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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO PMs OF FEBRUARY 22, 1944 W.

Plans of the War Relocation Authority for the closing of the Jerome Relocation Center near Jerome, Arkansas, were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The Jerome Center, one of the two in the Mississippi Delta region of Arkansas where persons of Japanese descent evacuated from the Pacific Coast are living, will be closed in June.

Economy of operation dictated the move to close the center, the Secretary said, as the 92,000 people remaining in WRA centers can be cared for more economically in nine centers than in ten.

"It has been the intention to close a center as soon as the relocation program progressed far enough to make space available in other centers to accommodate the people who will have to be moved," he said. "The 18,000 persons who have left the centers under the relocation program now make it possible to absorb the residents of one of the centers without undue crowding."

Secretary Ickes pointed out that the Jerome Center was the last to be established, so development of physical facilities had not progressed as far as at some of the others; its population 6,554 as of February 1, is one of the smallest; and existence of the Rohwer Relocation center only 35 miles away with a capacity of nearly 2,000 additional persons as a result of relocation, would reduce the total amount of transportation involved and minimize the difficulties of moving.

The relocation program from Jerome as from the eight other relocation centers will be continued during the spring months and residents will be given all possible assistance in finding opportunities to reestablish themselves in communities outside the evacuated zone. The Jerome residents who have not relocated as individuals or families before the first of June, according to Secretary Ickes, will be moved to other relocation centers, including Rohwer, located nearby; Granada, in Colorado; Heart Mountain, in Wyoming; and possibly others if more space is needed.

The Jerome Relocation Center was opened in October, 1942, and at the peak of its population was the temporary home for 8,072 persons of Japanese descent. Under the relocation program of the WRA, 1,518 persons have left the center.

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Evacuee residents of the Jerome center, under WRA guidance, have carried on many different types of activity in an effort to make the community as near self-sufficient as possible. During the 1943 farming season, according to Project Director E. B. Whitaker, they produced vegetables and other food crops on 718 acres of land, harvesting a total of 1,170,564 pounds of crops; shipped 15,000 pounds of corn and sweet potatoes to other centers; cleared 200 acres of new land and several hundred acres more of partially cleared land, and slaughtered 1,215 head of hogs raised from feeders, for their own use. In the seven months period between July of last year and February 1 of this year, they have produced 281,900 board feet of lumber and cut 6,006 cords of firewood.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Immediate Release to AMs  
OF FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1944 W.

Four hundred and two Japanese Americans--the first group to be drafted into the Army since Pearl Harbor--have reported from ten western Relocation Centers to take their pre-induction physical examinations, it was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. Several thousand others at the centers are awaiting their calls, he said.

"The War Department announced Jan. 21 that Selective Service procedures would be applicable to American citizens of Japanese descent," Dillon S. Myer, director of War Relocation Authority, reported to Secretary Ickes.

"That decision was made on the excellent showing of two units of Japanese Americans -- a combat team of volunteers that has been in training for several months, and the 100th infantry battalion, a former unit of the Hawaiian National Guard that has seen active combat as part of the Fifth Army in Italy.

Seven of the nisei called refused to report for physical examination, Mr. Myer reported, and the War Relocation Authority collaborated with local Selective Service officials and representatives of the Department of Justice in apprehending the delinquents.

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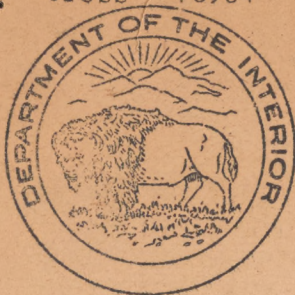


War Relocation Authority

Washington, D. C.

This is the first press release on the progress of relocation and the attached copies are sent for your information only.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Immediate Release to PMs  
OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1944 W.

Approximately one-fifth of the 112,000 people of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the West Coast to relocation centers two years ago are now living and supporting themselves outside the centers, according to a report of the War Relocation Authority to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The report, made public on the eve of the second anniversary of WRA, states that more than 19,000 of the evacuees, including women and children, have been granted indefinite leave to establish homes in communities scattered from the eastern boundary of the exclusion area to the Atlantic coast. Between 2,000 and 3,000 others are on seasonal leave, mainly as farm workers, it was announced.

Of the employable men, more are engaged in the agricultural job of contributing to the Nation's food supply than in any other occupation, WRA Director Dillon S. Myer reported. Many others are helping to relieve manpower shortages in factories, shops, and offices, and a considerable number have volunteered for service in the United States Army. Selective Service inductions are now increasing the number in the Armed forces.

In releasing the report Secretary Ickes explained that it is a policy of the War Relocation Authority, which is a civilian agency now under the Department of the Interior, to encourage the evacuees to scatter over wide areas, and to avoid congregating in colonies. The purpose of the policy is to stimulate their integration into the normal social and economic life of the communities where they relocate.

As a result of the relocation program, Secretary Ickes pointed out, people of Japanese descent who formerly lived in a comparatively narrow strip along the Pacific Coast are now spread out clear across the remainder of the country. About 7,000 of these former West Coast residents have relocated in the Rocky Mountain states, with Utah and Colorado receiving the largest numbers. More than 12,000 have sought homes in states farther east, particularly in the Great Lakes region. Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan, in the order named have been favorite middle-western states for relocation. The most popular city is Chicago, where more than 3,500 are now living. Other cities where considerable numbers have relocated, according to the WRA records, are: Denver, 1,083; Salt Lake City, 740; Cleveland, 787; Detroit, 531; Minneapolis, 464; New York City, 406; Washington, D. C., 150; Washington Metropolitan Area, 200.

(over)



"A fact that has been widely overlooked by the country at large," the Secretary said, "is that these people are mainly American citizens, entitled to the rights specifically guaranteed to all American citizens in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Fully two-thirds of them were born in America, and 72 per cent of these native-born Americans have never seen Japan. They have lived their lives in America, going to American schools, playing with other Americans, working with other Americans, and planning their lives ahead with no other thought than to remain Americans to the end of their days. Most of the relocators to date have been Americans citizens. Both the citizens and the aliens have been carefully screened, and only those who are loyal citizens or law-abiding aliens are receiving permission to relocate."

Secretary Ickes emphasized the fact that thousands of American boys of Japanese ancestry are fighting for the United States in Italy and other parts of the world. "In Italy," he said, "an Army battalion composed almost entirely of Americans of Japanese descent has distinguished itself in valiant fighting. This battalion has suffered casualties amounting to more than 40 per cent of the entire personnel. One Distinguished Service Cross and thirteen Silver Stars have been bestowed on members of the unit for gallantry in action, and 58, or more, Purple Hearts have been awarded to them."

"The job of the War Relocation Authority," Mr. Ickes said, "is to provide shelter and subsistence, in the relocation centers, for the people of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the West Coast until they are able to find new homes in other parts of the country outside the exclusion area. It has the responsibility of protecting them in the rights to which they are legally and decently entitled, and of helping them to find opportunities for resettlement. It has never been the intention of the Government to hold them in the relocation centers longer than was needed to segregate those whose sympathies lay with Japan from those whose sympathies lay with the United States and to make arrangements for the resettlement of those who are eligible for leave."

All adults who have obtained leave from the centers, or who are eligible for leave, have been thoroughly examined on matters that might have a bearing on their loyalties, the report stated. Among the topics covered by the examination are education, former employment, visits to Japan, relatives in Japan, investments in Japan, and social and religious affiliations. The records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies have been checked for any information that might appear in them regarding the people whose eligibility for leave was receiving attention. Their conduct in the centers has also been considered.

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Washington

March 24, 1944

ORDER NO. 1936

Subject: Provisions applicable to the War Relocation Authority in the exercise of delegated authority.

In performing the functions delegated to him in Order No. 1922, the Director of the War Relocation Authority shall observe the following provisions:

1. After June 30, 1944, all budget and finance transactions shall be handled by the War Relocation Authority in accordance with the provisions of Order No. 1920. For the remainder of the fiscal year 1944, the War Relocation Authority is authorized to utilize the facilities of the Division of Central Administrative Services, Office for Emergency Management, in the maintenance of accounts and the provision of other financial services now being furnished to the War Relocation Authority.

2. (a) All personnel actions taken by the Director of the War Relocation Authority, or his designated representative in Washington or in the field service, shall be consistent with the personnel standards and policies of the Department of the Interior.

(b) Transfers of official station and the shipment, at government expense, of household goods incident to such transfers shall be approved in advance by the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) Personnel actions, including the allocation of vacancies, involving positions in Grades CAF-12 and P-5 and above, and all positions not subject to Civil Service laws, shall be submitted to the Secretary for prior approval.

(d) Requests for draft deferment for War Relocation Authority employees shall be submitted for review by the Committee on Deferment of Government Employees of the Department.

(e) Wage rate schedules for hourly rate employees shall be submitted for approval by the Secretary.

(f) Personnel reports to the Bureau of the Budget, the Civil Service Commission, and other agencies outside the Department of the Interior, shall be submitted by the War Relocation Authority to the Office of the Secretary for inclusion in Departmental reports.



ORDER NO. 1936

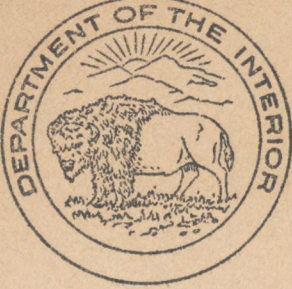
3. The facilities of the Departmental Purchasing Office are available to the War Relocation Authority, and shall be utilized whenever practicable by the War Relocation Authority. The provisions of Secretary's Order No. 1423, prescribing limitations upon the contracting authority delegated to bureau heads, shall not, until further order, apply to the operations of the War Relocation Authority.

4. Until July 1, 1944, the War Relocation Authority is authorized to procure office supplies and arrange for space, communications and other services through the Office for Emergency Management, but shall investigate as soon as possible the practicability of securing from Department of the Interior sources those administrative services for which reimbursement is now being made by the War Relocation Authority to the Office for Emergency Management. After June 30, 1944, the War Relocation Authority shall make provision for the administrative services required by the staff of the Authority.

5. Policies and programs dealing with issuance of information to the public shall be approved by the Department's Division of Information before they are put into effect. News releases from the national office of the War Relocation Authority shall be approved by the Division of Information before issuance and shall be released through the Division of Information.

/s/ Abe Fortes  
Acting Secretary of the Interior



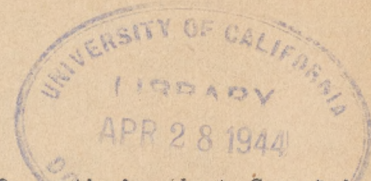


## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Release For FMs  
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1944-W



Japanese American farmers, evacuated two years ago from their West Coast homes into WRA relocation centers, have converted 10,000 acres of formerly idle land into productive gardens, and are now producing practically all the vegetables needed by the 90,000 people residing in the centers, it was reported today by WRA Director Dillon S. Myer to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Forty-one million pounds of vegetables were produced in the ten centers in 1943, Secretary Ickes said. In addition, the evacuees produced about 1,000,000 pounds of dressed pork, and the production of hogs has been developed sufficiently to meet virtually all the pork requirements of the centers. About half of the beef requirements are supplied by four centers which have herds of beef cattle. Seven centers, engaged in raising poultry, are producing a high percentage of the eggs needed to feed the evacuee population.

"The purpose of the production program at the relocation centers," Secretary Ickes explained, "is to supply as much as possible of the food required to feed the people living in them. The farmers in the centers do not compete with farmers outside by selling on the open market. At the same time, thousands of other evacuee farmers have left the relocation centers to work on farms in rural communities scattered from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Atlantic Coast. These farmers, as well as the thousands of Japanese American workers who are helping to relieve manpower shortages in other industries, have all been carefully screened by the War Relocation Authority. Fully two thirds of the evacuees are American citizens. All persons whose sympathies lie with Japan, or who might interfere with the war effort, have been denied leave clearance and placed in the Tule Lake center in northern California."

Two of the ten centers, including Tule Lake, are in California, two in Arizona, two in Arkansas, and one each in Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming. The evacuees who live in them are provided with food on the basis of OPA rationing regulations. As a further move to conserve food, all the centers observe two meatless days each week and, without exception, use substitutes for butter. A cash limit of 45 cents per person per day is allowed for meals, and food produced at the centers is charged against the food allowance.

Most of the land on which the centers are located was publicly owned and not in production before the evacuees arrived. Much of it had to be cleared and leveled. Large acreages had to be drained, especially in Arkansas, to bring the land into production, and at several of the sites irrigation systems had to be installed, or repaired and improved. An additional 2,000 or 3,000 acres are undergoing development.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

For Release at NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1944.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes issued the following statement in San Francisco today regarding the program of the War Relocation Authority:

"Immediately after the President, on his own motion, transferred the War Relocation Authority to the Department of the Interior, we began to study its policies and administration. I have recognized from the beginning the difficulty and complexity of the problems, and I realize that the manner of their treatment is of vital importance, not only to the thousands of Japanese Americans who are immediately involved, but to the American civilians who are interned by the Japanese and the families of these Americans. The character and reputation of our own democracy are also involved.

"The War Relocation Authority was given an unenviable job. It was not responsible for the evacuation of the Japanese Americans from the West Coast. That was a military decision. The War Relocation Authority was given the job of providing for the care and welfare of the people who were uprooted and transferred and of arranging for the restoration to normal life of those among them who are the blameless victims of a war-time program. I think that there can be no doubt that the program has, in general, been handled with discretion, humanity and wisdom. WRA did not persecute these people, and it made no attempt to punish those of a different race who were not responsible for what has been happening in the far Pacific. The War Relocation Authority -- make no mistake about it -- has been criticized for not engaging in this sort of a lynching party. Under my jurisdiction, it will not be stamped into undemocratic, bestial, inhuman action. It will not be converted into an instrument of revenge or racial warfare.

"There is a place in this war for deserved anger and for punishment. I have on many occasions called for the punishment of the war criminals whether they have committed their outrages under Tojo and the fiendish military caste of Japan, or under Hitler. Let us see that the guilty are made to feel the heavy hand of justice; but let us not degrade ourselves by injuring innocent, defenseless people. To do this would be to lower ourselves to the level of the fanatical Nazis and Japanese war lords. Civilization expects more from us than from them.

"In resisting the onslaughts of those who would have the War Relocation Authority imitate the savageries of the ruling factions in the nations with which we are at war, I am sure that we have the support of virtually all Americans. I am particularly grateful to those groups and individuals on the West Coast who have been brave enough and Christian enough to speak out against the vindictive, blood-thirsty onslaughts of professional race mongers.

(over)



"All of the Japanese Americans who were evacuated from the West Coast have undergone and are undergoing a most intensive investigation. Those concerning whom there is any basis whatever for a suspicion of disloyalty have been sent to internment camps or are being segregated at Tule Lake. This segregation process is virtually complete, and the thousands of Japanese Americans who remain at the other centers are, by all reasonable tests, loyal American citizens or law-abiding aliens. They are entitled to be treated as such. Those who do not believe in according these people the rights and privileges to which they are entitled under our laws do not believe in the Constitution of the United States.

"All of us recognize that, in time of war, we are subject to orders and restraints which would be intolerable in time of peace. All of us -- regardless of race or religion -- are subject to the overriding demands of military necessity in time of war. No one who is loyal to the United States objects to this. But when military necessity does not require it, no one of us who is an American citizen or a loyal alien can be deprived of his rights under the law. I believe that the only justifiable reason for confinement of a citizen in a democratic nation is the evidence that the individual might endanger the wartime security of the nation.

"The major emphasis in War Relocation Authority operations is now on restoring the people of all WRA centers except Tule Lake as rapidly as possible to private life. Over 20,000 people have already left the centers to make new homes and engage in new jobs in hundreds of communities stretched all of the way from Spokane, Washington, to Boston, Massachusetts. These relocated evacuees are establishing themselves in cities and on farms and many have indicated that they plan to remain in their new locations during the post-war period. Thus the relocation program is contributing to a more widespread dispersal of Japanese Americans throughout the country.

"We must all face the problem of the eventual status and treatment of those Americans of Japanese descent who were taken from their homes and transported to evacuation camps. Most of them, after a thorough investigation, the doubts being resolved in favor of segregating them, have been proved to be loyal and devoted to this Nation. It is intolerable to think that these people will be excluded from a normal life in this country for long. It is intolerable to think that merely because they resided on the West Coast -- in California, or Washington, or Oregon -- they must be wards of the Government for one moment longer than the necessities of war require. I know of no virus in these three States which has infected them so that they must be treated differently than the Japanese Americans who reside in other States. And it is intolerable to think that decent people would suggest that this Nation would for a moment consider sending loyal Americans of Japanese descent to a land which most of them have never seen and in which most of them have no interest.

"To a large extent this is a local problem. It is a problem of you people in California, in Washington and in Oregon. I hope that the clamor of those few among you who are screaming that this situation should be resolved on the basis of prejudice and hate will soon be overwhelmed by the stern remonstrances of those among you -- an overwhelming majority -- who believe in fair play and decency, Christianity, in the principles of America, in the Constitution of the United States."



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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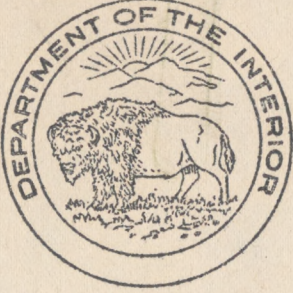
Statement by Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes.

*Publicity*

"I interested myself for two reasons in the location of seven United States citizens who are of Japanese ancestry on my farm at Olney, Maryland, and on the farm of a neighbor. The first reason is that I believe we should do all that we can to ease the burden that the war has placed upon this particular group of our fellow citizens. I do not like the idea of loyal citizens, no matter of what race or color, being kept in relocation centers any longer than need be. The second reason is that these citizens have a background of farming in California and we need competent farm help badly. The individuals involved compose family groups. They have been investigated not only in the usual manner by the F.B.I., Military Intelligence, and others, but also have been observed by an agency over which I have jurisdiction, the Indian Service, since they have been for eight months at Poston on the Colorado River. I have had excellent reports on them."

April 14, 1943.





# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release  
WEDNESDAY, P.M., APRIL 26, 1944 W.

Cleared and Issued  
Through Facilities of the  
Office of War Information

### WRA TO REOPEN LEUPP CENTER

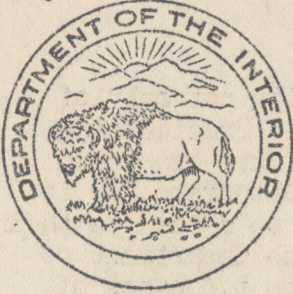
Plans of the War Relocation Authority to reopen the Leupp Center near Winslow, Arizona about May 15 were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The Leupp Center is being reopened to take care of those evacuees of Japanese ancestry who have been agitators or troublemakers at the Tule Lake Segregation Center in northern California. It will be operated under administration of Tule Lake Project Director Ray R. Best.

Approximately 100 men, the majority of them American citizens, who were arrested after taking part in a disturbance at the Tule Lake center last November 4, will be sent to Leupp. Since the November disturbance they have been confined in a stockade in the Tule Lake center. Some of the aliens who took part in the incident have been transferred to internment camps for enemy aliens, under jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

The Leupp center was opened as an isolation unit under the War Relocation Authority on April 27, 1943, and was closed on December 2, when its inmates were transferred to the Tule Lake Center, which had meanwhile become the segregation center for persons whose loyalties were with Japan rather than with the United States.

The supervising officer of the Leupp center will be designated by R. R. Best, project director of the Tule Lake center, who was the director of Leupp center before being appointed to his present position.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

For Immediate Release to the  
PMS of Thursday, April 27, 1944.

The following statement by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes was made public today in connection with the relocation of Japanese American citizens and friendly law-abiding aliens of Japanese descent from WRA centers in the west to locations in the middle west and east:

Within the past two weeks the American people have heard three high public officials giving voice to opinions that seem ominously out of tune in a nation that is fighting for the principles of democracy and freedom.

First the Governor of New Jersey, then the Governor of Ohio, and now, of all people, the Mayor of New York City, have expressed a belief that American citizens of Japanese ancestry and law-abiding Japanese aliens are not entitled to the same privileges as non-Japanese and should be accorded special treatment.

This is a strange fife and drum corps to be playing the discordant anthem of racial discrimination. Stranger by far than fiction. The Mayor of New York City, who has fought long and vigorously for racial equality and justice, carrying the flag, must be shocked and disturbed to find the drummer boy from New Jersey on his left and the fifer from Ohio flanking him on the right. I cannot but believe that he has joined this company through accident and misunderstanding rather than by deliberate choice.

Mayor LaGuardia has protested against the relocation of persons of Japanese ancestry in New York City, apparently on the theory that these people are dangerous and subversive. Actually there has not been one proven case of sabotage on the part of a Japanese American since the war began -- not even in Hawaii. The people who are being relocated from War Relocation Authority centers have been painstakingly checked and found, on the basis of their records, to be loyal American citizens or law-abiding aliens. Approximately 800 of these people are now living in New York City. To the best of my knowledge, they have not caused the slightest trouble and I am sure they have no intention of doing so. Thus I can see no basis for the Mayor's fears or for his protests. I can only say that neither Governor Bricker nor Governor Edge is the type of bedfellow that he ordinarily chooses, nor the type of thinking that most of us expect from Mayor LaGuardia.

(over)



The Governor of Ohio, the Honorable John W. Bricker, is guilty not only of prejudice but of disregard of the facts. In trying to further his Presidential aspirations before a Los Angeles audience last week, Governor Bricker expressed the opinion that after the war each West Coast community should determine for itself whether the people of Japanese ancestry should be permitted to return to their former homes. He also charged the War Relocation Authority of the Department of the Interior with releasing disloyal persons and cited as evidence the cases of 28 Japanese American soldiers who recently refused to take combat training.

In accusing WRA of releasing men who later manifested disloyalty in uniform, the Governor didn't know what he was talking about. As it happens, all 28 of the men involved in this incident were inducted into the Army before the West Coast evacuation and have thus never been under jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority. But when the Governor told a group of Californians that they were wholly justified in preventing an American citizen from returning to his home, his farm, or his business because they don't like his complexion or his grandfather, the Governor deliberately kicked the Constitution in the teeth.

I hold no brief for the Governor of New Jersey, the Honorable Walter E. Edge, who was the first of this triumvirate to express his racial-tinged opinions. In talking to a group of farmers who had succeeded in driving five thoroughly investigated and law-abiding Japanese workers from a neighbor's farm, Governor Edge told the protesting group, "I guess I don't blame you." Prior to the Governor's statement, the farmer who had contemplated hiring the Japanese workers had received anonymous telephone calls, had been threatened with violence, and finally had had one of the buildings on his property destroyed by fire. If Governor Edge can condone this sort of lawlessness and violence in his State and still hold his head up in the company of democratic men, then to him the Constitution is nothing but a dust rag.

As I pointed out in a recent statement in San Francisco, the relocation of Japanese Americans to a large extent is a local problem. It is a problem of the people of California, Oregon, and Washington, where, unfortunately, a few prejudiced and vocal men have created a public clamor that has stirred unnecessary apprehension and bitterness in other parts of the Nation.

I have no hesitancy in saying that an overwhelming majority of the American public -- firm believers in fair play and the Constitution -- hold no animosity against these homeless and blameless victims of a wartime military decision. As an indication of this, even in the far West, I should like to call attention to an assembly of more than 500 girls from ten Arizona high schools who met at Rivera, Ariz., on April 15, with Japanese American school girls from the WRA Gila River, Ariz., project to discuss in a spirit of tolerance and good will their mutual problems. To me such a meeting spells anything but racial intolerance. To me it is indicative of the way the vast majority of our citizens feel, once they have the facts, toward those of Japanese descent, Governors Bricker and Edge and Mayor LaGuardia notwithstanding. Little children shall lead them.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

For Immediate Release to the  
PMs of Thursday, April 27, 1944.

The following statement by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes was made public today in connection with the relocation of Japanese American citizens and friendly law-abiding aliens of Japanese descent from WRA centers in the west to locations in the middle west and east:

Within the past two weeks the American people have heard three high public officials giving voice to opinions that seem ominously out of tune in a nation that is fighting for the principles of democracy and freedom.

First the Governor of New Jersey, then the Governor of Ohio, and now, of all people, the Mayor of New York City, have expressed a belief that American citizens of Japanese ancestry and law-abiding Japanese aliens are not entitled to the same privileges as non-Japanese and should be accorded special treatment.

This is a strange fife and drum corps to be playing the discordant anthem of racial discrimination. Stranger by far than fiction. The Mayor of New York City, who has fought long and vigorously for racial equality and justice, carrying the flag, must be shocked and disturbed to find the drummer boy from New Jersey on his left and the fifer from Ohio flanking him on the right. I cannot but believe that he has joined this company through accident and misunderstanding rather than by deliberate choice.

Mayor LaGuardia has protested against the relocation of persons of Japanese ancestry in New York City, apparently on the theory that these people are dangerous and subversive. Actually there has not been one proven case of sabotage on the part of a Japanese American since the war began -- not even in Hawaii. The people who are being relocated from War Relocation Authority centers have been painstakingly checked and found, on the basis of their records, to be loyal American citizens or law-abiding aliens. Approximately 800 of these people are now living in New York City. To the best of my knowledge, they have not caused the slightest trouble and I am sure they have no intention of doing so. Thus I can see no basis for the Mayor's fears or for his protests. I can only say that neither Governor Bricker nor Governor Edge is the type of bedfellow that he ordinarily chooses, nor the type of thinking that most of us expect from Mayor LaGuardia.

(over)



The Governor of Ohio, the Honorable John W. Bricker, is guilty not only of prejudice but of disregard of the facts. In trying to further his Presidential aspirations before a Los Angeles audience last week, Governor Bricker expressed the opinion that after the war each West Coast community should determine for itself whether the people of Japanese ancestry should be permitted to return to their former homes. He also charged the War Relocation Authority of the Department of the Interior with releasing disloyal persons and cited as evidence the cases of 28 Japanese American soldiers who recently refused to take combat training.

In accusing WRA of releasing men who later manifested disloyalty in uniform, the Governor didn't know what he was talking about. As it happens, all 28 of the men involved in this incident were inducted into the Army before the West Coast evacuation and have thus never been under jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority. But when the Governor told a group of Californians that they were wholly justified in preventing an American citizen from returning to his home, his farm, or his business because they don't like his complexion or his grandfather, the Governor deliberately kicked the Constitution in the teeth.

I hold no brief for the Governor of New Jersey, the Honorable Walter E. Edge, who was the first of this triumvirate to express his racial-tinged opinions. In talking to a group of farmers who had succeeded in driving five thoroughly investigated and law-abiding Japanese workers from a neighbor's farm, Governor Edge told the protesting group, "I guess I don't blame you." Prior to the Governor's statement, the farmer who had contemplated hiring the Japanese workers had received anonymous telephone calls, had been threatened with violence, and finally had had one of the buildings on his property destroyed by fire. If Governor Edge can condone this sort of lawlessness and violence in his State and still hold his head up in the company of democratic men, then to him the Constitution is nothing but a dust rag.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
201 Sheldon Building  
San Francisco, 5, California

RELEASE MAY 7 AND THEREAFTER

(In his column in the Pacific Citizen, Salt Lake City, Evacuee Bill Hosokawa, now a reporter on the Des Moines Register, tells a story of his cousin, Sgt. Ken Omura, who died in the Pacific war against Japan. Omura was an Alaskan cannery worker, a member of the Alaskan Cannery Workers Union, CIO).

BY BILL HOSOKAWA

SALT LAKE CITY, May 6--The telegram was short and simple, like most important messages.

It read: "The secretary of war asks that I assure you of his deep sympathy in the loss of your cousin, Technician Third Grade, Ken Omura. Report received states that he died nineteen March in New Guinea as a result of drowning. Letter follows" It was signed: "Ulio the adjutant general."

We have not learned yet the circumstances of his death. He may have been swept overboard in a tropical storm. He might have been torpedoed, although that sounds remote. Possibly he was out swimming to escape the heat and somehow lost his life.

In that case it was a tragic, futile death. We say futile, so far as he himself was concerned, because he wanted desperately to see the war won. He would not have hesitated to give his life in action if need be. But too, he wanted to live and come home to the things he was fighting for.

We write about Ken Omura today not because of blood kinship. We write because Ken was a nisei, and his story is of interest to nisei. We write because his reactions, his outlook, his dreams were so typical of the nisei G.I. Joe. We write because while many nisei have given their lives on other battlefronts, Ken was the first to go in the southwest Pacific where the Jap is a

(over)



hateful thing and where the fighting is bestial and primitive.

There is a certain negative distinction about the first, and we write because it's the least we can do to remember him.

If it had been willed that some nisei had to die in the treacherously beautiful south Pacific isles, it was just as well that Ken had to be the one. For he lost his mother as a young child, his father a short while before his induction. He had lost all track of his sister, and, so far as we are aware, he had no girl with whom to look into the future. We were next of kin.

Ken was a Kibei. They took him to Japan soon after his mother died, and he didn't get back over here until he was about 14. He was a wizened little fellow then, malnourished with the mark of the hungry, crowded little islands on him. For a long time he preferred Japanese fiction magazines over anything else.

But in time he grew and lost his pallor. He learned to speak English and went through high school. He became a baseball player of more than ordinary skill. He shunned the Kibei--he wanted to be American.

The draft took him before Pearl Harbor, and he thought it great fun when he was assigned to an artillery company. He was ambitious, and he had his eyes on advancement.

After Pearl Harbor he went through the futile anger, then the heartache of being held suspect, of being refused a chance, an experience so familiar to all nisei soldiers. They took him out of the artillery and lined him up with a half hundred other nisei. They counted off, one-two, one-two.

The evens got hospital detail. The odds were yardbirds, policing the grounds, digging drainage ditches, landscaping army posts. That was his job, he didn't like it, and he learned to goldbrick, to loaf whenever he could.



But he volunteered for special service, and that was his chance for the Japanese tongue was still familiar. Late in 1942 he went overseas.

Last Christmas Eve Ken got his orders. He wrote: "The old man called a few of us in to his office, grasped our hands firmly, gazed straight into our almond eyes, and said: 'Good luck. God bless you all. Do your best, gentlemen.' Though puzzled and confused we gave him a nappy salute, returned to our tasks, and waited in suspense until 1430 hours, when we were informed of our departure time, destination unknown."

Soon afterward he wrote of spending a month on a lonely south sea island, then moving up to New Guinea where he picked up a yellowish tint from having to take atabrine pills. "Everyone is buzzing about an 18 months overseas limitation law. If I'm lucky, I may be home by next Christmas, but I'm not counting on it too much."

His last letters carried this paragraph:

"I'm enjoying this life. Undoubtedly I will be having a lot of fun and excitement. The Japs definitely are on the run. It may be much sooner than we anticipate before this whole mess is cleared up. I may be seeing you before long. I've got my fingers crossed."

The promised War Department letter has come, but it has shed no light on the circumstances of the death. Perhaps there is a letter on its way from one of his buddies, to tell us of Ken's last struggle. And perhaps we will never know how he died. These are the fortunes of war.

But we do know that Ken would not have wanted us to mourn. He died, whether directly or indirectly, engaged in a war to the finish against the country in which he gained much of his education. He died as an American soldier, in the defense of noble ideals.



It is not easy to write of death. Death has become almost commonplace in a world where suffering, cruelty, savagery and hate are now part and parcel of life. But, still, when death strikes close to one, the unchanging heartache is still there, and the loss of one life among many becomes a poignant tragedy instead of a statistic.

Ken left a job unfinished. If he shrank from death, it was more in the knowledge that there was so much left to be done than in the fear of death itself.

It is for us who remain to see that the unfinished tasks are completed. It is the least that we can do.

\* \* \* \* \*





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

ADVANCE RELEASE:

Sunday, May 28, 1944.

Virtually all of the 22,000 Japanese-Americans who so far have left relocation centers have been well received in communities in various parts of the United States, away from the Pacific Coast, where they have resumed their normal place in society, the War Relocation Authority today reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The report covered case histories of a number of successfully relocated people.

In traditional man-bites-dog fashion, it has been the very few exceptions that have made news, the reports indicate. The business of finding new homes for these American citizens of Japanese ancestry, as well as for a few law-abiding Japanese aliens, has been proceeding steadily ever since the mass heigira from the Pacific Coast was begun as a military necessity early in 1942. In fact, some of the first ones already had moved out into new homes before the last ones had been uprooted and sent to the 10 relocation centers.

Illinois has proved to be the Mecca for the greatest number of these citizens whose only crime was having Japanese parents. About 5,000 have found homes in that state, chiefly in the Chicago area. Approximately half that number are living unobtrusively in Colorado. Utah and Ohio are each hosts to about 1,700, followed closely by Michigan. Idaho has received about 1,000. Some states have less than 100, and a few of those evacuated have found jobs as far away as Delhi, India, and Melbourne, Australia. (A tabulated list of states and cities where evacuees have been relocated is appended.)

Of the thousands who have dropped into other communities without causing an economic or social ripple, the case of Frank Shiba is typical. Shiba and his wife, Caroline, had made their home in Fresno, California, where he ran a recreation hall before the war. After the evacuation they found themselves in the Jerome relocation center in Arkansas. Like the majority of the evacuated people, Frank and his wife and their baby daughter, Diane, are American citizens.

Frank and Caroline, along with all other evacuee residents of relocation centers, filled out questionnaires prepared by WRA in cooperation with experienced intelligence officers. Their names were submitted to the federal intelligence agencies and nothing was shown to indicate that they were anything but loyal American citizens. Accordingly, they were granted "leave clearance" by the

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Director of the War Relocation Authority. They were free to go to any community, outside the excluded West Coast area, where sentiment was not unfavorable and where jobs were available.

Frank decided to try Cleveland, where a few dozen evacuees had preceded him. Caroline and little Diane stayed in the relocation center until Frank could find a job and a place for them to live. He wanted a job where he could feel that he was helping in some direct way to win the war. He found it, as an apprentice on a grinding machine at the National Tool Company. Now, ten months later, he is a fully qualified operator and is getting the full scale wage. His wife and baby are content in their new home. They've made friends, and with every week the family's roots are more firmly set in the new community.

Multiply Frank Shiba's experience by some 22,000, make allowance for geographic variations extending from Spokane to Boston, and for hundreds of occupations, and you have the story of the people of Japanese descent who formerly lived in the Pacific Coast area and who have relocated to new homes and new communities farther east.

About 110,000 West Coast residents, all of Japanese descent, were poured into the hourglass-like system inaugurated by the Army and the War Relocation Authority. The pouring-in process lasted from April to August, 1942. Of the 22,000 who have left the centers on indefinite leave to date, most are American citizens. On the average, they represent the young, able-bodied adults, educated in American schools, speaking English well and Japanese poorly if at all, thinking and acting like other Americans.

Life in a relocation center was tolerable after you got used to it, these people found, but it wasn't what they wanted. A single room, 20 feet square, served as a home for a family of three or four. A wood-burning stove, cots, blankets and a light bulb were furnished by the Government. The evacuees fashioned tables and chairs out of crates, boxes, and scrap lumber left over from the construction work. Eventually they got some of their own furniture which had followed them. The community bath house was a couple of hundred feet away and it served all the 250 or so residents of the block. Three times a day, all the residents of the block passed down the cafeteria line to the mess hall. Housewives couldn't prepare meals in their own home, because no cooking facilities were provided.

Many of the relocated families have babies born in the center hospitals, which, by wartime standards, are well equipped and adequately staffed. Special formulae and baby foods are available, and both mother and child receive competent medical attention. Children of school age attend classes in the barrack-type buildings. The equipment in many instances is meager, but the teachers are well trained and the courses of study are those prescribed by the departments of education in the States. Work is available, at wages of \$16 a month, which some families manage to spread over their needs, while others are constantly drawing on previous savings. Church, movies, occasional dances, and home-produced entertainment are available at all the centers.

Leaving the relocation centers, the people of Japanese descent have scattered to most of the states outside the excluded Pacific Coast area. Some regions have



seemed more favorable and have drawn greater numbers, but at no point do they approach the concentrations which were found in the "Little Tokyos" of Los Angeles and other West Coast cities, or in the irrigated valleys of inland California before evacuation.

In moving eastward, many of the evacuees have left behind farms and business properties laboriously built up on the Pacific slope over a period of years. Some have lost all their equities in these properties and have been compelled to start life almost wholly afresh. The younger relocators have had their schooling interrupted, first at the time of evacuation and later upon departure from the relocation centers. Adults have been cut off from familiar surroundings and from socialities of many years' standing.

But even though the transplantation has been a drastic process for many, it has some compensations from the long range point of view, the report to the Secretary stated. It has tended to break down the pre-war isolation of this Oriental minority in the United States and has brought thousands of these people more completely than ever into the mainstream of American life.

In a few instances, there has been local opposition or discrimination when evacuees have moved in, in spite of efforts of the War Relocation Authority to determine in advance the attitude of the community toward persons of Japanese descent and to steer evacuees away from unfriendly communities. In Great Meadows, New Jersey, neighboring farmers objected strenuously to five Japanese being employed as sharecroppers on a vegetable farm, and after several days of threats, someone burned down a shed in which fertilizer was stored. To avert further violence, the evacuees left.

More characteristic is the experience of Bill Okazaki and his family. Moving from the Rohwer relocation center, in Arkansas, to the farm of A. J. Kreckler, near McHenry, Illinois, the Okazakis are accepted by adults in the community just as their twin daughters are accepted in the first grade at school. The change from vegetable production in the irrigated valleys of California to crops and livestock of a typical Corn Belt farm was the most radical adjustment the Okazakis had to make.

Another typical farmer who has moved into the Middle West is Fred Doi, 35 year old American citizen, who operated a 60 acre vineyard at Fowler, California. From the Gila River relocation center in Arizona he went to Elkhorn, Nebraska, to work on the Omar poultry and dairy farm. He has charge of more than 3,000 laying hens, and helps in a dairy herd which supplies milk to one of Omaha's largest hospitals. Mrs. Doi is active in the local Red Cross and other groups in the community. Neighboring farmers were so favorably impressed with Doi's abilities that three of them are negotiating for evacuee farm workers.

While farm people greatly outnumbered all other occupational groups among the Japanese population in the United States, they have been rather reluctant to leave the relocation centers, only about 19 per cent having relocated, compared with 38 per cent of those experienced in clerical or sales work, and 30 per cent of those with professional or managerial experience and a similar percentage of skilled laborers.



Many, of course, have changed types of work in relocating. Harley Asari, who operated a goldfish hatchery at Huntington Beach, California, before being evacuated to the Colorado River relocation center, at Poston, Arizona, now handles scrap metal and castings at the U. S. Foundry, in Denver. He was the first nisei, as Americans of Japanese parentage are called, employed by the company. Now there are about 25 on the pay roll. Women welders have become the glamour girls of the war effort. Occasionally, the results have been surprising, as in the case of Jeri Tanaka who went through a welding school in Des Moines and got a job with a company making radio condensers. Her production record soon became the talk of the shop.

Another worker in Des Moines is Joe Eto, who came out of Shick General Hospital with a medical discharge from the Army, after 11 months service. He landed a job with a plant making a critical war product, critical enough that publicity concerning it is strictly barred. The officer responsible for security arched his eyebrows and began to question whether or not it was safe to have a man of Japanese ancestry employed in such a vital industry. A local newspaperman inquired "Are you going to kick out a man with a creditable record of service in the Army?" Joe stayed, and is still helping to keep 'em flying.

A double shift is the schedule of Yoshiaka Sugita, who was a pre-medical student when evacuation took him to the Granada relocation center in Colorado. He worked there as an orderly in the center hospital. He moved to Omaha and now is a laboratory technician at the University of Nebraska Medical College by day, and a pressman for the Paramount Paper Products Company at night.

Kelly Yamada managed three optician shops in Oakland, California, before he and his family were moved to Poston, Arizona. They relocated to Peoria, Illinois, several months ago, bringing their sons Dexter, 5 years old, and Terence, just short of 2 years; and Mrs. Yamada's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Toraji Yemoto. A nurseryman in California, Mr. Yemoto is back at his old trade working for a Peoria nurseryman.

Zealous in pursuit of higher education, the American born Japanese on the West Coast in some instances found use for their professional training only after they relocated. Arthur Takemoto, trained as an engineer, was sales manager for a produce company in West Los Angeles. After a few months in a relocation center, he applied for leave and went to Chicago. His first job was as a die designer, and later he became a draftsman and designer for a plant which makes airplane instruments.

Another characteristic of the West Coast Japanese was the high proportion who were in business for themselves, in rural areas or in cities. Many of these men have been reluctant to become employees when they were used to being employers, or at least independent operators, in agriculture, merchandising, etc. A few, however, have managed to find opportunities to go into business for themselves.

Fred Akahoshi, who was a truck farmer at Indio, California, and Frank Kuwahara, a florist from Sacramento, joined forces a few months ago and bought a small greenhouse business in Lincoln, Nebraska. Besides raising flowers they are producing this spring about a quarter million vegetable plants for Lincoln victory gardeners.



One of the biggest vegetable growing enterprises in the state of Utah is the Pacific Farms, with 480 acres of carrots, peas, potatoes, and onions, operated by Henry Mitarai, formerly of San Francisco and the Heart Mountain relocation center. Mitarai employs 25 fellow evacuees during the growing season and expects to have an additional 125 at harvest time.

Four transcontinental railroads have employed evacuees of Japanese ancestry from the relocation centers as section workers during the last two years, and, pleased with their work, are anxious to hire more.

Few Japanese were coal miners before evacuation, but several of them are now working in the coal mines of Carbon county, Utah, members in good standing of the mine workers union. Sixteen former residents of relocation centers are employed by the Utah Lime and Stone Company, which provides lime for the steel industry and for the sugar refineries of the state.

Residents of the western states, especially in sugar beet producing areas, have become well acquainted with the evacuees from the West Coast, for thousands of them have worked in the beet fields during the 1942 and 1943 seasons; for many, the seasonal work has been a means of getting acquainted with the interior of the United States. For others, the money earned has helped to finance the family's move from a center to a permanent home in a normal community. While harvesting enough sugar to supply about ten million people in each season, the evacuees have generally established reputations as industrious, law abiding residents of the community.

In 1944, seasonal workers among the evacuees may not be so numerous, because many of the best workers have found permanent jobs elsewhere. But where there is a genuine need for labor, and where the local representatives of the War Food Administration offer contracts to do essential agricultural work, the evacuees in the WRA centers will be given the privilege of engaging in seasonal agricultural work.

Still in the centers are thousands of older people, to whom readjustment to outside conditions will be more difficult - farmers who have pioneered in opening up areas of the Coast states and making them productive and who no longer have the energy or the capital to make a fresh start in a new territory; youngsters who are not yet capable of supporting themselves; adults whose financial and sentimental interest are centered on their West Coast homes, farms, and businesses and who are waiting out the war; the normal proportion of people who because of infirmity will be dependent upon public or family support wherever they are. To the War Relocation Authority, intent upon fostering the relocation of as large a number as possible during the war, these represent major problems.

In addition, there is a large group, numbering probably 20,000 who, under established policies of the agency, will not be permitted to relocate for the duration of the war. They are people who have formally requested repatriation to Japan, or American citizens who have requested expatriation; some have refused to pledge loyalty to the United States; others have past records of behavior which cast doubt on their loyalty. Most of them have been gathered at one point, Tule Lake Center,



in California; the sorting and segregation process is not quite completed, but the War Relocation Authority expects to have it done before the end of June.

The segregation, according to Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, was determined upon in the middle of 1943 as an aid to the relocation program. "Relocation is our main job," says Mr. Myer, "and we felt it could be carried on much more effectively if those who were not eligible to relocate were put in one place, leaving the other centers composed entirely of those whose loyalties lie unmistakably with the United States. Our aim is to relocate every person who can be relocated, and work ourselves out of a job as quickly as possible."

To express the feelings of the evacuees, a more articulate spokesman could hardly be found than Mary Oyama Mitwer, successful writer, mother of two, whose husband, Fred Mitwer, had an American father and Japanese mother; one of his brothers at last reports was interned by the Japanese government as a dangerous alien.

The Mitwers were evacuated from their Los Angeles home to the Heart Mountain relocation center in Wyoming, and then relocated to Denver, where Mary resumed her writing and Fred went into the food processing business. Mary Oyama expresses an attitude to which many of the evacuees subscribe: "Of course it was a bitter experience to be uprooted and hustled off to a relocation center, but it's futile to be so preoccupied with the past that we lose sight of the future. The weak and misguided may blight the remainder of their lives by ill-considered acts. The strong and wise will make the best of their lot and emerge stronger and wiser than before."

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# APPENDIX

The following tabulation shows the number of Japanese-Americans who, as of April 1, 1944, had relocated in each of the various states, together with the list of cities and communities in each state where 10 or more had relocated:

Alabama (1)		Idaho (continued)	
Arizona (65)		Pocatello	83
Glendale	25	Preston	12
Mesa	17	Rexburg	18
Phoenix	15	Rupert	22
Arkansas (27)		Sugar City	11
Little Rock	25	Twin Falls	100
California (33)		Weiser	90
Los Angeles	22	Illinois (5012)	
Colorado (2507)		Barrington	48
Ault	16	Chicago	3978
Blanca	15	Des Plaines	40
Boulder	183	Elgin	21
Brighton	84	Elmhurst	14
Colorado Springs	41	Evanston	94
Crowley	22	Flossmoor	13
Denver	1144	Glencoe	21
Fort Collins	24	Highland Park	34
Fort Lupton	72	Joliet	14
Grand Junction	120	Libertyville	12
Greeley	63	Marengo	22
Henderson	64	Melrose Park	22
Keenesburg	76	Naperville	24
Lamar	13	Oak Park	45
Littleton	33	Palatine	11
Longmont	26	Peoria	69
Pierce	18	Rockford	150
Platteville	12	Wheaton	23
Pueblo	25	Winnetka	41
Rocky Ford	61	Indiana (129)	
Trinidad	20	Fort Wayne	11
Weston	16	Gary	19
Connecticut (62)		Indianapolis	50
Bridgeport	12	South Bend	11
Delaware (7)		Iowa (326)	
District of Columbia (102)		Davenport	21
Florida (10)		Des Moines	172
Georgia (6)		Dubuque	10
Idaho (1024)		Milford	12
Blackfoot	33	Pella	14
Boise	113	Kansas (115)	
Burley	24	Fort Riley	12
Caldwell	114	Kansas City	15
Emmett	17	Lawrence	11
Filer	24	Meade	13
Idaho Falls	66	Winfield	13
Nampa	32		
Payette	68		



Kentucky (22)		Nebraska (377)	
Louisiana (11)		Cozad	36
Maine (4)		Grand Island	13
Maryland (58)		Kimball	48
Baltimore	22	Lincoln	72
Massachusetts (123)		North Platte	11
Boston	44	Omaha	118
Cambridge	27	Nevada (123)	
Michigan (1487)		Reno	50
Ann Arbor	379	New Hampshire (3)	
Battle Creek	14	New Jersey (50)	
Berrien Springs	13	Passaic	10
Bloomfield Hills	20	New Mexico (40)	
Detroit	619	Albuquerque	19
Farmington	15	New York (649)	
Grosse Pointe	33	Buffalo	15
Highland Park	23	New York City	497
Kalamazoo	49	Rochester	26
Lansing	12	Syracuse	22
Monroe	30	North Carolina (16)	
Mt. Clemens	42	North Dakota (14)	
Royal Oak	11	Ohio (1687)	
Minnesota (898)		Chagrin Falls	14
Mankato	20	Cincinnati	303
Minneapolis	500	Cleveland	993
Moorhead	13	Cleveland Heights	18
Northfield	16	Columbus	63
Rochester	42	Dayton	49
Saint Paul	179	Lakewood	29
Savage	34	Oberlin	13
Shakopee	22	Shaker Heights	39
Wayzata	16	Toledo	70
Mississippi (63)		Yellow Springs	15
Hattiesburg	46	Oklahoma (28)	
Shelby	11	Tulsa	12
Missouri (510)		Oregon (299)	
Chesterfield	18	Jamieson	38
Clayton	25	Nysse	97
Excelsior Springs	18	Ontario	87
Kansas City	142	Vale	46
Kirkwood	15	Pennsylvania (236)	
St. Louis	176	Philadelphia	147
Webster Groves	18	Swarthmore	18
Montana (293)		Rhode Island (2)	
Billings	42	South Carolina (1)	
Butte	16	South Dakota (37)	
Chinook	18	Mitchell	10
Glendive	11	Tennessee (23)	
Great Falls	29	Madison	12
Hardin	31		
Malta	17		



Texas (132)	
Abilene	15
Austin	16
El Paso	11
Mineral Wells	16
San Antonio	13
Utah (1715)	
Brigham City	52
Clearfield	33
Corinne	19
Garland	34
Grouse Creek	10
Honeyville	12
Layton	49
Ogden	273
Parowan	18
Provo	83
Roy	16
Salt Lake City	766
Sandy	19
Spanish Fork	23
Springville	13
Tremonton	36
Vermont (1)	
Virginia (21)	
Washington (523)	
Opportunity	20
Pasco	15
Pullman	13
Spokane	364
Walla Walla	49
West Virginia (1)	
Wisconsin (300)	
Kenosha	13
Madison	62
Milwaukee	185
Wyoming (385)	
Casper	21
Cheyenne	23
Cody	30
Laramie	173
Powell	34
Riverton	13
Worland	10

Others (4)

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (1)  
Melbourne, Australia (1)  
Honolulu, T. H. (1)  
New Delhi, India (1)





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Immediate Release TO PM's OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1944.

An American doughboy's solution of how to handle those who would prevent the relocation of Japanese American citizens from evacuee centers into the normal stream of American life, was received today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes direct from the front lines of the Italian theater of war.

The writer, Corporal J. H. Kety, of the United States Army, laid his rifle aside to pen the following:

"May I suggest that you send all those narrow-minded, bigoted, un-Americans over here to relieve the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 34th Division?"

The 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of American soldiers of Japanese descent, has one of the proudest records of the war. Out of the battalion (1,000 men) 900 have been awarded Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in battle; 36 have been honored with the Silver Star; 21 have won Bronze Stars, and 3 wear the Distinguished Service Cross.

Secretary Ickes' reply to Corporal Kety read, in part, as follows:

"Thank you for your letter. It is quite apparent that you know what you are fighting for."

XXX

JUN 13 1944



*Chow.*

Tozier-2838



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO  
PMs THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1944

#### JAPANESE AMERICAN SOLDIERS' MOTHERS TO WEAR PINS

Before the Jerome Relocation Center in southeast Arkansas closes at the end of June, all of the 155 service mothers of this wartime Japanese-American community will have lapel pins with one star for each son in uniform, the War Relocation Authority announced today.

Arrangements for purchasing the pins have already been made by the USO club of the relocation center, and delivery is expected in the near future. One-star pins have been ordered for 122 of the mothers; two-star pins for 18; three-star pins for 10; and four-star pins for four. One mother, Mrs. Masakichi Takahashi, is entitled to the rare five-star insignia and might possibly lay claim to an additional star since she has a son-in-law as well as five sons in the service.

Many of the Japanese-American boys represented by the stars on these pins recently completed training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in preparation for active service overseas.



The United States Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
201 Sheldon Building  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAR RELOCATION CENTER HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATE 2100 SENIORS in 1944

Approximately 2100 seniors graduated from the relocation center high schools according to figures compiled from the War Relocation Authority center newspapers.

Majority of the centers held their commencement exercises in June. The Colorado River Center at Poston, Arizona led the centers in total graduates with 406. Heart Mountain in Wyoming followed with 301, while Minidoka in Idaho was third largest with 286.

Following is the list of center graduates:

Colorado River Project, Arizona . . . . .	406
Heart Mountain Project, Wyoming . . . . .	301
Minidoka Project, Idaho . . . . .	286
Gila River Project, Arizona . . . . .	233
Manzanar Project, California . . . . .	181
Granada Project, Colorado . . . . .	158
Rohwer Project, Arkansas . . . . .	154
Jerome Project, Arkansas . . . . .	138
Central Utah Project, Utah . . . . .	127
Tule Lake Project, California . . . . .	121

Handicapped as most of these high schools are by lack of buildings and equipment, they have been able in the past two years to meet the requirements of the states in which they exist. Their graduates are being accepted in



universities and colleges on the outside and in several instances have achieved outstanding records.

Under Selective Service many of the boys are being inducted into the Army immediately after graduation.

Commencement exercises in relocation schools are patterned largely after the schools they left behind in California, Washington and Oregon. There are the baccalaureate sermons on the previous Sunday. A typical program consists of the processional followed by the invocation. Usually "America the Beautiful" is sung by the class or the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played by the school orchestra.

These young people had not forgotten the America which they left two years ago. The commencement speeches of their class representatives show that they have the backbone and the grit to succeed as youth has always done.

The students and their instructors, after an interlude of two years during which they have been severed from much of the outside ties, are still able to look to America's problems with the same broad perspective that all Americans do. They have shown that they are Americans, interested in America's war, her postwar problems, and her place in the family of nations.

In the speeches of these young graduates there was no pessimism or brooding over the past. They all pointed hopefully toward the future.



POSTON, Arizona, -- "We are not the only ones who have been driven out of our rightful homes," was the declaration of Miss Aileen Asako Oita, valedictorian of Post II High School, Colorado River Relocation Center of the War Relocation Authority.

"We are not the only ones who will have to start out all over again when this war is over. Half of the people in the world will be starting out anew, and theirs would be the more difficult task, for they would have a whole country to rebuild," said the American girl graduate of Japanese ancestry.

Miss Oita, formerly of Watsonville, California, was the third member of her family to be valedictorian of a graduating class. An older brother, Katashi Oita, was valedictorian of Watsonville Union High School in 1941, and another brother, Itsumi, was last year's Poston II High School valedictorian.

In her address, little Miss Oita chided some of her fellow students for not having adjusted themselves to the restrictions of center life.

"If you cannot adjust yourself to conditions here, you can hardly hope to do so on the outside," she warned. "Life is a give and take proposition. It is an investment. And you have to invest a lot of your own time and effort to receive any benefits."





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
For Release to Sunday Papers  
of July 9, 1944

Transfer of 26 Japanese aliens over the last three months from the Tule Lake Segregation Center in northern California to enemy alien internment camps under jurisdiction of the Department of Justice was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The aliens, Secretary Ickes explained, are men who were arrested for playing an active part in the disturbance of last November at the segregation center and who have been confined since their arrest in a fenced-off stockade at the center. Under agreement between the Department of Justice and the War Relocation Authority, they have been moved to internment camps during the last three months in comparatively small groups.

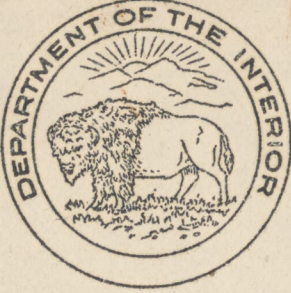
All aliens have now been removed from the stockade area at Tule Lake, the Secretary said, although a group of 25 citizens of Japanese ancestry, who are not eligible for transfer to internment camps, still remains. After the disturbance of November 4, both during and after the period when the Army was temporarily in control of the segregation center, a total of 111 aliens and 229 citizens, suspected of complicity in the outbreak, were removed from the residence area of the center and confined in the stockade.

The War Relocation Authority established a fact-finding committee, composed of administrative employees at Tule Lake, to review the cases of these persons and to make recommendations to the Project Director. Aliens whose records made them eligible for internment were gradually transferred to Justice Department camps. Citizens who had records as chronic troublemakers were retained in the stockade. Those individuals -- both citizens and alien -- whose behavior in the stockade indicated they would not make further trouble were returned, after periods of confinement ranging from two to eight months, to the residence area of the Tule Lake Center.

Originally, Secretary Ickes pointed out, the War Relocation Authority had contemplated transferring citizen troublemakers from the stockade to its isolation center at Leupp, Arizona, but due to the small number of citizens left in the stockade after re-examination of the cases it was determined not to re-open the special center in Arizona.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

For Release TO PM's OF FRIDAY,  
JULY 14, 1944

One of the two new giant generators at the Shasta power plant of the Central Valley Reclamation project in Northern California will be officially started Friday, July 14, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today. The second unit will be put into operation as soon as tests are completed.

The event will mark the completion of Shasta Dam and the delivery of power to the newly constructed section of the Government transmission line from the dam to Oroville, California, Harry W. Bashore, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, reported to the Secretary.

"The energy from these two hydroelectric units, as it 'hits the highlines,' will mean more power for wartime industries on the Pacific Coast," said Secretary Ickes. "It will bring to more than 1,150,000 kilowatts the additional capacity installed at Bureau of Reclamation projects since Pearl Harbor—a total of 18 new generators added in 30 months.

"That power is making possible the almost superhuman task of building thousands of warships, warplanes, tanks, and guns of all kinds. The processing of newly opened deposits of magnesium, the aluminum processing plants, and other industries in that western region are producing millions of tons of vital war metals."

Both of these new generators have been undergoing tests for several weeks under the supervision of Charles E. Carey, Director of Reclamation's Regional Office at Sacramento, S. O. Harper, Chief Engineer with headquarters in Denver, Colorado, Ralph Lowry, Construction Engineer at Shasta Dam, and Frank T. Crowe, General Superintendent of the Pacific Constructors, builders of the dam and power plant.

#### Milestone in California Plan

"The completion of Shasta Dam and power plant will be a milestone in the fulfillment of visions Californians have had for nearly 100 years," said Commissioner Bashore. "They are the key structures in plans for the multiple use of the



waters, lands, and other natural resources of the region. The delivery of power to the Shasta-Oroville transmission line, which the Bureau of Reclamation has constructed, has equal significance in insuring the marketing of the Shasta power output.

"The storage of flood waters behind Shasta Dam will help control floods in the Sacramento Valley. The release of those same waters will produce more than a billion kilowatt hours of energy annually, improve navigation facilities, regulate the river flow to aid irrigation in the Sacramento Valley, and store water to be released for transfer to the San Joaquin Valley, to replenish diminishing irrigation supplies, aid in the repulsion of salt water from the delta above San Francisco Bay, and protect the salmon and other fish and wildlife interests.

"The transfer of surplus waters from the Sacramento to the San Joaquin Valley will permit the restoration of many thousands of acres of valuable land to full production, bring new lands into production, and provide farm homes for thousands of qualified veterans and industrial workers after the war."

#### Construction Rushed As War Measure

Under high-priority orders from the War Production Board, Shasta Dam, Shasta power plant, and the Shasta-Oroville transmission line are being rushed to completion on an emergency construction program to insure an adequate supply of electric energy for California war industries.

"Shasta Dam is the second most massive concrete structure built by man," said Commissioner Bashore. "Its power plant is now equipped with two 75,000 kilowatt generators, with space for three more units of the same size, two of which were manufactured in 1943 and loaned to Grand Coulee power plant where they are now in war service in the Pacific Northwest. The fifth and final unit was partially completed when the War Production Board halted its construction in 1942. Complete installation of all generators will be made after the war."

Shasta Dam has been built at an estimated cost of \$87,167,000. An allocation of costs to the various benefits is under study.

#### Railroad Relocated

Water storage began in Shasta Lake on December 30, 1943, when the diversion tunnel gates were partially closed. The west tunnel under the dam was first used by the Southern Pacific Railroad prior to its relocation outside of the reservoir area. To relocate the railroad which otherwise would have been submerged by the rising lake, 30 miles of new railroad, including 12 tunnels and 8 bridges, were built. About 12 miles of U. S. Highway 99 were constructed also to avoid the lake. The Pit River bridge, one of the highest double-deck bridges in the world, carries both the railroad and the highway across the Pit River arm of the reservoir.

During the past six months Shasta Lake has attained the length of nearly 30 miles, with water at the upstream face of the dam about 325 feet deep. This



reservoir will cover 29,600 acres when full, and will store 4,500,000 acre-feet of water.

"From the very beginning of plans for the Central Valley project, irrigation has been the dominant interest," said Commissioner Bashore. "Developments in this valley, however, have and must be coordinated--not only for irrigation, but for domestic water supplies, for hydroelectric power, flood control, navigation, and all other uses.

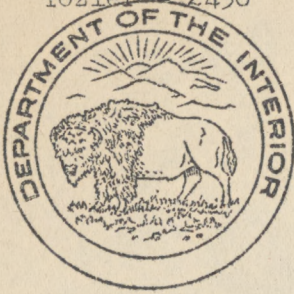
#### Water For Thirsty Lands

"Surplus flood waters stored behind Shasta Dam will be released and transferred by a series of canals and pumping plants to the San Joaquin basin in the southern end of the valley. Nearly two-thirds of all the waters falling in the entire region originate in the northern end of the valley, at the headwaters of the Sacramento and its tributaries, where irrigable lands are limited, but nearly two million acres of thirsty lands to the south will be assured irrigation supplies by the transfer of flood waters from Shasta Dam."

The Central Valley project is operated by the United States Bureau of Reclamation from its Regional Office in Sacramento through project officials at Redding, Colusa, Modesto, Antioch, Tracy, Friant, Visalia, and Bakersfield.

Other features of the project now in service are Friant Dam, and the Madera Canal in the San Joaquin Valley, for war food production, and the Contra Costa Canal, which is serving war industries in the bay region.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

## WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Release to AMs Wednesday, July 26, 1944 W

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today that preparations have been completed by the War Relocation Authority at Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York, for receiving the group of nearly 1,000 European refugees who are being brought to the United States in accordance with the plan announced by President Roosevelt on June 9.

The group will be housed at the historic fort, the Secretary explained, for the wartime period in two-story barracks which have been remodelled into family apartments. Thirty barrack buildings have now been divided by partitions so that each contains eight apartments of varying size. These have been equipped with running water and supplied with cots, tables, chairs, and clothing lockers. Dormitory space has also been prepared for the individual refugees who are not attached to family groups, WRA officials said.

The War Relocation Authority, which was made responsible by the President for administration of the Emergency Refugee Shelter, will take over custody of the grounds at the Fort from the Army on July 28. A staff of approximately 40 WRA employees -- some detailed from the Washington office of the agency and others recruited for full-time work at the shelter -- is now stationed at the Fort making final arrangements for the refugees' arrival. Director of the Shelter is Joseph H. Smart, former field assistant director for WRA in Denver, and more recently stationed in Peru with the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

Secretary Ickes said that during the first few weeks after arrival of the refugees, while WRA is registering them and completing the necessary health and security checks, visiting at the shelter will be permitted only by authorized representatives of the press and cooperating agencies. The group is being brought to this country outside regular immigration quotas and will be given sanctuary, according to the President's announcement, for the duration of the war.

At the shelter, the refugees will be provided with food, housing, and medical care. Small cash grants will also be made on the basis of individual need to cover minimum clothing essentials and personal requirements such as soap and tooth paste.

The War Relocation Authority is planning to rely on the refugees to the greatest possible extent for the performance of tasks incident to the operation and maintenance of the shelter and expects to have only a small staff of appointed personnel stationed at the Fort after the initial period of operations.

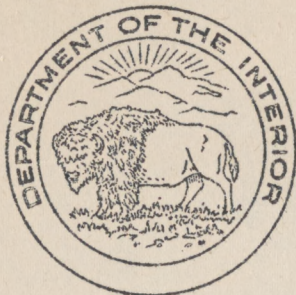
(over)



Information received from a WRA representative who is returning from Europe with the refugees indicates, it was announced, that most of the refugee group are Jewish with small contingents of Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, and Protestants. The principal nationalities represented are Austrian, Yugoslav, Polish, German, Russian, and Czech. The group is expected to arrive some time after August 1.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Immediate Release  
SATURDAY A.M., AUGUST 5, 1944.W

Military memorial services for six Japanese American soldiers recently reported killed while fighting the Nazis in Italy will be held Saturday at Granada Relocation Center in Colorado. Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, reported today to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The six servicemen were reported by the War Department as killed in action between June 15 and July 9. Another Japanese American soldier was listed as missing in action in Italy and three others were wounded there during the same period. All of the soldiers were formerly relocation center residents earlier evacuated from California. Members of their families now living at Granada will attend the services today, the Secretary said.

Names of those killed and the dates, with the original California addresses, follow:

Staff Sgt. Bill Iwao Yamaji, Rt. 2, Mountain View, June 15  
Pfc. Kiyoshi K. Muranaga, 15369 South Vermont, Gardena, June 26  
Pfc. Arnold Ohki, Rt. 1, Livingston, July 7  
Pfc. Leo Kikuchi, RFD No. 4, Sevastopol, July 8  
Pvt. Calvin Saito, 1517 W. 36 St., Los Angeles, July 7  
Pvt. Joe R. Yasuda, 4548 Langner Ave., Santa Rosa, July 9  
Pvt. Yoshio Matsuoka, Walnut Grove, Calif., was reported missing in action on June 28.

The wounded in action were:

Sgt. Tom H. Furusho, Rt. 4, Sevastopol, Calif., June 28  
Pfc. James S. Karatsu, 1664 W. 37 St., Los Angeles, Calif., July 9  
Pvt. Jack Y. Mametsuka, Star Route, Capay, Calif., July 7

Director Myer said that the gallantry of Japanese American soldiers on the Italian front has won repeated War Department commendation. Two units almost entirely composed of Japanese Americans, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Combat Team, were reported to have spearheaded the drive on Livorno.

The 100th, which has been in action longest, was given a War Department Distinguished Unit citation on July 27. Its soldiers, according to dispatches from the Italian front, have been awarded more than 1,000 Purple Hearts, and 11 Distinguished Service Crosses, 44 Silver Stars and 31 Bronze Stars for gallantry in action, together with three awards of the Legion of Merit. Fifteen of the battalion's officers hold commissions given on the field of battle.

(over)



There are now 10,000 American boys of Japanese ancestry in the American army, half from the Hawaiian Islands and half from the mainland. Those from the mainland for the most part are members of families who make up the 110,000 persons, two-thirds of them American-born citizens, who were evacuated from the West Coast early in 1942. Approximately 30,000 evacuees have relocated in normal communities throughout the United States and together with their kinsmen in military service are making a real contribution to the war program, Mr. Myer said.

The 442nd Combat Team is made up principally of volunteers, 1200 of them volunteering from relocation centers. More than 5,000 in all are now fighting in Italy. Other soldiers of Japanese ancestry, both volunteers and inductees, are in training in other theaters.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Immediate Release SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1944.

Enthusiastic appreciation was expressed to President Roosevelt, the Government and the American people "for their kind hospitality" by the 982 European refugees, recently installed for the duration at Fort Ontario, Oswego, N. Y., in a message made public today by Acting Secretary of the Interior Abe Fortas.

The message was sent at the request of the refugees by Joseph H. Smart, Director of the emergency shelter for the War Relocation Authority which, as an agency of the Department of the Interior, has custody of the refugees.

Mr. Fortas, in reply to Mr. Smart, said:

"The President has asked me to convey through you to the War Refugees at Fort Ontario his appreciation of the sentiments expressed in their message to him. I am gratified that the refugees already have felt the warmth of American hospitality and I hope that they will steadfastly retain their faith in the future freedom of mankind from the blight of warfare and racial strife."

The message from Fort Ontario read:

"The 982 refugees from all parts of Europe, sheltered at Fort Ontario, Oswego, N. Y., wish to thank you, Mr. President, the Government of the United States and the American people from the bottom of their hearts for their kind hospitality. Longing for liberty and cooperation in the reconstruction of the destroyed world and their own existence, they beg to add their heartiest wishes for a complete and earliest victory of the glorious Allied armies fighting for freedom and democracy and for the creation of a durable peace which might include all races and nations in welfare and security."

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1944. W.

Described by his union as "a long time fighter against Japanese imperialism and fascism of any kind," Sgt. Karl G. Yoneda, 38, formerly of San Francisco, is the first Japanese American soldier of this war to be elected to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the War Relocation Authority has been informed.

Sgt. Yoneda, who volunteered for military service from the relocation center at Manzanar, Calif. is now fighting in Burma according to letters received by his wife, Mrs. Elaine Yoneda. He is a member of local 110 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and former vice-president of the Alaska Cannery Workers' local 5, both CIO. The sergeant was elected to Howard A. Sperry Post 3570, San Francisco, of the VFW while overseas. Officers of the post, which is made up entirely of union men, told the WRA they believe he is the first Japanese American VFW of World War II.

Commenting about him and other Japanese Americans in the armed forces, Ed Reite, quartermaster of the post and financial secretary of ILWU local 10, said, "These men have earned the respect of all of us."

Morris Watson, editor of the ILWU Dispatch, in describing Sgt. Yoneda's fight against fascism and Japanese imperialism supplied two instances. On one occasion Yoneda was on the picket line when longshoremen and Chinese picketed shipments of scrap and oil to Japan, and in 1936 he helped to organize a labor committee which refused to load ships carrying supplies to Japan.

When Japanese aliens and Japanese Americans were evacuated from the West Coast in 1942, Yoneda, his wife and their son, Tom Mooney Yoneda, were moved from San Francisco to the WRA relocation center at Manzanar, Calif. Mrs. Yoneda and Tom returned from the center to San Francisco last year.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO THURSDAY PM's  
AUGUST 31, 1944 W

If Pfc. Pete Fujino, 21 an American soldier of Japanese ancestry, had known Japanese better he would have had less trouble reading his last letter from "Mom," before he was killed in Italy.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Takasaburo Fujino, residents of the Minidoka relocation center at Hunt, Idaho, were notified by the War Department recently that "PFC Yasuo Pete Fujino was killed in action on August 5, 1944 in Italy." On August 9 a letter came to Mrs. Fujino from her son, the last she ever received, the War Relocation Authority said today.

Pfc. Fujino wrote:

"Dear Mom,

Last night I received your letter which was written in Japanese and since I've forgotten some of the characters I had a very hard time reading it. Guess going to that Japanese Language School didn't do me much good. Thanks a lot, Ma, and like you said I'm writing again even if I've written to you just a few days ago.

Please don't worry about me because I'll be all right and besides I'm in the rear taking a little rest now. We don't know how long it's going to be but we all think it'll be at least two weeks anyway.

Sure miss your cooking, Ma. I'd give anything to be able to sit down and enjoy some meal you have prepared. Guess I'll just have to be patient and lick the Jerrys first before I go home.

Well, give my best regards to all of the family and take good care of yourself, Ma. So long.

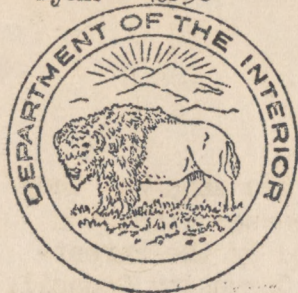
Your loving son,

Pete"

Before evacuation the Fujino family lived at 615 Yesler Way, Seattle, Washington. Pfc. Fujino was a graduate of the Broadway High School. He volunteered for the Army on May 8, 1943 while at the Minidoka Relocation Center and was sent to Italy in April 1944.



*Chen*



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release PM's OF THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7, 1944 W.

Forty-five American soldiers of Japanese ancestry with parents or other next of kin living in the country's relocation centers, have been killed in action, Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority today reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

A WRA compilation of casualty notices received by center families up to August 31 showed a total of 139 War Department telegrams, including 45 killed, 92 wounded and two missing in action, Myer said. The 45 were killed in Italy in such hard fought battles as Cassino, Volturmo and Belvedere.

The parents of the men killed have expressed the belief that their sons "died for two causes -- for their country and to win acceptance as Americans from all other Americans," Myer said.

He reported the words of Mrs. Yaye Ohki, a widow living at the Granada Relocation Center in Colorado, who had three sons in the Army. When she learned that the eldest, Arnold, was killed in action July 7 and that the second, Edwin, was seriously wounded, she said: "This is their country. This is their home, and my sons are working toward the betterment of their motherland and fighting endlessly to win their place in the United States as loyal citizens whose faith in America will not die, and will grow even stronger. My son Arnold proved that by sacrificing his life on the Italian front."

Mrs. Toyosuke Onodera of the Minidoka Relocation Center, Hunt, Idaho, whose son Satoru was killed fighting with the famed 100th Infantry Battalion in Italy, said: "If the death of my son will contribute toward a greater understanding of the loyalty of Japanese in this country, then I shall be comforted. I am proud that my son should have given up his life in defense of democracy and I am sure that his death will not have been in vain."

Mrs. Onodera has two more sons in the Army, one with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy and one still in training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Most of the casualties so far have been volunteers, Myer said, explaining that selective service was not applicable to Japanese Americans between June, 1942 and January 1944. He added that since casualty notices go directly to the families at the centers or to evacuee families who have relocated and do not come through WRA channels, it is believed that some casualty notices were missed and that the total number received by evacuees in the centers up to August 31 may be 10 or 20 percent higher than the 139 reported.

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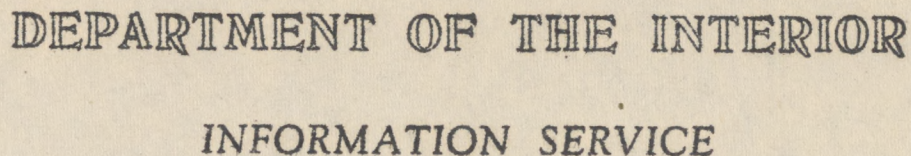
RELOCATION CENTER OF THE INTERIOR

Relocation centers receive their casualty telegrams in much the same way they are received in thousands of American towns and homes. No week passes without a military memorial service at one of the centers, usually sponsored by the Parent-Soldier group of the center's USO organization and by the center Community Council.

A typical service for the soldier dead may start with a prayer by a Buddhist priest and mass singing of the "Star Spangled Banner," with the service ending perhaps with a benediction in Japanese, delivered by a Christian minister, and with "Taps" by Boy Scout buglers. The speeches are translated into Japanese or English.

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For Release PM's  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1944 W.

P.N. 73925

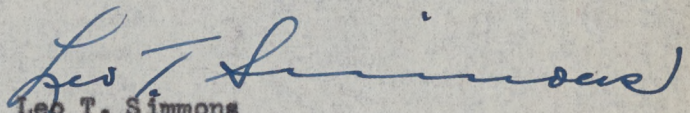


1510 Fidelity Building  
Kansas City, 6, Missouri  
September 30, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. William K. Holland  
Relocation Officer  
  
✓ Mr. Frank E. Gibbs  
Relocation Officer

I am sending you two copies of a news release which  
you might want to release to your local newspaper.

Incidentally this is new material supplied to us by  
the Army and is not released through any other source.

  
Leo T. Simmons  
Acting Relocation Supervisor

Inclosures

OCT - 2 1944



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Washington, D. C.

JAPANESE-AMERICANS PERFORM WELL UNDER FIRE

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY---Americans of all nationalities, especially those of Japanese ancestry, can be proud of the fighting qualities displayed by one Japanese-American unit in its first battle with the German enemy on the Fifth Army front in Italy.

United States soldiers of Japanese descent, attached to the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, came through their initial contacts with the enemy in veteran style, observers agreed.

Committed to their first action early in the morning, the Japanese-American volunteers took part in the great Fifth Army drive which pushed the German legions northward toward Pisa and Florence. They went "over the top" in the vicinity of Suvereto and Belvedere.

Generally credited with killing the first Nazi is Private First Class Yoshio "Blackie" Takemoto of Ewa, Oahu, territory of Hawaii. While on advance patrol less than an hour after going into action, this American soldier with Japanese features was about to jump over an irrigation ditch when a German rose up to bayonet him. Automatically, Private Takemoto shot from his hip, his first shot killing the Nazi soldier instantly. "When the Kraut jumped out of the bushes, I just shot--that's all. It was either him or me, and I still favor myself. That was a close shave and his bayonet didn't look too inviting," the Japanese American volunteer to the 442nd Combat team recalled. The dead German's camouflage color uniform gave him away as a sniper.

Acts of heroism and individual bravery among the Fifth Army's Japanese-Americans were numerous. Here are some instances:

There was a Browning automatic rifleman who insisted on remaining behind to cover withdrawal of his companions to safety, sacrificing his life in order that his buddies might escape.

A mortar gunner set up his mortar in the face of point-blank German artillery fire and tried to knock the enemy out before they got his pinned-down comrades. He fired two rounds but was killed before he could fire a third.

A rifleman with his stomach half blown away, smoking his last cigarette, ordered the medical aid men to take care of others who could use their help better; his buddies will never forget his "Carry on", half-shouted, as he waved farewell to them.

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PASSED FOR PUBLICATION BY FIELD PRESS CENSOR



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Washington, D. C.

JAPANESE-AMERICANS PERFORM WELL UNDER FIRE

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY---Americans of all nationalities, especially those of Japanese ancestry, can be proud of the fighting qualities displayed by one Japanese-American unit in its first battle with the German enemy on the Fifth Army front in Italy.

United States soldiers of Japanese descent, attached to the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, came through their initial contacts with the enemy in veteran style, observers agreed.

Committed to their first action early in the morning, the Japanese-American volunteers took part in the great Fifth Army drive which pushed the German legions northward toward Pisa and Florence. They went "over the top" in the vicinity of Suvereto and Belvedere.

Generally credited with killing the first Nazi is Private First Class Yoshio "Blackie" Takemoto of Ewa, Oahu, territory of Hawaii. While on advance patrol less than an hour after going into action, this American soldier with Japanese features was about to jump over an irrigation ditch when a German rose up to bayonet him. Automatically, Private Takemoto shot from his hip, his first shot killing the Nazi soldier instantly. "When the Kraut jumped out of the bushes, I just shot--that's all. It was either him or me, and I still favor myself. That was a close shave and his bayonet didn't look too inviting," the Japanese American volunteer to the 442nd Combat team recalled. The dead German's camouflage color uniform gave him away as a sniper.

Acts of heroism and individual bravery among the Fifth Army's Japanese-Americans were numerous. Here are some instances:

There was a Browning automatic rifleman who insisted on remaining behind to cover withdrawal of his companions to safety, sacrificing his life in order that his buddies might escape.

A mortar gunner set up his mortar in the face of point-blank German artillery fire and tried to knock the enemy out before they got his pinned-down comrades. He fired two rounds but was killed before he could fire a third.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO MONDAY P.M. PAPERS,  
OCTOBER 16, 1944. W.

The Navy flier hunting enemy targets in Philippine waters will spot Japanese warships faster because he first learned their outlines through ship models made by Japanese American craftsmen in a WRA relocation center in the U. S. A.

Young Americans, with Japanese names and faces, built nearly 800 models of Japanese, German and American ships for the Navy in the ship model shop at the Gila River relocation center at Rivers, Ariz., the War Relocation Authority said today.

The value of the miniature craft is estimated at \$25,000 in monetary terms. They are considered of inestimable value in teaching new Navy personnel attending ship identification training classes, the characteristics of ships of various types and nations. Except for materials the work was done at no cost to the Navy, the WRA reports.

The pocket-size counterparts of World War II warships range in size from two inches to two feet. The fleet, fashioned from poplar, scrap pine and tin cans, included small replicas of the German battleship Tirpitz, the German cruiser Prinz Eugen, the German destroyer Koln, a number of submarines and many PT boats.

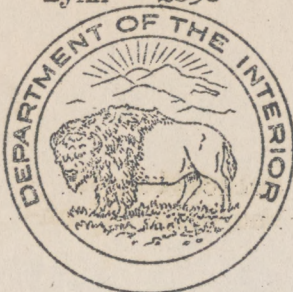
One of the scale model Prinz Eugens was presented to Mrs. Roosevelt, when she visited the center, as a gift to the President. One of two special jobs, a seven-foot fully operative miniature of the Cruiser Cleveland was placed on display in a Naval laboratory in New York City. The other special undertaking valued at \$1200 was an eight-foot replica of the U.S.S. South Dakota, with all parts operative above the waterline.

One particular order called for two-foot long precision miniatures of a number of models of Japanese ships. These, scaled down to exact detail and valued at \$60 each, were produced at the rate of 40 a month.

The shipyard, started with 12 youths, grew into a shop employing 70 Japanese Americans and adopted assembly line methods in spite of a shortage of machinery, tools and materials.

Most of the craftsmen now have relocated in Eastern states, the WRA said, and nearly all of them are working in furniture factories, toy factories, machine shops and drafting rooms as a result of their training in the relocation center ship model shop. The shop was closed down when it completed all Navy requests for models.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

## WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Advance Release

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1944 W.

Five hundred and fifty American institutions of higher learning have enrolled nearly 3,000 Japanese American students in the past two and a half years, comprising almost all the young evacuees formerly in relocation and assembly centers who wanted college training, the War Relocation Authority reported today.

The current enrollment is approximately 2,500, about evenly divided between men and women. Since selective service for Nisei was reinstituted in January of this year, the percentage of male students has declined sharply. Many of the men, who might have gone to college, went from the relocation centers into the Army as volunteers and inductees, the WRA said, while others later interrupted their college studies to enter military service along with many of their classmates.

The Japanese American college group on December 7, 1941 totaled 2,300 Nisei registered in 74 colleges and universities in California, Oregon and Washington and about 200 in colleges elsewhere in the country. Evacuation from the West Coast in the spring and summer of 1942 virtually wiped out the enrollment there, leaving only the 200 Nisei students in colleges east of the Sierra Nevadas.

Through relocation to campuses away from the Pacific states, the college population of Japanese American students now has climbed back to the level existing at the time of Pearl Harbor, in spite of military inductions of students, annual graduations and other departures from colleges. The most striking change, the WRA pointed out, is that the Nisei are now studying in the classrooms of 550 universities, colleges and hospital nursing schools scattered through 46 states.

Each year about 400 of the 2,000 students who graduate from the high schools at the eight relocation centers leave to enter college. Since May 1 college applicants among these graduates have been accepted by more than 150 different institutions, WRA reported.

Evacuation generally strained individual financial resources, with the result that a relatively high percentage of the evacuee students have worked for board and room after classes. WRA provides no funds to aid evacuee students, but various church groups, working with the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, during the past two years have donated more than \$120,000 toward tuition scholarships. This sum has been used for scholarships and grants

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recommended by the Council, whose purpose is "to assist in the relocation of students who have been evacuated from West Coast war zones and who wish to continue their studies on the college or university level."

The Council, composed of a number of university and college presidents and deans, and representatives of denominational, youth and educational bodies, is headed by John W. Nason, president of Swarthmore College. Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the University of California and still chairman of the West Coast Committee of the organization, was one of its original sponsors.

Acceptance of the Nisei by the colleges and by student bodies has been excellent, the Council has informed the WRA. It reported that there are currently more than 20 Nisei students each at the Universities of Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Utah, and Cincinnati and at Denver and Temple Universities.

Other outstanding schools with Nisei students are Harvard, Yale, Cornell and Columbia. The distribution has been so wide that five is the average number of Japanese American students at any one institution.

In a letter to the Council, the registrar of the University of Nebraska wrote:

"We have on the campus our usual quota of 50 Japanese American students and are very happy about their being permitted to be in attendance at this institution. We have never regretted the decisions which were made at the outset of the war to open our doors to these worthy young people."

A recent letter from Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., stated:

"For the past two years we have averaged 12 or 13 Japanese students on the campus each year and have found them loyal, good students, and good citizens of the community. The local chapter of the American Legion joins with us each year in a Community Dinner in which all foreign students, including the Japanese, are honored."

Dick Miyagawa, captain of the 1944 boxing team at the University of Wisconsin, has since been inducted into the Enlisted Reserve Corps along with three of his Nisei classmates.

At Bard College of Columbia University, Jim Kinoshita received "excellent" in all courses last year and conducted a senior project on cellular respiration which is being considered for publication. A former president of the student body and of its Community Council, he is back at Bard this year as an instructor.

Hattie Kawahara entered Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. last year at mid-term, as a senior. Fifteen hours of work rating A earned her a tuition scholarship which she accepted for graduate work in political science this year.



Lillian Ota, who now holds a graduate fellowship in history at Yale University, competed for five scholarships last year at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and won all five.

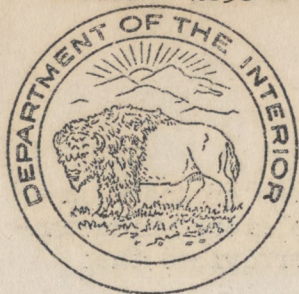
Masako Ono, who was president of the honor society at Drake University last year, is attending the University of Michigan on a four-year Barbour scholarship.

A long list of college offices to which Nisei were elected by their fellow students, the WRA said, includes 1943-44 student body presidencies at Oberlin, Dakota Wesleyan, Bard and Haverford.

Naomi Nakano, graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, was president of the women's student government last year. Toyoko Hayashi was voted the "most charming girl" at Mary Hardin Baylor College in Texas.

The Tumbleweed, yearbook at Dakota Wesleyan, lists Oliver Takaichi from the Heart Mountain relocation center at Hunt, Idaho, as the year's "Wild Bill Hickok," elective title on that campus recognizing scholarship, personality and participation in school activities.



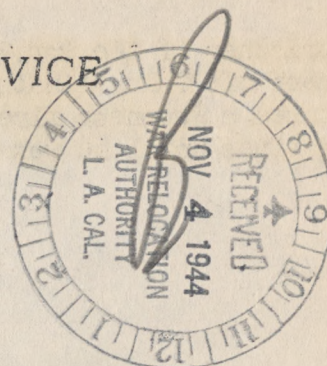


## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO TUESDAY P.M.'s  
OCTOBER 31, 1944 W.



From Attu to Kwajalein and Burma in the Pacific war and from Salerno to Livorno in Italy, the battle record of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry is told in "Nisei in Uniform," an illustrated pamphlet issued today by the War Relocation Authority in collaboration with the War Department.

The achievements of Nisei with Merrill's Marauders in Burma only recently have been coming to light, the WRA said, too late for more than a brief reference in the publication. News of Japanese American participation in the campaign in France also was announced after the publication went to press.

"Every race and nation from which our population is drawn," the publication states, is represented among the young Americans who are fighting side by side to overthrow the Axis powers. Men of German ancestry have been helping to smash the German Nazis; men of Italian descent have participated in the struggle to drive the Axis forces from Italy; men whose parents came from Japan are showing that devotion to America and gallantry in action are not determined by the color of the skin."

Pictures and text tell the battlefield and camp training stories of the 442nd combat team, and the 100th infantry battalion which is united with it, two organizations manned by Japanese Americans. In Italy the 1300 members of the 100th have been awarded more than 1,000 Purple Hearts and a Presidential citation. Ninety per cent of the men in the 442nd have won combat infantrymen's badges in action, and others have received Purple Hearts and other battle awards.

Articles and photographs also record the exploits of individual Nisei assigned to scattered units, including some in the Army Air Forces, and in infantry organizations that fought in the Marshall Islands, the Aleutians and Burma. A Nisei paratrooper and Nisei Wacs also are featured. Many of the soldiers and Wacs once were in relocation centers.

"No publication can do full justice to the heroism of Joe Nisei," Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority said. He is giving a splendid account of himself faster than anyone can record it."

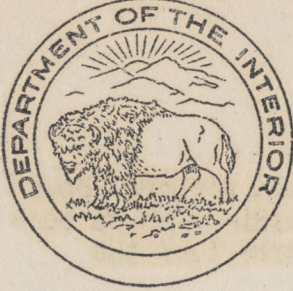
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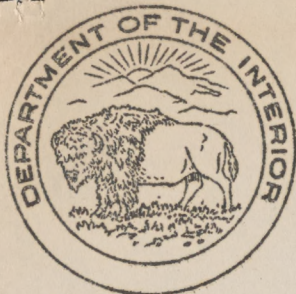
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#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO THE PM's OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1944.W

Wider and more even distribution of Japanese American evacuees in relation to total population throughout the United States has developed with relocated families and individuals now reported in 47 out of the 48 states and the District of Columbia, the War Relocation Authority of the Department of the Interior said today.

Eleven states have absorbed more than 500 relocated persons each. Illinois with 8,085 evacuees resettled among its 7,897,000 residents heads the list. Chicago has 6,593 but in proportion to the 4,500,000 residents in its metropolitan area (1940 census) has a lower ratio of relocatees than some smaller cities listed by WRA.

The number of relocated persons given for each of the next 10 states, and the locality with the greatest number in each, follow:

Colorado, 3,352; Denver, 1,516  
Ohio, 2,599; Cleveland, 1,641  
Utah, 2,146; Salt Lake City, 878  
Michigan, 2,121; Detroit, 940  
Idaho, 1,639; Caldwell, 200  
Minnesota, 1,396; Minneapolis, 876  
New York, 1,289; New York City, 1,051  
Washington, 914; Spokane, 602  
Missouri, 650; St. Louis, 231  
New Jersey, 555; Bridgeton, 443

Four states are near the 500 mark. Oregon has 498, Nebraska, 494, Wisconsin, 477 and Montana, 468.

The WRA based its analysis upon a compilation showing the distribution of 29,740 civilian evacuees, two-thirds of them citizens, reporting addresses as of November 15 from 47 states. Although no evacuee reported an address in South Carolina it is known there are Japanese Americans there who were not on the West Coast at the time of exclusion and therefore were not subject to evacuation and the relocation program.

Departures to restricted sections of Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington are under special permit issued by the Western Defense Command, WRA said.

The resettlers, some in family groups and some relocated as individuals, are reported living in 267 cities and towns scattered over the country. In addition, isolated cases in the 29,740 total have reported from rural and semi-rural areas too numerous to be included in the WRA compilation.

The 2,146 Americans of Japanese ancestry who left relocation centers to enter the Army as volunteers and inductees are not included in the Nov. 15 report, because they are at military camps and installations in various parts of the country, and on fighting fronts in France, Italy, the Pacific and Burma.

(Attached is a copy of the WRA report listing 267 localities.)



FINITE LEAVES BY AREA  
 Semimonthly Report  
 c. 38  
 November 15, 1944

War Relocation Authority  
 Washington, D. C.  
 Relocation Planning Division

Note: Number of evacuees on indefinite leave by state and principal city compiled from Departure, Arrival/1, or Change of Address Cards received from persons who have left center on indefinite leave with the exception of those interned, institutionalized, repatriated, or who have entered the Armed Forces. Departures to restricted sections of Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington are under special permit issued by the Western Defense Command.

TOTAL REPORTING

29,740

Intermountain Area

5,854

Intermountain Area (Cont'd.)

Arizona	85	Oregon	498
Glendale	29	Jamieson	50
Mesa	17	Klamath Falls	33
Phoenix	20	Malheur	7
California	51	Nyssa	133
Los Angeles	27	Ontario	155
Idaho	1,639	Vale	67
Blackfoot	52	Utah	2,146
Boise	143	Brigham City	67
Burley	54	Clearfield	57
Caldwell	200	Corinne	20
Emmett	24	Garland	33
Filer	27	Grouse Creek	4
Idaho Falls	91	Honeyville	23
Jerome	9	Layton	64
Nampa	45	Milford	10
Payette	138	Murray	9
Pocatello	100	Ogden	319
Preston	28	Parowan	18
Rexburg	34	Provo	91
Rupert	27	Roy	26
Sugar City	7	Salt Lake City	878
Twin Falls	157	Sandy	13
Weiser	130	Smithfield	23
Montana (West Part)	357	Spanish Fork	46
Butte	23	Springville	19
Chinook	27	Tremonton	45
Cervallis	1	Willard	5
Glasgow	10	Washington	914
Great Falls	51	Deer Park	7
Havre	5	Opportunity	21
Malta	25	Pasco	19
Missoula	11	Pullman	16
Stevensville	2	Spokane	602
Whitefish	10	Walla Walla	119
Nevada	154	Wyoming (West Part)	10
Carson City	11	Kemmerer	5
Ely	8	Rock Springs	4
Pioche	5		
Reno	59		
Weeks	2		

Distribution S

OM-1768



<u>Western Plains Area</u>		<u>4,068</u>	<u>Central Area</u>	<u>1,603</u>
Colorado		3,352	Iowa	435
Ault	21		Davenport	23
Blanca	23		Des Moines	253
Boulder	176		Dubuque	11
Brighton	98		Milford	9
Colorado Springs	79		Pella	13
Crowley	30		Kansas	122
Denver	1,516		Baldwin City	10
Fort Collins	17		Fort Riley	9
Fort Lupton	79		Garden City	4
Grand Junction	136		Kansas City	19
Greeley	80		Lawrence	13
Henderson	87		Meade	12
Keenesburg	124		Winfield	14
Lamar	14		Missouri	650
Littleton	40		Chesterfield	8
Longmont	42		Clayton	31
Pierce	14		Excelsior Springs	33
Platteville	19		Kansas City	184
Pueblo	30		Kirkwood	13
Rocky Ford	70		St. Louis	231
Trinidad	24		Webster Groves	21
Weston	15		Nebraska (East Part)	371
Montana (East Part)		111	Boys Town	13
Bigtimber	2		Cozad	59
Billings	45		Grand Island	17
Glendive	10		Hastings	4
Hardin	26		Lincoln	81
Lodge Grass	5		Omaha	159
Nebraska (West Part)		123	South Dakota (East Part)	25
Kimball	52		Huron	5
Minatare	3		Mitchell	10
Mitchell	20		Wessington Springs	2
North Platte	11			
New Mexico		47	<u>North Central Area</u>	<u>10,179</u>
Albuquerque	28		Illinois	8,085
Gallup	11		Barrington	35
Santa Fe	5		Chicago	6,593
North Dakota (West Part)		1	Des Plaines	47
South Dakota (West Part)		11	Elgin	24
Belle Fourche	4		Elmhurst	21
Nisland	2		Evanston	107
Vale	1		Flossmoor	13
Wyoming (East Part)		423	Glencoe	28
Casper	19		Highland Park	42
Cheyenne	35		Joliet	13
Cody	40		Libertyville	15
Laramie	185		Marengo	27
Powell	39		Melrose Park	44
Riverton	15		Naperville	32
Sheridan	5		Oak Park	48
Wheatland	4		Palatine	12
Worland	12		Peoria	76



North Central Area (Cont'd.)

Illinois (Cont'd.)

Rockford	153
Wheaton	29
Winnetka	45

Indiana 208

Fort Wayne	19
Gary	28
Hammend	21
Indianapolis	76
North Judson	8
Richmond	7
South Bend	11

Michigan (Upper Peninsula) 0

Minnesota 1,396

Fort Snelling	18
Hopkins	6
Mankato	19
Minneapolis	876
Moorhead	13
Northfield	12
Rochester	51
Saint Paul	235
Savage	34
Shakopee	22
Springfield	1
Wayzata	19

North Dakota (East Part) 13

Bismarck	5
Fargo	6

Wisconsin 477

Burlington	9
Kenosha	27
Madison	99
Milwaukee	278

Great Lakes Area 4,798

Kentucky 27

Fort Thomas	5
Wilmore	9

Michigan (Lower Peninsula) 2,121

Ann Arbor	464
Battle Creek	18
Berrien Springs	14
Birmingham	13
Bloomfield Hills	27
Detroit	940
Farmington	13
Ft. Custer	1
Grosse Pointe	53
Highland Park	26

Great Lakes Area (Cont'd.)

Kalamazoo	48
Lansing	15
Monroe	22
Mt. Clemens	54
Royal Oak	12
Saginaw	9

New York (West Part) 45

Buffalo	27
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Ohio 2,599

Chagrin Falls	17
Cincinnati	400
Cleveland	1,641
Cleveland Heights	29
Columbus	68
Dayton	97
Lakewood	31
Oberlin	12
Shaker Heights	74
Toledo	84
Yellow Springs	23

Pennsylvania (West Part) 4

West Virginia	2
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Southern Area 343

Alabama 5

Arkansas 24

Little Rock	21
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Florida 12

Georgia 8

White Oak	7
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Louisiana 17

Alexandria	7
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Mississippi 60

Hattiesburg	42
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Camp Shelby	10
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Oklahoma 31

Enid	7
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Fort Sill	6
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Ponca City	0
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Tulsa	10
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South Carolina 0

Tennessee 27

Knoxville	2
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Madison	10
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Nashville	7
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Texas 159

Abilene	16
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Austin	19
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Cypress	6
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Dallas	3
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El Paso	10
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Galveston	10
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Southern Area (Cont'd.)

Texas (Cont'd.)	
Mineral Wells	15
San Antonio	19

Middle Atlantic Area 2,556

Delaware	6
District of Columbia	174
Maryland	97
Ashton	8
Baltimore	38
College Park	4
New Jersey	555
Bridgeton	443
Madison	9
Moorestown	5
Passaic	13
New York (East Part)	1,244
New York City	1,051
North Chili	6
Rochester	39
Syracuse	22
North Carolina	17
Chandler	3
Misenheimer	1
Swannanoa	2

Middle Atlantic Area (Cont'd.)

Pennsylvania (East Part)	430
Philadelphia	262
Swarthmore	26
Virginia	33

New England Area 321

Connecticut	104
Bridgeport	13
Hartford	22
Middletown	7
New Haven	19
Maine	5
Massachusetts	190
Boston	58
Brookline	6
Cambridge	42
Chicopee Falls	6
Newton Center	6
Northampton	3
Springfield	6
New Hampshire	11
Rhode Island	3
Vermont	8

Other 18

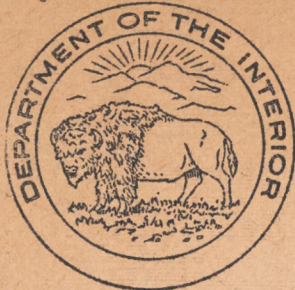
Honolulu, T. H.	15
Melbourne, Australia	1
New Delhi, India	1
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands	1

1/ Use of Arrival Card Discontinued February 16, 1944; Change of Address Card now used to report arrival at first destination.

Source: Forms WRA-147, -148, -148A, -148C.

11-16-44





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO AM's THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1944. W.

Heavy fighting on the Western front in Europe has accounted for 88 recent Japanese American casualties, including 20 killed in action and 68 wounded reported within the last 10 days to parents or next of kin living at relocation centers, the War Relocation Authority of the Department of the Interior said today.

Casualties in France, added to those in Italy and the South Pacific, bring the total to 69 Nisei killed, 187 wounded and six missing, WRA reported in a compilation based on individual War Department notices received at the centers.

Dillon S. Myer, WRA Director, said that the actual total of battle losses among Japanese Americans from the mainland is larger than the agency's compilation of 262 casualty notices. He explained that more than one-third of the evacuees have relocated from the centers to outside communities, and that several thousand persons of Japanese ancestry, who lived outside the West Coast restricted area prior to the evacuation order have never been in a center. WRA has no means of recording casualties among these families.

"Issei mothers and fathers at the centers, born in Japan," Mr. Myer said, "have received word of sons killed in action, or wounded, with the same courage shown by parents elsewhere in the country who have made the same sacrifice. It is a common loss in the common American cause."

One young Nisei wife, speaking for her Issei parents and her Japanese American brothers and sisters, wrote to the WRA director of the death of her soldier husband in these words:

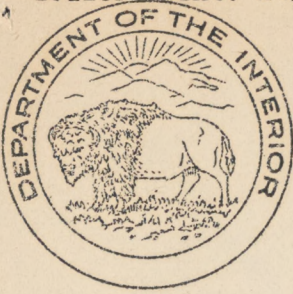
"The loss of my husband is great to me and to those who knew and loved him, but we take comfort in the knowledge that he was a real American and a good soldier."

Among those reported missing in action on the Western front was Pfc. Jou Okitsu, former student of Brawley (Calif.) Junior College, who received the Purple Heart and the bronze medal for wounds and gallantry in the fighting in Italy. Okitsu left his father at the Colorado River relocation center, Poston, Ariz.

One of the 68 recently wounded in France was Pfc. Siego Shimoyama, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kihachi Shimoyama, who were evacuated from their home at Kent, Wash., to the Minidoka Relocation Center at Hunt, Idaho. He has three sisters in WAC uniforms.

Of the 13,000 Nisei who have been inducted into the Army, 2,146 entered as volunteers or selectees from relocation centers, latest WRA statistics show. The others were Japanese Americans from Hawaii and from Nisei in the United States who had left the States or were never subject to the evacuation.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release AFTER 9:00 A.M., (E.W.T.) MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1944.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today issued the following statement:

The Western Defense Command's action in revoking the blanket exclusion orders for persons of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific Coast means, in its simplest terms, that the War Relocation Authority will immediately expand its relocation program to cover the entire country including the West Coast. It most definitely does not mean that there will be a hasty mass movement of all evacuees back into the coastal area. The War Relocation Authority will continue and intensify its efforts to relocate in parts of the United States other than the West Coast, those loyal and law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry who are willing to participate in this program. It will also aid those who prefer to exercise their legal and moral right to return to the West Coast.

The persons who are eligible for relocation or return to the West Coast have been found by the Army authorities to be loyal citizens or law-abiding aliens. They are entitled to their full constitutional and legal rights, and perhaps to something more than ordinary consideration because they have really suffered as a direct result of the war. In a real sense, these people, too, were drafted by their country. They were uprooted from their homes and substantially deprived of an opportunity to lead a normal life. They are casualties of war.

It is the responsibility of every American worthy of citizenship in this great Nation to do everything that he can to make easier the return to normal life of these people who have been cleared by the Army authorities. By our conduct towards them we will be judged by all of the people of the world.

I call upon state and local officials throughout the country and especially on the West Coast, and on public and private agencies to assist in the enormous task of returning these people to ordinary community life. I believe that the response will be enthusiastic and wholehearted. And I particularly hope that we may see veterans' organizations like the American Legion and church and welfare groups in the fore-front of those who will consider it their responsibility to aid these people, and by so doing, to show their devotion to the American principles of charity, justice and democracy.

All the evidence available at the relocation centers indicates that the majority of the evacuee residents have not yet finally decided whether to return to their former homes or relocate elsewhere, and that most of those who eventually elect to go back will need considerable time in making necessary arrangements before they can actually leave the centers. The War Relocation Authority is now formulating detailed plans for keeping the westward relocation movement on a gradual, orderly and systematic basis.



People of Japanese ancestry both at the relocation centers and elsewhere who have been found eligible by the Western Defense Command for residence in the West Coast area are of course free to go back at any time. However, only those whose specific plans for resettlement in the evacuated area are approved by WRA will be eligible for travel assistance which the Authority now extends to those relocating in other parts of the country. This includes the payment of rail or bus fare to the point of relocation and transportation of personal properties such as household furnishings. Since most of the evacuees at the relocation centers have had little opportunity to accumulate savings over the past two and a half years, they will doubtless need such assistance. Only a few evacuees therefore are expected to leave the centers, either for the West Coast or any other destination, without first having their plans checked and approved by WRA.

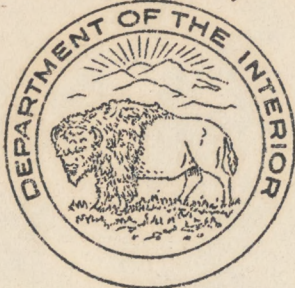
In view of the fact that the evacuees were removed from their homes in 1942 by governmental order, the War Relocation Authority will make assistance available to those evacuees, both at the centers and previously relocated, who now have urgent reasons and sound plans for returning to the West Coast area. Simultaneously, however, the Authority will continue and intensify its efforts to relocate evacuees in other sections of the country. One of the major WRA aims, from the beginning, has been to encourage the widest possible dispersal of evacuees throughout the Nation, and this will continue as a prime objective during the final phase of the program.

Of the 110,000 people of Japanese descent originally evacuated, more than 35,000 have now relocated under WRA procedures outside the West Coast area. This includes nearly 70 per cent of the American citizen evacuees beyond the age of 17 who have been eligible for relocation, and also takes in nearly 2,500 Japanese Americans who have been inducted into the Army of the United States from relocation centers. The great majority of the 35,000 relocated evacuees have become satisfactorily adjusted in their new locations and will probably want to stay where they are. Many of them, in fact, will doubtless now make arrangements for having their parents and other family members still at the centers come out and rejoin them at their new homes.

Since the mass exclusion orders have been revoked and the great majority of evacuees are free to establish residence anywhere in the United States, the War Relocation Authority will now work toward an early liquidation of the relocation centers which were established originally for the temporary maintenance of a displaced people. No center will be closed in less than six months, but it is anticipated that all will be closed within a year. Funds have been provided to the Federal Security Agency for public assistance through state and local welfare agencies for those evacuees who are incapable of self-support.

As the War Relocation Authority enters the final phase of its program, its immediate aims, as always, will be to restore the loyal and law-abiding evacuees of Japanese descent to a normal American environment, to relieve local manpower shortages, and to cut down Government expenditures for the maintenance of a displaced segment of the population. Its long-range objective will be to bring about a better economic adjustment and a more satisfactory nation-wide distribution of a minority group which was doubtless too heavily concentrated before the war in one particular section of the country.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO PM's OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1944 W

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes expressed a belief today that most of the 33,000 Japanese American and Japanese alien civilians who have relocated throughout the country "will choose of their own accord to remain in their present locations."

"They will want to stay on their war jobs and to make the most of their new opportunities among friends and neighbors," he said.

Secretary Ickes made his prediction in a statement announcing that resettlement of those still in war relocation centers "will be carried on with greater intensity in the weeks and months ahead."

The Secretary also commended both the evacuees who had left the centers to relocate and the civic-minded individuals and organizations in hundreds of communities that have aided them to begin new lives. Evacuees have resettled in 47 States and the District of Columbia, with none reporting to date from South Carolina. Those returning in past months to the exclusion area comprising California and parts of Oregon, Washington and Arizona, have done so under military permits issued by the Western Defense Command.

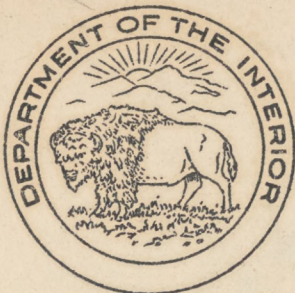
He said that, in addition to the 33,000 who have left war relocation centers since 1942 to work in cities, towns and rural areas throughout the country, 2,500 other Japanese Americans went from WRA projects into active Army service. More than one-third of these were volunteers.

"The civilian relocatees have been contributing fully to successful prosecution of the war," the Secretary said. "They have worked hard at war production jobs and in related war supporting employment. Many of them have sons, husband and brothers in the Army, and some of these young American soldiers have been killed in action or wounded in battle. Loyal to American ideals, the relocated evacuees have joined in bond drives, blood donor and salvage campaigns, and in general community activities. Many hundreds of localities have come to know them as good neighbors, proud of their new home towns.

"In my opinion those who have relocated deserve praise for undertaking new lives, often far from their original homes and sometimes under difficult financial circumstances. The Department of the Interior and the War Relocation Authority have attempted to give them all the assistance possible. We have been aided immeasurably by local civic minded citizens, and by many religious, business, labor, welfare and veterans organizations throughout the country.

"Resettlement of those in the centers to all parts of the country will be carried on with greater intensity in the weeks and months ahead. It will take place in an orderly manner and with the objectives in mind that the evacuees shall relocate wherever they wish, and where they can find the best opportunity to lead happy, useful lives."





SECRET - ICKES

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Immediate Release to the  
PM's of FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1944 W.

The following message was released by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today to all American soldiers of Japanese ancestry:

"I have gained deep satisfaction, which must have come to you as well, from the announcement by the Western Defense Command that the West Coast mass exclusion orders have been lifted. This action is a well-earned recognition of the loyalty which the great majority of evacuee people of Japanese descent have displayed in the severest test that any group of Americans has ever had to face. It is a victory of faith in the principles of real Americanism, and of unflinching patriotism which has been so well exemplified by thousands of valiant American soldiers, from the mainland and Hawaii, whose parents came from Japan. You have fashioned a magnificent record of service to your country. All good Americans are proud of you.

"The removal of the exclusion orders forecasts an end of the need to provide the refuge of the relocation centers for thousands of loyal and law-abiding people who are now free to live wherever they desire to make their homes in the United States. It is for their own best interests, and for the interests of all Americans of Japanese descent, that they should leave the centers as soon as possible. I am fully aware that departing from the centers will involve difficult readjustments for some people, but they will be given ample time to make them and the War Relocation Authority will continue to give all of the assistance that it has previously given. Federal and state welfare agencies will aid families that need special help.

"This message is addressed to you with full confidence that you will continue to enlarge upon the splendid record of America's fighting Nisei, which has been so effective in demonstrating that Americanism is not a matter of race or ancestry, and in winning the respect of all good Americans for their loyal fellow-countrymen of Japanese descent. I send to you my wishes for your safe return home, and for a future in America endowed with the happiness that you have so well earned."







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FROM: [illegible]  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

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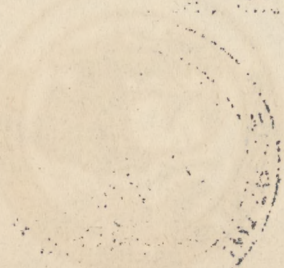
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to AMs,  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1945.

The War Relocation Authority's proposal to wind up its affairs before the war ends, made in that agency's annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, released today, is being translated into action by a 100 per cent increase in relocation of Japanese-American evacuees over the past seven months, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes said.

Secretary Ickes said that in the plan to work itself out of a job as early as possible by resettling the 60,000 evacuees remaining in its eight relocation centers, the WRA will be greatly aided by the recent War Department order which permits the great majority of evacuees to settle anywhere in the United States. Previously the entire group had been excluded from returning to their former homes in the Pacific Coast area.

Under its Director, Dillon S. Myer, the WRA became a part of the Department of Interior in February 1944. It is scheduled for liquidation sometime within the next fiscal year and is working to close all relocation centers by January 2, 1946.

The 1944 report recorded full scale development of the agency's relocation program. By the end of the fiscal year, almost 17,000 loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens had been assisted in leaving the centers and adjusting themselves to normal working and living conditions in communities outside the once restricted West Coast area. Since that date the figure has increased to 33,000 civilian evacuees who are now relocated in 47 states and the District of Columbia, and 2,500 Japanese Americans who have left WRA centers to join the armed forces.

At the close of the 1944 fiscal year the WRA was actively enlisting the aid of outside public and private agencies interested in assisting individual evacuees, the report states. WRA aided in the organization of local cooperating committees. It also secured an agreement with the Federal Security Agency, making relocated evacuees eligible for assistance under the program for aiding aliens and other persons affected by restrictive governmental action during the war. Since June 30, this program has been further developed and has become an essential part of relocation.

During the five months following reinstitution of Selective Service for Nisei in January, 1944, the report shows 460 draft-age men were inducted from the centers into the Enlisted Reserve Corps and an additional 194 entered active duty. That figure, increased by more than 800 volunteers, has grown rapidly since June to the present total of 2,500 men in active service. Parents at the centers and others recently relocated have received more than 500 casualty notices, listing dead, wounded and missing in every war theater.



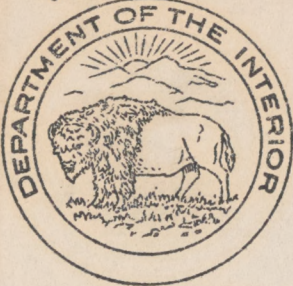
During the 1944 fiscal year thousands of center residents left on seasonal leave to work in the sugar beet, potato and long staple cotton fields, and were credited with saving priceless war essential crops. Since June 30, permanent relocation has substantially reduced this reservoir of available farm labor, and now with the lifting of the exclusion orders and announcement of liquidation plans, the agency is abandoning seasonal leave entirely in favor of leaves for permanent relocation.

Agricultural programs at the centers produced food crops, poultry and beef valued at more than \$3,000,000 during the 12-month period, all of which was consumed by the residents to effect a saving of that amount in center operation. Present agricultural plans embrace planting of spring crops only at the Arizona centers at Poston and Rivers, where harvesting can be finished by July 1. Farm tracts at other centers will be planted in cover crops where necessary. All farm machinery will be made available for other use as quickly as relocation center needs for it are reduced.

At the close of the fiscal year WRA was given administrative responsibility for operation of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario to house nearly 1,000 war refugees from Southern Europe until they can be returned to their homelands. The refugees arrived in August, and have made satisfactory adjustments to Shelter life and activities. The project has been accepted by the American public as a gesture of this country's good will and an indication that the United States is assisting the other United Nations in meeting the refugee problem.

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# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release TO PM's, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1945 W.

More than 500 persons of Japanese ancestry have returned to the West Coast since January 2, date on which the large majority of the evacuated group were permitted by the Army to return to their homes, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today.

War Relocation Authority records, complete through February 17, showed that during the same seven-week period more than twice that number followed the 33,000 who had previously relocated Eastward. An additional 62 left the centers to enter active Army service.

The rate of return, the Secretary said, has conformed with the expectations of WRA administrators and with the original WRA assurance that it would be a gradual and orderly process. During the seven weeks a small additional number of evacuees, previously relocated in the East and Midwest, left their new homes to return to the formerly evacuated areas.

Of the 539 who returned west, most of them in family groups, 413 went to California, 43 to Washington, 33 to Oregon and 32 to Arizona.

Three hundred fifty-two of the 1,200 who relocated eastward went to Illinois, 120 to Ohio, 85 to New York, 78 to Michigan, 68 to Colorado, and 63 to New Jersey. The remainder, in numbers ranging between 2 and 60, went to 24 other states west of the Sierra Nevadas.

WRA reported that those returning West have had a predominantly friendly reception in spite of several isolated instances of threatened boycott and organized resistance. A large number of the approximately 60,000 center residents to be relocated during the coming 10 months have definite plans and a set date of departure.

Administrators said that the evacuees, backed by the remarkable fighting record of the Army's 13,000 Nisei soldiers and the growing strength of organized groups friendly to their families, are showing no particular hesitancy about returning to any area because of unfriendly community sentiment.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to AM's MONDAY, MAY 14, 1945 W.

Twenty-four incidents of violence or open intimidation directed against persons of Japanese ancestry returning to California, including 15 shooting attacks, one attempted dynamiting, three arson cases and five threatening visits have taken place in the past four months, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today.

The War Relocation Authority reported to the Secretary that its records from January through April showed no suspects brought to trial in any of the 15 incidents classified as shooting attempts, all of them occurring in rural areas of California.

"In the absence of vigorous local law enforcement, a pattern of planned terrorism by hoodlums has developed," Secretary Ickes said. "It is a matter of national concern because this lawless minority, whose actions are condemned by the decent citizens who make up an overwhelming majority of West Coast residents, seems determined to employ its Nazi storm trooper tactics against loyal Japanese Americans and law-abiding Japanese aliens in spite of the state laws and Constitutional safeguards designed to protect the lives and property of all of the people of this country.

"With V-E day achieved and the nation turning its full strength to the defeat of Japan, West Coast law enforcement officials must be on their guard to see that the terrorists, cloaking themselves in false patriotism, do not attempt new outrages against loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry. Many of the evacuees' Nisei sons are fighting the Japanese enemy in the Philippines, at Okinawa and in other Pacific combat areas. They are far more in the American tradition than the race-baiters fighting a private war safely at home."

The fact that none of the evacuees has been hit or suffered physical injury in any of the incidents, the Secretary said, proves that "terror is the motive in these crimes."

He added that in some cases shots had been fired into the homes of farm families with American service flag stars in the windows.

"The hoodlums grow more desperate in their lawlessness," he said, "as some of them see that they will not be able to establish an economic beachhead on the property of the evacuees they vainly hoped would sell out or run out. In the past four weeks about 900 individuals left war relocation centers to return to the West Coast while some 1800 relocated eastward. Persons of Japanese ancestry eligible to go back to the Pacific states who have homes, farms and other legitimate reasons to return, will continue to do so and must be protected.



"The shameful spectacle of these incidents of terrorism taking place at the back door of the San Francisco conference, now in session to develop means by which men of all races can live together in peace, must be ended once and for all. I believe that an aroused national opinion, rooted in the indignation of fair minded Americans throughout the country, will be a powerful aid to West Coast state and local officials charged with bringing the vigilante criminals to justice."

The only instance in which arrests were made and a trial held was in the case listed by WRA as a dynamiting attempt. On January 18, shots were fired at Sumio Doi and his family at Newcastle in Placer county, Calif., and one of their farm buildings was set on fire by men who also tried vainly to explode nine sticks of dynamite that had been placed in a nearby shed. Four suspects were arrested and three tried on charges of illegal use of explosives and arson. The three defendants were acquitted by a Placer county jury on April 25 after the defense counsel pleaded, "This is a white man's country." The fourth man is awaiting trial.

The WRA report covering the period since January 2 when the Army ended mass exclusion of the evacuees, to May 1, was limited to forms of violence and terrorism and did not include Oregon, Washington and California instances of economic boycotts and advertising campaigns conducted against Japanese Americans, or vandalism and theft of their property.

One of the terror incidents briefly described included several different crimes. At San Jose in Santa Clara county late on the night of March 6 shots were fired at the home of Joe Takeda by men who also cut the telephone wires, poured gasoline under the house and nearby sheds and set fire to them. The Takeda family of 10 evacuees, aided by a heavy rain, put out the fire. The nightriders slowly cruised past the house, driving their car along the highway 75 feet away. They fired one shot on the first trip and two shots on the fourth trip past the house. One revolver slug went over the heads of two children on the porch and smashed into the bedroom wall.

At Cressy in Merced county, four shots were fired at an honorably discharged Nisei veteran, Bob Morimoto, his wife and two other family members on February 5. Two shots were fired at them on April 22. Twenty minutes earlier, four shots coming from a highpowered rifle of the same calibre as that used against the Morimotos, were fired into the home of Chiyeiko Kishi at nearby Livingston while six evacuees were present.

Two soldier sons of the Kishis at Fort Snelling, Minn., wired to Secretary Ickes and WRA Director Dillon S. Myer asking protection of the lives and property of their family. They were informed that WRA already had sent an investigator to Merced county and had brought the shootings to the attention of Attorney General Robert Kenny of California who assigned a state justice department representative to the cases.

Seven shooting attempts have taken place in Merced county, three in Fresno county, and one each in Santa Clara, Kern, Madera, Tulare and Los Angeles counties.

After the April 22 shootings against the Morimotos and Kishis, the sixth and seventh in Merced county, 130 miles from San Francisco, Sheriff Lucius Cornell was editorially criticised for his statement to the press that, "It's kind of difficult to find a suspect."

The San Francisco Chronicle declared, "a sheriff would have to be unconscious not to know the backroom resorts where this element gathers," and added that if law



enforcement is not forthcoming in the state and Federal intervention proves necessary, "California will be known as the state that was unable to prevent outrages on the homes of American soldiers."

Among the Japanese Americans who were targets for a total of 54 shots from rifles, revolvers and shotguns, death came closest to Minoru Ohashi, an honorably discharged soldier. On March 26, while he and his family were being visited at their Madera home by his brother-in-law, Cpl. Y. A. Kawamoto, an American soldier in uniform and on furlough, five shots were fired into the house. One bullet crashed into the wall six inches from Ohashi's head.

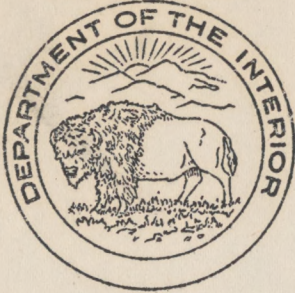
One family, the WRA report shows, that of T. Andow at Cressy in Merced county was shot at three times, with attacks occurring on the nights of January 23 and 31 and on April 1.

The three arson cases reported occurred in Fresno, Kern and Placer counties.

Five threatening visits were listed, all in California, with two in Fresno county and one each in Tulare, San Joaquin and Orange counties. One of the examples cited was at Orosi in Tulare county, where on Jan. 22 a group of Orosi ranchers and business men appeared and threatened the evacuee owners of a fruit and vegetable ranch, giving them a set deadline to leave. The evacuees stuck it out and the deadline passed without harm to them, although other evacuees in the area were shot at within the next two weeks.

On the map, incidents of terrorism cited in the WRA report are spotted through 10 central and southern California counties including Placer, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Los Angeles and Orange.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release SATURDAY PM's, MAY 19, 1945 W.

American soldiers of Japanese ancestry have been in the thick of the latest fighting against Hirohito's forces according to newspaper evidence recorded in "Nisei in The War Against Japan," a pamphlet issued today by the War Relocation Authority, an agency of the Department of the Interior.

The publication was prepared before recent disclosure of the first instance in which a Nisei, T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki, an aerial gunner from Hershey, Neb., helped to bomb Tokyo in recent B-29 raids. It describes Japanese American participation in recent actions on Okinawa and Iwo Jima, and through reproduction of scattered newspaper clippings briefly recounts earlier Nisei exploits on Leyte and Luzon, the Marshals, Marianas, Guadalcanal, the Aleutians, in Burma and other Pacific theaters.

At Iwo Jima the Nisei soldiers who were loaned to the Marines by the Army won the praise of such eyewitnesses as Joe Rosenthal, the Associated Press photographer who made the historic picture of the Marines raising the flag on Mount Suribachi.

The work of the Japanese American soldiers assigned to Marine units in earlier battles, another story in the pamphlet relates, was commended by the Leathernecks. In an interview, Marine Lt. Robert J. Newell, Chicago, said:

"They have the respect of the Marines because they are good American soldiers and we realized the risks they are exposed to, in the event that they are captured by the enemy."

Richard W. Johnson, United Press Pacific correspondent is quoted as saying:

"I've seen many Nisei soldiers in action. They do a good job and are very popular."

Some of the Nisei GIs cited in the pamphlet are veterans of both European and Pacific fighting. In issuing the publication, WRA said that stories from news correspondents with the Fifth Army in Italy reported several weeks ago that members of the famous 442nd regimental combat team of Japanese Americans hoped that after V-E day their outfit would be transferred to the Pacific to fight the Japanese enemy.





# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to PM's THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1945. W

Nearly half the housing facilities at each of two War Relocation Authority projects in Arizona will be closed by October 1, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes said today, as a step toward the scheduled January 1 shutdown of all eight relocation centers for Japanese Americans.

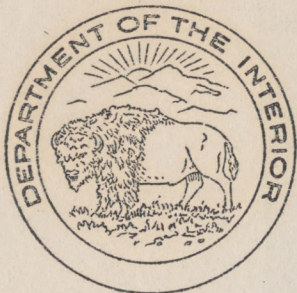
Units capable of housing 10,000 persons at the Poston center and 5,000 at the Gila River project will be closed by the October 1 deadline, the Secretary announced. At the present time relocation of evacuees to communities throughout the United States has reduced the number of residents of the two centers by 40 per cent, leaving 9,872 still at Poston and 8,255 still at Gila River.

WRA reported that the units to be closed should be depopulated through normal relocation before the October 1 deadline. The date was established in conformity with the agency's earlier announcement that no center or unit would be closed without three months' notice to the residents.

Secretary Ickes said that closing of sections of the Poston and Rivers projects is an administrative requirement for economical operation and liquidation of the WRA program. A survey is underway to determine which relocation centers will be completely shut down prior to January 1, 1946, when the last project is scheduled to close. If practicable, liquidation of the projects will be on a staggered basis during the last three months of the year, thus spreading the need for transportation of evacuees over as long a period as possible.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to PM's OF FRIDAY JULY 13, 1945 W.

With Japanese Americans leaving war relocation centers at a rate that reached 1,100 a week during June, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today announced a schedule for closing the eight projects on successive dates between October 15 and December 15.

The centers and the dates by which they will be closed follow:

Granada at Amache, Colo., Oct. 15; Central Utah at Topaz, Utah and Minidoka at Hunt, Idaho, Nov. 1; Heart Mountain, Wyo. and Gila River at Rivers, Ariz., Nov. 15; Colorado River at Poston, Ariz. and Manzanar, Calif., Dec. 1, and Rohwer, Ark., Dec. 15.

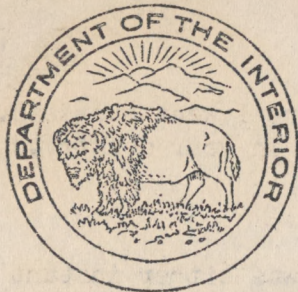
Plans for disposition of the Tule Lake segregation center at Newell, Calif., will be announced at a later date, the Secretary said.

The increasing number of evacuees leaving the projects each week, and a rapid rise in departures expected in each of the remaining months will depopulate the centers by the scheduled dates. A partial shutdown will take place on October 1 at the Poston and Gila River centers in Arizona, where relocation to outside communities throughout the country has reduced the original Japanese American population by 40 per cent. Units at Poston and Gila River, comprising nearly half the housing facilities at those two centers, will be closed.

There are two major reasons, Secretary Ickes said, for closing the centers on a spaced-out basis rather than closing them all on a single date. First, under the staggered schedule of closings, War Relocation Authority will be able to give more careful attention to the welfare and financial needs of each relocating family and individual. Secondly, the Authority will be able to schedule rail and bus transportation for the departing evacuees more efficiently and thus avoid the development of bottlenecks in the relocation movement.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

ADVANCE RELEASE: For SUNDAY PAPERS, JULY 15, 1945 W.

S/Sgt. Tatsumi Iwate, a Japanese American infantryman who bears a piece of Nazi shrapnel an inch deep in his brain, is disappointed because his friend Seiichi now in a Justice Department internment camp after renouncing his American citizenship, "has lost faith" in his country, the War Relocation Authority of the Department of Interior reported today.

"Japan is taking a good solid beating for her crimes," Sgt. Iwate told 19-year-old Seiichi in a letter made public by WRA today.

"She knows she is licked but it'll be some time before her military leaders come to their senses if they had any. I wonder what is your opinion of Japan. Because she's never lost a war till now she may have a notion that it is a wonderful thing. That I think, is one reason why she must be utterly beaten this time for a lasting peace. There's no peace when one dominates others."

The Nisei sergeant, who was wounded in France last October during the rescue of the Texas "Lost Battalion" by the Japanese-American 442nd combat team, informed WRA that he has undergone two operations. The shrapnel still remains in his head in a wound covered by a silver plate. It "bothers" his hearing but otherwise does not affect him, he said.

Formerly of Lomita, Calif., Sgt. Iwate, 28, entered service in February 1942, a month before the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

In his letter to Seiichi, now legally a Japanese alien awaiting eventual shipment to Japan, the sergeant expressed his surprise and disappointment that the internee had taken action to renounce American citizenship and leave the WRA segregation center at Tule Lake, Newell, Calif. to go to a Justice Department internment camp.

"It is not my purpose to get in an argument with you concerning your transfer," he said. "I think I understand your point of view and difficulties. That difficulty however is shared by thousands of Nisei like me in a manner completely different to yours. I'm an American to the last drop of my blood. Being a person of Japanese descent, I'm aware of discrimination that is practised by people who dare not see further than the color of our skin.

"Several cases of violence against Nisei families on the coast are reported. It makes me angry to hear that but it also encourages me in my fight for democracy. Some of us are wounded, some died on the battlefield. They have paid the highest price for their ideals which the Nisei haters dare not. I'm one of the wounded. I have lost some of my best friends in France and Italy. But I'm very proud and I'll continue to fight the enemy of our country be it foreign or domestic. As I have said, I'm American to the last drop of my blood.



As for Seiichi, Sgt. Iwate wrote:

"I still remember the time I said goodbye to your folks before I went overseas. I'm rather disappointed now, though, because you have lost faith in your country."

Of his wound and recovery, the war and the future, he said:

"I was wounded in the head on Oct. 28, 1944 in France. It was either instant death or crippled body. The shrapnel (piece of shell) had penetrated about an inch into my brain and it is still there. It is something beyond human that I have almost completely recovered with little defects on my body. My ears are still ringing but that's about all. It isn't my own wound but the loss of my buddies that depresses me.

"There isn't much to write about war. It is one crazy experience that is difficult to understand unless you went through it. I was cheerful, slap happy, worried, confused and scared all through the campaigns. During occasional rest periods, we had some fun in towns but it didn't help us much. There's nothing so wasteful as war and all the peoples in the world, especially the veterans, must establish a better place for their children in the future."

Ready for either duty or discharge after seven months of hospitalization, Sgt. Iwate said, "I may be washed up as an infantryman but I'm willing to tackle any assignment if they decide to keep me in the Army."

At present, while on furlough from Hammond General hospital, Modesto, Calif. until September 17, he is staying with his uncle Toshikazu Wada, Rt. 1, Gill, Colo.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to SUNDAY PAPERS, JULY 22, 1945. W.

The first complete train carrying Japanese Americans homeward bound for California will leave the Rohwer (Ark.) war relocation center July 26 with 425 evacuees aboard, under an arrangement which Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes said today was in conformity with Office of Defense Transportation regulations.

Most of those returning to California will make the 2,000 mile trip in the train's seven day coaches, arriving about July 31, the Secretary said. Plans worked out by the War Relocation Authority under ODT rules will limit use of the one tourist sleeper car to the aged and sick. A diner and two baggage cars will be included in the train.

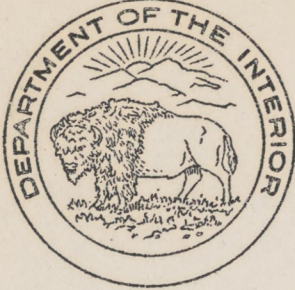
Members of about 125 different families including nearly 100 youngsters under 15 will leave the Arkansas WRA center, cleared by the War Department to return to the West Coast. A few of the Japanese Americans who plan resettlement in the mountain states will leave the train at Pueblo for Denver, Colo., and at Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah. The others will travel on to California with groups getting off at Lodi, Sacramento, Stockton, Fresno and Los Angeles.

Many of the disembarking evacuees will disperse from these communities to their homes in smaller town and nearby rural areas. From Lodi onward cars will be dropped from the train with only two coaches, the sleeper and one baggage car going on to the last stop at Los Angeles.

Secretary Ickes said that like all other rail and bus movements required by WRA for the relocation of Japanese Americans from its eight centers, the five-day train trip to California was handled in keeping with wartime transportation needs.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to PM's OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1945.

Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority was asked today for comment on the statement made in Italy by Colonel V. R. Miller, commanding officer of the Japanese American 442nd Combat Team. Colonel Miller had protested both to Secretary Ickes and Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy against the action of a VFW post in Spokane, Washington in excluding a wounded former member of the Combat Team from membership.

Mr. Myer issued the following statement:

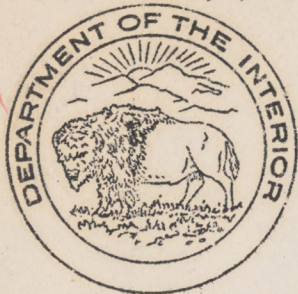
"I fully concur with Colonel Miller's keen indignation over the action taken by a minority of members of Post 51 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in excluding Pfc. Richard Naito from membership on the grounds of his ancestry. The great majority of Americans and of VFW members everywhere will, I feel sure, repudiate this act. They will join with Colonel Miller in insisting that the Japanese American soldiers returning from battle and their parents coming home from relocation centers must be treated with decency and fairness.

"I hope that the few men responsible for this regrettable piece of discrimination will consult their own consciences, carefully examine the fighting record of Japanese Americans in all theaters, and reconsider their decision in the light of well known facts and established American principles. They might, for example, consider the case of Sgt. Ben Kuroki who has flown in 27 bombing missions over Japan. Or the case of Private Naito himself--the man whom they regarded as unworthy of membership in their organization--the man whose leg was shattered by a Nazi bullet on the plains near Pisa. Finally, they might listen to the 458 combat veterans from every corner of the United States who are recuperating in the same hospital with Private Naito and who have publicly deplored his exclusion from the membership of Post 51.

"If the blackballing members of the Post will do these things, with an open mind and a healthy respect for the returning American veteran regardless of his ancestry, I don't see how they can fail to follow Colonel Miller's recommendation and reverse their previous action."

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF MINES

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For Advance Release SUNDAY PAPERS AUGUST 19, 1945.

Motion picture films produced under the supervision of the Bureau of Mines and paid for by private industrial concerns have brought the drama of mineral and fuel production into the home communities of millions of Americans, many of whom are far removed from the Nation's mines and metallurgical plants.

During the past year, more than 8,000,000 persons attended the 95,000 separate showings of Bureau films, Dr. R. R. Sayers, Bureau Director reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. This vast audience included war training and rehabilitation classes, Army and Navy personnel, engineering and scientific societies, business organizations, schools, colleges, civic groups and other organizations.

Records of attendance and showings kept by the Bureau of Mines reveal that during the past two decades--from 1925 to 1945--its films were shown on 1,207,338 occasions to 123,878,059 people, a total equivalent to the population of the United States in 1930.

In 1944, the Bureau of Mines film library acquired, without cost to the Government, 1,073 additional reels, bringing the total to over 10,000 reels of sound and silent motion pictures--the largest and most complete collection of its kind in the world, Dr. Sayers said.

New sound educational films placed in circulation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945 were "Sand and Flame", "A Story of Copper" and "The Story of Arc Welding". Several films, including "Evolution of the Oil Industry", were extensively revised and brought up to date. These films, like other Bureau pictures, are in constant demand and received wide distribution. Directed primarily at disseminating knowledge of operations in the mining, metallurgical and other mineral industries, the films have gone far toward increasing conservation and promoting the safety-consciousness of the millions of workers and supervisory officials before whom they have been shown.

In addition to the widespread domestic distribution of the Bureau films, numerous pictures have been exhibited in England, Canada, Mexico, Australia, China, India and the South American countries.

The entire cost of producing these films is paid by the mineral and related industries, Dr. Sayers said, and since 1916, cooperating industrial concerns have contributed more than \$2,250,000 towards the production of these pictures. Distribution of the pictures is handled by the Bureau of Mines. More than 8,000 regular exhibitors are on the Bureau's circulation list, and many more are occasional borrowers.







Although the sponsorship of the films is acknowledged, the pictures are free of trade marks, trade names, or other advertising material.

The Bureau's pictures have brought to millions of persons a keener realization of the many and complex problems involved in the production and processing of oil, copper, lead, nickel, iron, aluminum, magnesium, and other raw materials so urgently needed both in war and peace. Plant supervisors as well as civilian and military instructors throughout the country have also found these films helpful in the rapid development of industrial and military skills.

Pictures depicting first-aid procedures again led in popularity last year, Dr. Sayers said. The Bureau's two 16-millimeter sound films "First Steps in First Aid", and "Help Wanted" were exhibited before audiences totaling more than 700,000 persons. Several newer films available for distribution during only nine months of the past year were also high on the demand list. Included in this group were "Airplanes-Their Metals, Fuels and Lubricants," "Synthetic Rubber," and "Magnesium-Metal from the Sea." Among the other pictures shown most frequently during 1944 were "Evolution of the Oil Industry," "The Power Within-A Story of the Internal-Combustion Engine," "Alloy Steels-A Story of Their Development," "Aluminum-Mine to Metal," "The Story of a Storage Battery," and "Diesel-Modern Power."

During more than a quarter of a century of picture making, M. F. Leopold, Supervising Engineer of the Bureau's Motion Picture section, has represented the Bureau in working out the cooperative agreements for these industrially-subsidized films. He not only makes the arrangements with the companies and manufacturers, but also oversees production so that the pictures will conform to Bureau standards and policies and places the films before the Bureau's board of review for action.

The main distributing center for the films is the Graphic Services Section at the Bureau of Mines Central Experiment Station, 4800 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., where a complete library of all pictures is maintained. Sub-distributing centers are maintained in 18 other states.

No charge is made for the loan of the films, although borrowers are required to pay transportation charges to and from the distributing centers as well as for loss or damage, other than ordinary wear and tear, to the films. The sound films are all in 16-millimeter size, but there are silent versions of some films both in 16- and 35-millimeter sizes. All requests for film loans should be addressed to Pittsburgh.

With the exception of certain special instruction films, Bureau of Mines pictures are entirely realistic and do not employ professional acting personnel. To obtain first-hand, authentic pictures of an industrial operation, camera men frequently operate under extremely unfavorable conditions of terrain and climate.

In the Nation's rehabilitation centers and veterans' hospitals, Bureau pictures have been exhibited before thousands of disabled American soldiers who have recently returned from the battle fronts of the world. By providing these men with a broad view of the many vocational opportunities in the mineral industries, Bureau films have been a valuable aid in accelerating individual readjustments to civilian economic life.

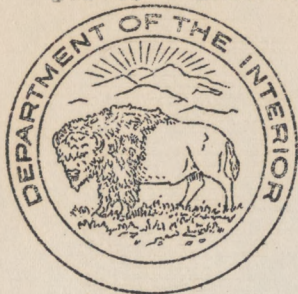
At present, the Bureau is contemplating the production of a series of films depicting the mineral industries of many of the Nation's states, Dr. Sayers said. These films will undoubtedly be in demand by educators for showings in the schools and colleges throughout the country to provide vocational guidance for many young Americans planning future careers.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to the PM's OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1945 W.

Fifty-three Yugoslav refugees now housed at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter, Oswego, N.Y. will sail August 28 on the Gripsholm to return to their homes, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today.

Members of 24 different families will be in the group, passage for which has been arranged by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Secretary said. Of 14 refugees under 18 years of age who will leave for Europe, 10 are youngsters who have had a year of American education in the Oswego public schools.

The party will leave Fort Ontario on August 23 and spend five days in New York City before boarding the Gripsholm, it was said. Private welfare agencies plan to provide food, shelter and some entertainment for the Yugoslavs during their first and only visit to a large American city.

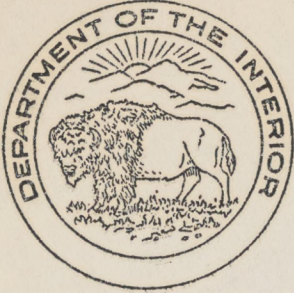
Secretary Ickes stated that all the refugees are returning voluntarily. Their departure from the shelter, operated by the War Relocation Authority, leaves 918 refugees of 18 different nationalities at Fort Ontario. The refugees came to the United States on August 3, 1944 under an order of President Roosevelt.

Among those going on the Gripsholm to Naples and on to Yugoslavia are at least three of Marshall Tito's Partisan fighters including Mrs. Vilma Market, 24, Sara Montiljo, 20, and David Kabiljo, 34.

In recounting earlier departures from the shelter, the Secretary said that in May a group of 13 Yugoslavs went back to their homeland. In February another refugee, Mrs. Elsa Neumann, 61, Austrian, left for South Africa to join her children. Ludwig Reis, 62, listed as stateless but formerly a German Jew, left August 3 for Montevideo to be admitted to Uruguay as an immigrant and to live there with his son. He is the first Fort Ontario refugee to be granted an immigration visa by any country in the Western hemisphere, WRA records show.

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# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Immediate Release:: OCTOBER 18, 1945.

The War Relocation Authority program for people of Japanese descent at the Tule Lake Center in northern California will be terminated by February 1, 1946, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today.

With this step, the WRA will complete its schedule for liquidating its operations at the last of the ten centers which established in 1942 to accommodate the people of Japanese ancestry evacuated by military order from the Pacific Coast. Two of the centers--Jerome in Arkansas and Granada in Colorado--have already been closed. All the others except Tule Lake will be closed by December 15 in accordance with plans previously announced.

During the few months of operations still ahead at the Tule Lake center, the WRA will continue to assist in the relocation of those residents who are eligible to leave. Those who are not eligible to leave because they are under detention orders issued by the Department of Justice will remain in the custody of that Department pending final disposition of their cases.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to PM's OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1945.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today asked Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell to assure officers and men of the 10th Army, aroused by reports of discrimination against Japanese American veterans, that "our people at home will keep up the fight against prejudice aimed at Americans of any race, creed or color."

In a letter to Gen. Stilwell, the Secretary expressed his appreciation to the commanding officer of the 10th Army veterans of Okinawa and other Pacific campaigns for his recent statement proposing that the soldier comrades of Nisei servicemen protect them from "barfly commandos."

The text of the Secretary's letter follows:

"My dear General Stilwell:

The newspapers inform me that you have urged American soldiers to band together in a club to protect their Japanese American Army comrades from 'barfly commandos.' I commend your spirit, I salute your judgment and were I a soldier, I'd like to 'jine up.'

"On the continent here, we not only have 'barfly commandos' but we are troubled with a tireless minority of racists in a few West Coast communities who have sought to keep Nisei veterans and their families from returning peaceably to their farms and homes in the Pacific States. One of the refrains loudly sung by these satanic choirboys declares that when the veterans come back from the Pacific they will make life hard for Japanese Americans on the coast. It is true that editorials in publications of the armed forces, and recent letters and statements by soldiers, sailors, and marines belie this false claim but it remained for your statement to blow the remnants of this tattered myth to Kingdom Come.

"Generally Americans on the West Coast, as well as elsewhere in the country, have condemned terrorism and other discrimination against the returning evacuees. The records of the War Relocation Authority, the agency of the Department of the Interior which is responsible for resettling the thousands of loyal Japanese Americans, show many instances of aid given to the Nisei by their fellow citizens. Two outstanding examples will suffice to show what I mean.

"Mr. and Mrs. Kay Sakamoto had four sons who joined the Army. One was killed in action and two have been decorated for bravery. Recently



the Sakamotos returned to their home in Loomis, California. They found that two days earlier their home had been deliberately burned to the ground, yet within a few days, Californians had started to raise a fund to help rebuild the Sakamoto home.

"In another case, Mary Masuda, of Santa Ana, California, found that her four brothers in service meant nothing to a gang of hoodlums. Not even the fact that one of her brothers lost his life at Cassino impressed these hardy bigots. They warned her to leave town and she did. Shelter was given to her on her last night by the parents of a Marine flier lost on Guadalcanal. I think that the aid and comfort that they offered her, as much as anything else, explains why Mary Masuda later went back to Santa Ana and this time remained there.

"I have heard from many sources that servicemen overseas, after reading about the terrorism and discrimination against Nisei veterans and their families, have been fighting mad about it. Your own words reflect their indignation. I wonder if you can let the men and officers in your command know that a great many Americans at home have been doing their best to check the racists. I am confident that our people at home will keep up the fight against prejudice aimed at Americans of any race, creed, or color.

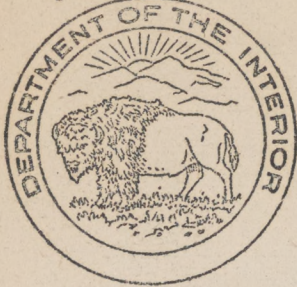
Sincerely yours,

*Harold Z. Fikes*

Secretary of the Interior."

General Joseph W. Stilwell, U. S. A.  
Commanding General,  
Tenth Army,  
A. P. O. 357, c/o Postmaster,  
San Francisco, California.





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Release to PM's OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1946.

Today's closing of the War Relocation Authority center at Tule Lake, Calif. marks the substantial completion of that agency's four-year wartime job, it was announced by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug.

The Tule Lake center will be closed as a place of residence with the departure of a final group of detainees and their family members, who are being removed to a Department of Justice internment camp pending further review of their cases and possible deportation to Japan.

The Authority, which was created by Executive Order almost exactly four years ago, on March 18, 1942, to provide maintenance and useful employment for the people of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the West Coast military zone, has exercised jurisdiction over a total of some 120,000 individuals. The peak population of its ten centers, however, was a little less than 108,000, in February of 1943.

The ninth center was closed November 30, 1945, eleven months after the Army lifted its exclusion orders and the residents again became free to settle anywhere in the country. Certain of the WRA field relocation offices, particularly on the West Coast, will be maintained for another four to eight weeks to assist the more recent resettlers in making more permanent readjustments to life outside the centers. The Washington office of the Authority will complete its disposition of property and records and close by the end of the fiscal year.

The Secretary indicated that before construction of the ten centers was complete, the WRA had already launched its program of relocating eligible individuals from among the group of persons who were evacuated from the restricted areas.



Under that program, WRA assisted more than 109,300 individuals to leave the centers and resettle in normal American communities. This total includes 2,300 men who went directly into Army service.

The agency's records show that at the present time about 51,800 of the 109,300 relocated persons have settled away from their former homes and that 57,500 are back in the West Coast states. Approximately 12,500, the largest numbers of those who resettled eastward, are in Illinois. Other states which received substantial numbers of the evacuees include: Colorado, 5,700; Utah, 5,300; Ohio, 4,200; Idaho, 3,600; Michigan, 2,900; New York, 2,400; New Jersey, 2,300; and Minnesota, 2,000.

The original group was swelled to 120,000 by evacuees from Hawaii, persons paroled to the centers from internment, births, and persons discharged from institutions. Departures above the total of 107,000 who were actually relocated included persons committed to various institutions, deaths, and those who were designated by the Department of Justice as ineligible for relocation.

This latter group, greatly augmented by family members, included 3,000 persons who were transferred from WRA centers to internment camps administered by the Department of Justice, and 4,700 persons who were voluntarily repatriated to Japan directly from the centers.

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