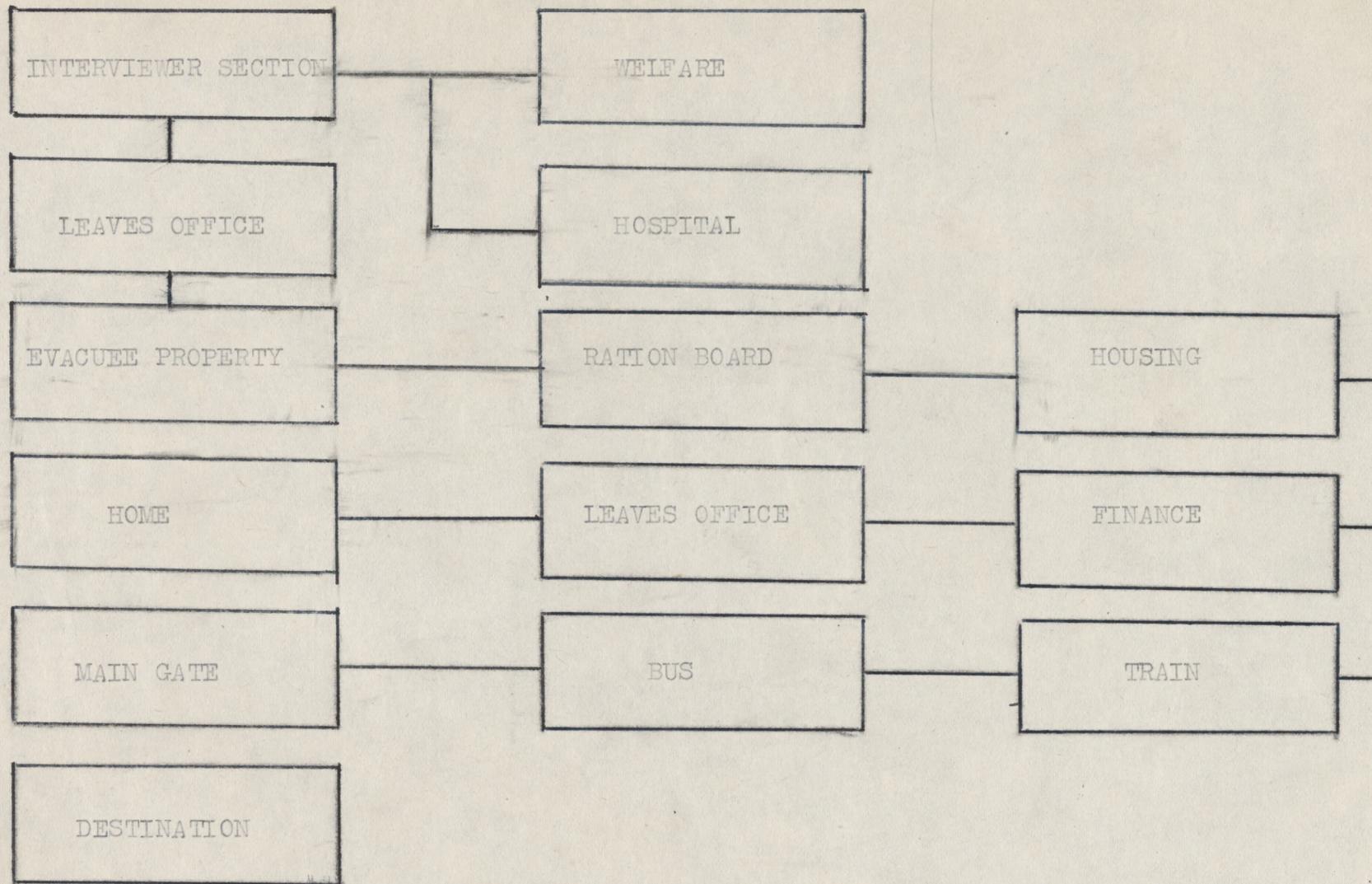
Had this decentralization come about immediately following the rescinding of the evacuation orders and had proper communication been established, considerable benefit could have been derived from having the interviewers stationed in the blocks.

After the closing procedure had been established and project personnel had been oriented to the desired objectives and procedures a change of Project Directors came about which culminated in considerable confusion to the interviewers in that new changes and additions to the closing procedure were not getting through to the Interviewing Section. The original Project Director had the closing procedure well defined and worked out in detail which would have functioned adequately and smoothly, but with the coming of the second Project Director a bivalent and laissez faire attitude toward the established procedure prevailed, but much pressure was exercised by the administration to relocate the evacuees. Both administrations failed to tap the wealth of information contained in the Interviewing Section. Changes and additions to procedures were made often without consulting anyone from the Relocation Division and often the changes were incidently learned. This weakness is a serious fault in any administrative management. Interviewers were confused

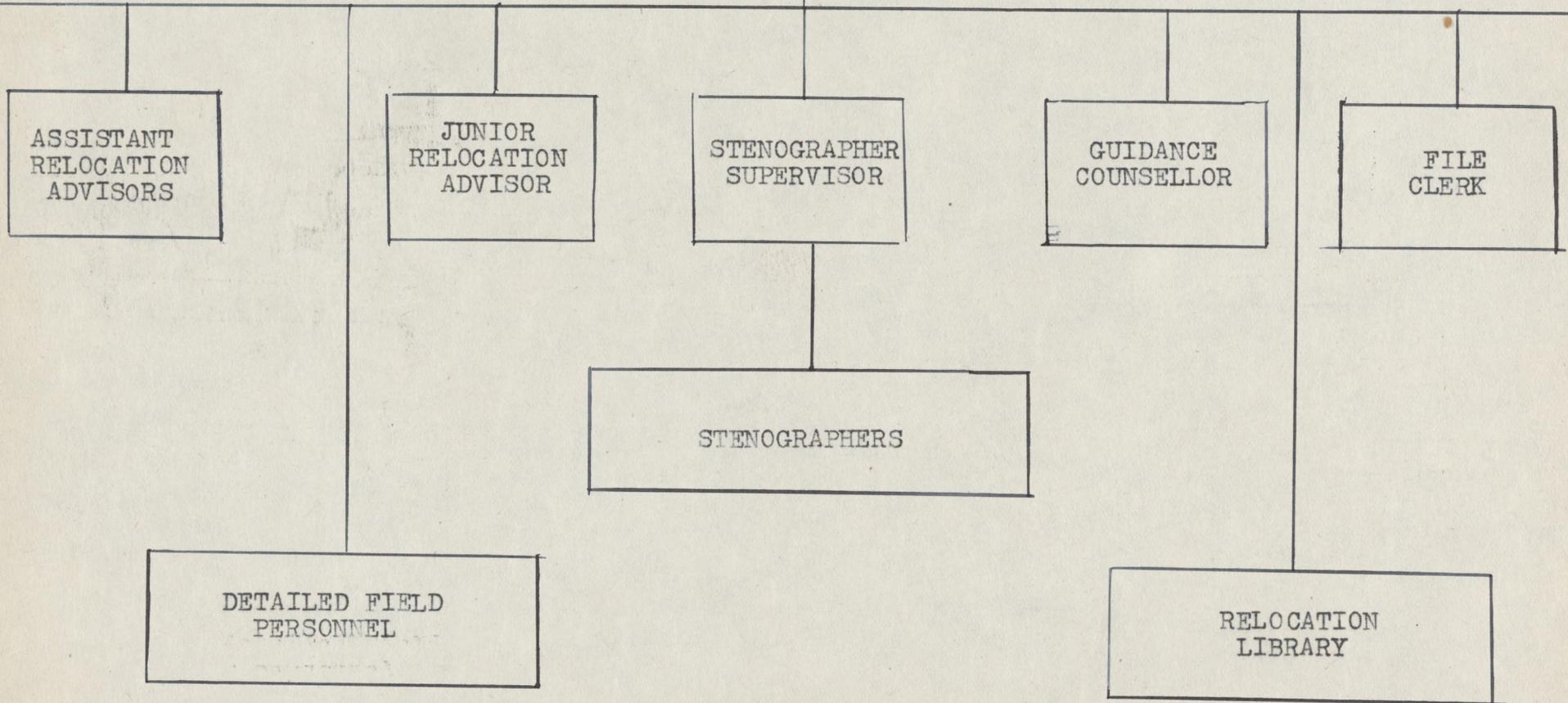
on what to do on given cases and at times it seemed that procedure did not apply to any two persons. Had there been an appreciable amount of work remaining, the closing procedure machinery, so far as the Interviewing Section was concerned, would have broken down. The credit for spanning this gap must go to the interviewers who diligently pursued the business of relocation to the point where they could double back and regain the time lost by the weaknesses in arbitrary policy.

LOCATION FLOW CHART

EXHIBIT A



RELOCATION ADVISOR



RELOCATION AUTHORITY BASIC FAMILY FACE SHEET

CONFIDENTIAL

(1) Center

(2) _____ (Surname—CAPS) Pre-Evac. (3) Address: _____ (Street-Rural Route) (City) (State) (4) _____ (Assembly Center) (5) _____ (Family No.)

(6) FAMILY STATUS (Check one)	Married couple <input type="checkbox"/> (a)	Husband deceased <input type="checkbox"/> (b)	Husband absent (Intern.) <input type="checkbox"/> (c)	Husband absent (Leave) <input type="checkbox"/> (d)	Husband absent (Other) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	Wife deceased <input type="checkbox"/> (f)	Wife absent (Other) <input type="checkbox"/> (g)	Single <input type="checkbox"/> (h)	(7) Children 16 and under (Number)	(8) Prev. WRA center(s)	(9) Date to this center	(10) Date face sheet prep.	(11) By
----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	---	--	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------

(12) BASIC FAMILY UNIT	SEX (a)	MARITAL STATUS (b)	DATE OF BIRTH (c)	BIRTHPLACE (d)	RELIGION (e)	YRS. EDUCATION		DATES RESIDENCE JAPAN (h)	SPEAKS		LV. CL. (k)	CENTER ADDRESS (l)	REMARKS (Give dates) (m)
						J (f)	U.S. (g)		English (i)	Japanese (j)			
(Man)													
(Woman)													

(13) OTHER RELATIVES AT CENTER	SEX (a)	MARITAL STATUS (b)	AGE OR BIRTH DATE (c)	RELATIONSHIP (d)	CENTER ADDRESS (e)	REMARKS (Give dates) (f)	(14) PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HANDICAPS OF BASIC FAMILY GROUP (Give name, dates, and type of handicap)

(15) OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN UNITED STATES AND HAWAII	SEX (a)	MARITAL STATUS (b)	AGE OR BIRTH DATE (c)	RELATIONSHIP (d)	ADDRESS		REMARKS (Give dates) (g)	(16) REFERRALS		
					City (e)	State (f)		To (a)	Date (b)	By (c)

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

RELOCATION OUTLOOK

Center _____

Surname (CAPS) First Name Middle Name
Head of Basic Family (as defined
in Manual 30.4.53)

Center Address _____

Family Number _____

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS PERTAIN TO THE HEAD OF THE BASIC FAMILY. WHEN PLANS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF BASIC FAMILY DIFFER FROM THAT OF FAMILY HEAD, EXPLAIN UNDER "REMARKS".

I. INTEREST IN RELOCATION (Check one)

- a-Plans made; leaving right away . . .
- b-Very interested; incomplete plans . . .
- c-Mildly interested
- d-Not interested at this time
- e-Refused to discuss

Date Interviewed		

II. DETERRANTS TO RELOCATION (Check one or more)

- a-Need financial aid
- b-No wage earner in family
- c-Waiting for job offering more salary
- d-Believe cannot support family
- e-Old age of family head

- g-Family health/depend. prob.—temp.
- h-Family health/depend. prob.—perm.
- i-Waiting for end of school year
- j-Language difficulty

- l-Fear discrimination
- m-Believe adjustment too difficult
- n-Believe adequate housing unavailable

- p-Waiting for particular kind of job
- q-Waiting to go with other families
- r-Waiting for leave clearance
- s-Will return to evacuated area only
- t-Waiting until end of war
- u-Other (Specify)
- v-

III. AREA INTERESTED IN (Check one or more)

- a-Any place, job, & sentiment O.K.
- b-Rocky Mountain States
- c-Middle West
- d-South
- e-East
- f-Evacuated area only

Date Interviewed		

IV. TYPE OF COMMUNITY (Check one or more)

- a-Does not matter
- b-Large city
- c-Town
- d-Rural (farming)

V. FINANCIAL AID NECESSARY (Check one or more)

- a-None
- b-Leave Assistance Grant
- c-Support for one month
- d-Support for more than one month
- e-Other (Specify)

VI. PLAN TO LEAVE CENTER (Check one)

- a-Probably 7-1-44
- b-Probably between 7-1-44 & 12-31-44
- c-After January 1945
- d-Only at end of war
- e-Uncecided

(INTERVIEWER'S INITIALS)

VII. Business or occupation prior to evacuation

Business or occupation in mind for future _____

VIII. Remarks: (Continue on reverse side if necessary)

ECONOMIC
FAMILY
OUTSIDE
MISCEL.

FAMILY SUMMARY

DOE, John	8/20/87	FN _____
May	4/19/95	
Frederick	1/ 5/10	
ROE, Henry	11/4/30	FN _____

(At top of page, list by name, age, and family number the people who will be physically moved to the relocating point. Include parents, heads of family, or other people even though they are already relocated if they are to relocate with the unit. Other relocated people or friends indirectly affected by the plan appear under "family composition.")

Date Who was interviewed where and why? Where do they
Name:hw want to go? And when?

Family What did they do prior to evacuation? Where did
History they live, what assembly center, what other centers
have they been in, and when did they come to Mini-
doka? Is anyone a parolee?

Family How many members in relocating family unit, mari-
Composition tal status and adult or minor, and relationship.
Names, ages, or birthdates, whereabouts, and em-
ployment of other family members, relatives or
close friends not included in the physical move-
ment of the family unit.

Citizenship Who are aliens? When did they come to America and
when and where were they in Japan if they returned
to Japan? Who are citizens? When were they in Japan?

Education Who has had how much education in the United States
and how much in Japan?

Language Who speaks what and how well do they speak English?

Religion Who is what? Specify denomination of Christians.

Property Do they have any real property, how much and what
Finance kind? Will they need a loan, Public Assistance,
leave grant? Do they have any capitol or colla-
teral? What do they have stored and where?

Plan How do they plan to support themselves? What ma-
terial or service will they need to carry out plan?
What handicaps are there? Is the plan to be per-
manent? Will other people, by full name and add-
ress, be involved in the plan? Do they have a job
and if not, what kind of work do they prefer?
Where have they worked before and for how long and
what did they do? Are there any leads or contacts

that might lead to a job and how much money is needed to support family? If returning to their own property, what are conditions of lease or rentals? Is the place ready for occupancy?

Housing

Where will they live? Free, rented, or owned? If they need housing, what accommodations are desired (how large a house, approximate rent)? Are there any contacts or leads that might secure housing?

Health

If official records are not available before summary is transmitted, inset a statement as to their health and handicaps, pending receipt of the official health records. If health statements are available, copy the statement verbatim and in quotes under "Health". Otherwise send a copy of the statement upon arrival.

Internal Security

Copy statement verbatim and in quotes as received from the I.S.

School Transcripts

See enclosures (or school transcripts will be sent as soon as available).

Employment Record

Enclose copy of project employment records of all members of the family.

Leave Clearance

All members of the family unit have been cleared by the Western Defense Command for unrestricted relocation (or whatever the situation is).

Baggage Freight

What is to be sent, divided into freight and other items?

Mode of Travel

Train, bus, or private automobile.

COVER LETTER

1. Names, ages, and family number of relocating family unit should appear at top of page.
2. Body of letter should briefly summarize where family wants to go, when and specific problems which are to be called to the relocation officer's attention.
3. Specifically state whether or not relocation officer's approval is required.

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
FAMILY SUMMARY

Name, _____

F.N. _____

On this date _____ WAS in the office
to discuss plans to relocate to _____
on _____.

Health: Satisfactory
 Impaired

Housing: Official report enclosed
 Will follow as soon as available
 Temporary at _____
 Permanent at _____
 No Housing, Requirements are: _____

Internal Security: Record
 No record
 Report will follow

School Record: None
 Enclosed
 Will follow as soon as available

Employment Record Enclosed
 Will follow as soon as available.

Pre-Evacuation Occupation: _____

Baggage Freight: () Pieces of Freight
() Pieces of Baggage
() Pieces of Express

Mode of Travel: Train
 Bus
 Private Automobile
 Other

Name _____.

Army Unrestricted
Leave Excluee
Clearance: Segregee _____

Resettlement None
Grant: Accepted for \$ _____
 Rejected because _____

Plan:

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

Dear

Please find enclosed the following information,
by check mark, concerning the above named person(s).

- Case summary of person(s) relocating to _____, on _____.
- Medical Report.
- Internal Security Report.
- Other _____

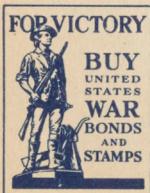
- Relocation problems are indicated.
- Answer requested.

Sincerely,

H. L. STAFFORD
Project Director

Enclosure ()

By: _____
Ass't. Relocation Advisor



CLEARANCE SLIP FOR TERMINAL LEAVE

(GO TO LEAVE OFFICE FIRST!)

to Leave Officer;

Date;

Residents named below have been interviewed by

and are recommended for indefinite leave to on

(surname) age; age

F. N. age; age

Address Signed

The person granted leave has been cleared of all property charges, with the following exceptions;

1. Ration Board Bldg. #42 (Rear)

Please go to the Ration Board and make applications for your books.

ビルディング四二の後方部に在るレーション部に出頭
レーションブックを出願。出発前日受取下さい

Issued Books No.

2. Evacuee Property Bldg. #42

You are to go to this office and arrange for shipment of your property from the center to your destination.

ビルディング四二の荷物取扱所へ行き
行先迄の荷物発送の手続を完了して下さい

Signed: Date

3. Housing Division Bldg. 31-Wing 4

Go to the Housing Division and notify them of your anticipated date of departure. When Housing picks up your bedding, etc., they will sign your slip and check you out.

ビルディング三一のウイング四の家屋部
へ行き出発前日報告を下さる。出発の当日寝具等引渡諸の上下欄に署名を取らざる様お願い致します。

Signed: (Housing Division Head) Date

4. Disbursement Office Bldg. #31-Wing 1

Go to the Disbursement Office the day before you leave the center to pick up your meal money, travel request, and any other money due you. Give this office time to check you out before bus time.

出発の當日ビルディング三一の出納課に
出張旅費並に乗車引換券を受取る事
同時に貴殿の行先を届出願する事。

Forwarding Address

Signed: Date

INSTRUCTIONS:

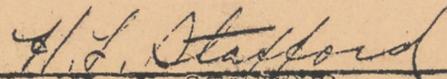
This should be the last place you go before leaving the project. Before you leave the gate, be sure you have your gate pass, travel permit, if alien. These are available at the Leave Office the day before departure. Before you board the bus, see that your baggage is on the bus. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGGAGE AT THE GATE.

以上の貴殿の取手続は全部完了致す由也。
出発前日出所事務取扱所に於てゲートパス及び旅行許可證(非市民)を受取る事を仰志願下さる様お願い致します。
出発當日バスに乗る前貴殿の手荷物か確かにゲートに到着否故を取調下さる様

Issue Date of this Notice _____

Since you have not as yet determined the place to which you are going to relocate nor set the date of your permanent departure from the Minidoka Relocation Center, you are hereby notified in accordance with procedure provided by WRA Administrative Notice No. 289, that effective _____ your permanent departure from the _____ Center may be scheduled by the Project Director for any date thereafter, provided you are given a three days' advance notification of this departure date.

If at any time prior to _____ you complete your plans for permanent relocation and set a definite date for departure from the Center, you will be no longer liable to the procedure set forth above. However, the Project Director reserves the right to designate a departure date other than the one you select, if transportation facilities make such change necessary.



H. L. STAFFORD
Project Director

When you wish to make relocation plans, you should come to the Relocation Office and consult with the relocation interviewer for your district, _____.

貴殿に委任の場合如垂之下カ委任收容カ
永久出登の日取未ニ決決定無之故、本官、
(date)より有効となるMRA行政
通告第二九号ニ付、該日以係に、三日間の期
限と並之、何時迄モ、貴殿の永久出登の日取を
指定致す之レあるカモ知レざるに付、右は通
告申至之カ。但 (date)以前ニ由
ルル永久出登の計画完了の上、前記の罰免
免カ之カ。但し本官、運輸標國の都合上、
止と得ル場合には、出登の日取を指定致す権能
を保留致すカ。

本誌長

W. L. Stafford project director

(Date of issue)

委任の計画も尚ほ進行中陰に、委任
事務所(所)に、貴国受持の委任接見係
(name of interviewee)
に付テ下之。

PERSONAL NARRATIVE REPORT

of

RELOCATION PROGRAM OFFICER

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER

HUNT, IDAHO

BY:

VICTOR V. McLAUGHLIN
RELOCATION PROGRAM OFFICER
TERM OF SERVICE:

September 16, 1942, to December 14, 1945

9-16-42 to 12-16-42 - Teacher

12-16-42 to 7-1-43 - Health & Physical Ed. Advisor

7-1-43 to 1-1-44 - Leave officer

1-1-44 to 11-1-44 - Asst. Relocation Program Officer

11-1-44 to 4-1-45 - Act. Relocation Program Officer

4-1-45 to 12-14-45 - Relocation Program Officer

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO:

DATE:

FROM: Mr. V. V. McLaughlin, Relocation Program Officer

Term of Service: September 16, 1942, to December 14, 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Report on the Relocation Division

In writing this narrative report on the Relocation Division, the history of this division seems to fall in four distinct periods:

- I. Transition from evacuation and assembly centers to project life and relocation.
- II. Registration program, army enlistment, and leave clearance.
- III. Change over of the Relocation Division from Employment Division to Outside Employment and Family Interviewing Program.
- IV. Final organization and center closure operations.

In the first period, a period of uncertainty and confusion for the residents after having been uprooted rather suddenly and forced to leave their homes, their arrival in this more or less desolate part of Idaho did not add to their already downcast spirits. However, almost immediately the need for seasonal workers developed and early in September recruiters arrived from the Amalgamated Sugar Co., the Utah Idaho Sugar Co., and the Franklin Sugar Co.,



to recruit workers to harvest the fall crop in Idaho, northern Utah, eastern Oregon, eastern Washington and Montana. The residents came forth with a splendid response and about 1700 workers were sent to the harvest fields in the states mentioned above. This same year late in the harvest season a very urgent call for help came from the Idaho Falls area where cold fall rains had made harvesting impossible and very cold weather threatened to freeze the potato crop before it could be harvested. This project sent over 200 workers to fill the rush order and these boys saved what later turned out to be a very important potato crop.

This early period had another far reaching result in that it gave the residents a much needed period of readjustment, improved public relations by acquainting thousands of people with an almost unknown Japanese American, and the good relations created by these early workers paid dividends as time went on in many and satisfactory offers for the farmer residents of this center.

Of this group of early seasonal workers quite a number found permanent employment and did not return to the center. This was especially true of the Alaskan group.

From the very outset of this project under the Project Director, Harry L. Stafford, and his assistant, Phillip Schaffer; the way was pointed toward relocation and residents were urged to seek their future elsewhere than in the project. Hence, the first steps were made in

the direction of relocation, and relocation was given "top billing" almost from the beginning of the project.

In reviewing this first period it might be said that there was little time for organization and not much was developed. However, I feel that this was an important period in setting the future of the residents and turning their attention away from evacuation toward the future. It was often said in the early days "there is nothing to be gained by looking back. The future, and the future only, holds promise."

The second phase of the development came early in 1943 while the division still was hampered by project employment in addition to outside employment. This was the registration and army enlistment program, the first real steps toward relocation. However, prior to the registration program, an extensive interviewing program had been started in an effort to place the residents in suitable jobs on the outside. Before this program had progressed very far it was set aside for the registration program which was given wide publicity and informational meetings were held in every block throughout the project. The fact that this project showed 100% registration was due in no small part to the gallant efforts displayed by the Project Director and his top assistants in carrying the program to the people so that they had a complete understanding of all it entailed. Registration was carried out and completed without any difficulty. It must also be

mentioned here that the best evacuee leadership was obtained and they had no small part in making this registration a complete success.

Out of the registration program came the enlistment for army service. About 350 Minidoka residents enlisted. This program was just a bit slow in getting started due to a reticence on the part of the young men here to step forward, but a few of the older group, most of whom were married, led the way. Outstanding of the older Nisei group were the Sakura brothers; the Yanagamachi brothers; "Chick" Uno; Michio Shinoda; Dick Setsuda; and Tomi Takayoshi, a 40 year old who was accepted for military service only because of his desire to become a part of this movement. There were also many others who went all out for this program and though they were not accepted, nevertheless, they were no small part of the program. Among these must be mentioned James Sakamoto; Charles Takahashi; Clarence Arai; and Dr. Paul Suzuki, an alien. Quite a number of volunteers from Minidoka made the supreme sacrifice to prove that their loyalty was not a mere matter of words, but was something forceful, something real, and their American citizenship was dearer than life itself. To the boys and young men who so ably and willingly put the enlistment program over, Minidoka and America owes a deep debt of gratitude.

This program of enlistment and registration set the pace for the future of relocation at Minidoka. It was the turning point in the whole history of Minidoka as this program had been carried to a successful conclusion, no other program could baffle either the residents or the administration.

In leaving this program it must be said that the only sad feature of it all was the fact that the enthusiasm of the volunteers was not matched by Selective Service or the Army. Delay after delay in the processing of the papers caused many to question the good faith of those in authority. Our relations with the local Selective Service Board were very pleasant, but it carried little beyond that.

Relocation showed very encouraging trends during April, May, June, July, and August of 1943.

A carry over from the second period to the third period of change over of the Relocation Division from Outside Employment was the Leave Clearance Program. This grew to rather large proportions as some 1200 leave clearance cases were heard and transmitted to Washington. At first, clearance came through slowly and irregularly, but as the Washington office became geared to the program the situation grew less troublesome.

The hearing board was composed of five members with four alternates all of whom were kept occupied a

good part of their time with hearings. It was extremely fortunate that all during the leave clearance procedure we had an excellent group of evacuee stenographers who were able to carry on the task of keeping the cases up to date and transmit them to Washington regularly. The writer of this report headed the leave clearance board and received excellent cooperation from all members of the hearing board appointed by the Project Director.

Shortly after the inception of the leave clearance hearings, we received by transfer from Tule Lake about 1600 residents, with about as difficult records as the writer has ever seen. Lack of records, mixed-up records and all sorts of entanglements nearly derailed the hearing board for a short time. However, with the need for seasonal workers, at height the Tuleans were allowed to go out for group work while their records were straightened out and upon their return from work, hearings were completed in short order for this group. The opportunity to go outside and earn a little money had a wholesome effect in the Tuleans and no trouble either in the field or in the project was encountered. The situation would have undoubtedly been worse if these people had been refused leave because nearly all of them were and had been frustrated in their attempts to reestablish themselves.

In leaving the leave clearance program it might be said that for those cleared, it was a success; but for those held it seemed an utter failure since none of those

were ever removed to Tule and they remained here as a constant source of trouble and dissatisfaction.

All during this time of registration and leave clearance, the Relocation Division was gradually evolving from Employment Division and Outside Employment. It was gradually taking form of a Relocation Division with all its attention turned to the actual reestablishment of residents in new life outside.

During 1942-1943, the Relocation Division was occupied for the most part with group work leaves and a sincere effort to untangle all the difficulties in clearance. However, in 1944, with the greater part of the seasonal workers in the armed forces or relocated, it was becoming clearly evident that seasonal leave would become another war casualty and trial indefinites was instituted to furnish a substitute for group work. The trial indefinite leave was not popular in this center because of the attractive farm offers in this area and the distance to points where trial indefinites were allowed. This was a leave issued to the Mid-Western and Eastern States for six months, giving the holder the option at the end of the period of taking indefinite leave or returning to the center.

Late in the spring of 1944 the family interviewing program began; quite humbly at first for a large program

which was to be the greatest program instituted by WRA. This came on the heels of the reinstatement of the Selective Service for all citizens of Japanese descent, which took many of the remaining young men.

No astounding results were noticeable from the interviewing program until early January of 1945 although much ground work had been done in 1944 and the low point of relocation for that year was October. A steady rise from that time until October 1945 was noticeable.

The family interviewing program was beset with many rough spots and entailed close cooperation between the Relocation Division, Welfare Section, Legal Aid, Evacuee Property, and almost all divisions. Most closely related to the entire problem was the Welfare Section which never quite seemed to fall in line with the service organization set up in relocation. From the outset, Relocation was a service division, little professionalism was ever allowed to develop within its ranks. All members were instructed to retain a sympathetic attitude toward the residents, but not to "drool" over them. The situation which developed in the Welfare-Relocation relationship was at various times made worse by Washington WRA representatives who apparently came here only to impress the Project Director and the Relocation Division of the professional attitude that had to be maintained among Welfare people; forgetting entirely that there was a task to be accomplished here;

that professionalism would have to be forgotten and these people approached on a basis which they could understand. The reports made by these visitors were uncomplimentary to Relocation and only served to make relations worse and the job harder to accomplish. It was apparent from our observation here that this problem was also prevalent in other centers and also Washington where a consolidation under one head for both sections would have given more unity of thinking.

Other than the above mentioned difficulties, the interviewing program developed into a successful venture. As more staff members were added and facilities in the project more centralized, the program began to move with increasing success.

As each interviewer became acquainted with his or her people and knew their needs, the program became a real service to relocatees. So that each interviewer might have a definite assignment and show definite progress, the project was zoned and two interviewers with a secretary were assigned to each zone. The real family planning took a very definite turn for the better. If this zoning plan had been followed by the Welfare Section and a counselor assigned, the lag which developed in Welfare cases would have not developed. Though there was a close working relationship between Welfare counselors and Relocation advisors, the assignment of the counselor to

a definite zone came only after the Project Director laid out very definite and concise plans for the approaching closing and insisted that the Welfare counselor be given a definite zone assignment.

The final organization for the center closure was developed in early June and a full staff of interviewers was obtained. The teams worked in five zones with seven blocks to each zone. The move to place Evacuee Property under Relocation was a definite help to relocatees in that it made it much easier to take care of difficult property cases with a fuller understanding of the relocation problems. The Evacuee Property Section was handicapped by a lack of help but the overall job was accomplished with the least amount of confusion.

Of great assistance in this final planning were Robert Dolins and George Young both of whom gave the interviewers generally helpful advise and encouragement. Of course, after the visit of Director, D. S. Myer, early in February of 1945, the way was pointed for residents to make final plans although many did not think the centers would actually close, much less that all residents would be relocated. Only by constant repetition were many residents finally convinced that they would have to make plans. By September 1, 1945, nearly all families had made definite plans to relocate. Some of the excludees, segregees, and Welfare cases were the only remaining

project residents who could not make plans. Relocation progress reached its climax in September. On the first of October the end was easily in sight; the reward for all the hard work done by the interviewers and counselors. Very little difficulty was experienced in the final closing operation with a minimum of forced cases.

The transportation problem was always with us but we feel that the Union Pacific Railroad gave us splendid service with only a few cancellations of cars. Approximately six cars a week were sent to Seattle and Portland, while in mid-summer a number of pullman cars were sent East to Chicago. A special car was sent to Sacramento on October 1 for residents of that area.

Minidoka was cleared of practically all residents on October 23, 1945 with only hospital and a few late pullman cases remaining until October 27.

In retrospect, considering the huge task accomplished, it must be said that it was accomplished with fine cooperation of all appointive staff members. The function of the Relocation Staff Committee, made up of appointive staff members, was to keep all divisions and sections coordinated in the big task of relocation.

The Evacuee Commission, because of the turnover in members, was never too successful in this project, and was never backed by the Community Council mostly because this group felt that it would be political suicide to

favor or sponsor relocation. However, the Evacuee Commission, even though not well attended, did serve as a medium of informational exchange. Many rumors floating about the center were successfully spiked by the group.

In the final closing, as in the registration program, every effort was made to carry the program to the people through the project paper, relocation bulletins, and meetings held in mess halls throughout the project. These meetings were conducted by appointed personnel with an interpreter throughout the project about the first of September 1945 and brought to the residents a full explanation of the closing operations in the center.

Much could be written in this report on relocation operations but the most impressive feature of this whole struggle was the fact that relocation was given top priority over all project operations and the way cleared for departure of all who chose to go. "Service" was the by-word of the Relocation Division from its very beginning. Many services were performed for residents which led to relocation or built up confidence in the residents toward the Relocation Division.

It was possible at all times to retain a fine relocation staff and a staff which worked together very congenially, and relocation was the answer to thousands of problems which confronted the residents in the project.

Vester R. M. Langhorne