

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**

**Presidio of San Francisco, California
April 1, 1942**

**INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY**

Living in the Following Area:

All of San Diego County, California, south of a line extending in an easterly direction from the mouth of the San Dieguito River (northwest of Del Mar), along the north side of the San Dieguito River, Lake Hodges, and the San Pasqual River to the bridge over the San Pasqual River at or near San Pasqual; thence easterly along the southerly line of California State Highway No. 78 through Ramona and Julian to the eastern boundary line of San Diego County.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon Wednesday, April 8, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1919 India Street
San Diego, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Reception Center, the following property:

- (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
- (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
- (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
- (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
- (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions received at the Civil Control Station.

The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

No contraband items as described in paragraph 6, Public Proclamation No. 3, Headquarters Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, dated March 24, 1942, will be carried.

3. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage at the sole risk of the owner of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.

4. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Reception Center. Private means of transportation will not be utilized. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station at 1919 India Street, San Diego, California, between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J. L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

RIGHTING A WRONG

Eighty Years Since the Order That Put Japanese Americans Behind Barbed Wire

Kimmy Tanaka and
Krista Finstad Hanson

FEBRUARY 19, 2022, marked 80 years since President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in 1942. A little over two months prior to that presidential action, in the early morning hours of December 7, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Navy Air Service attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, leading the United States to declare war against Japan the next day. The executive order issued the following February authorized the secretary of war to designate military areas “from which any and all persons may be excluded” for the sake of national defense. Nowhere in the three-page document did it mention US citizens of Japanese ancestry or Japanese nationals. The military exclusion zone included the entire state of California, the western half of Washington and Oregon, and the southern portion of Arizona. In 1940, three-fourths of all people of Japanese ancestry on the mainland United States were living in California alone.¹

Over the course of five months, from late March to August 1942, 108 notices “to all persons of Japanese ancestry” were posted in cities up and down the West Coast. The notices stated that “all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien,

FACING: Exclusion order No. 4 from April 1, 1942, for San Diego County, California, requiring “all persons of Japanese ancestry” to report to the Civil Control Station for forced relocation.

will be evacuated” from the designated areas. The words “non-alien” and “evacuated” mask the true nature of what happened. In actuality, the executive order resulted in the removal of tens of thousands of people of Japanese ancestry, including both US citizens and noncitizens, from the four western states identified in Executive Order 9066. Most of those who were forced to leave their homes were given a week to pack their belongings and report to one of 97 Civil Control Stations set up by the Wartime Civil Control Administration to implement the mass removal of Japanese Americans. From those stations, families and individuals were moved to temporary detention centers and eventually to War Relocation Authority concentration camps in remote areas across the western and southwestern areas of the country. In all, 120,000 people, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, were imprisoned in these camps.²

The story of Japanese American incarceration during World War II leaves a painful and dark stain on the history of the United States. Looking back 80 years later, we ask ourselves, how could that have happened? Executive Order 9066 was a response to Pearl Harbor, but it was also a culmination of decades of anti-Asian and anti-Japanese sentiment and policies in the United States. In the midst of war, baseless fear fueled by misinformation led to irrational decisions. As citizens, we have a responsibility to remember these dark chapters of our

shared history and raise our voices to condemn such actions. If we don’t, it is at the cost of eroding our constitutional democracy, which is as fragile now as it was then.

From April 23 through July 3, 2022, the Minnesota History Center is hosting an exhibit created by the Smithsonian Institution called “Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II.” The exhibit tells the story of anti-Asian prejudice in the United States starting in the nineteenth century and leading up to World War II, the wartime Japanese American incarceration experience, and its aftermath.

Across the Mississippi River at Historic Fort Snelling, the newly revitalized site and visitor center shares the stories of the soldiers who served in the Military Intelligence Service. Despite the unjust treatment of Japanese Americans, more than 30,000 volunteered to serve in the US military during World War II. Most were in the segregated units of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Perhaps less well known were the little over 6,000 men and women who served as linguists in the Military Intelligence Service. Many MIS soldiers enlisted or were drafted from behind barbed wire, and many also served while their families and loved ones were imprisoned in the concentration camps.³

The Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) trained mostly Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) men and women



Miwako Yanamoto (second from left) was one of 13 members of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) deployed to Tokyo. They are photographed here at Hamilton Army Airfield in northern California on January 23, 1946, before leaving for Tokyo. In addition to Yanamoto, the other women in the photo are Atsuko Mori, Chito Isonaga, Edith Kodama, Fumiko Segawa, Shizuko Shinagawa, Mary Nakamura, Matsuko Kido, Hisako Hirakawa, Toyome Nakanishi, Marie Minata, Rhoda Knudsen, and Bertha Chin.



Toshio Abe (right) at a rest camp in the Himalayas in 1945. After training at Camp Savage, Abe was deployed to Calcutta, India, and served in the China-Burma-India Theater.

in the Japanese language to work as interpreters, translators, and interrogators in support of the war effort. First established in San Francisco as the Fourth Army Intelligence School in November 1941, the school was relocated to Camp Savage in Savage, Minnesota, in May 1942 and then moved to Fort Snelling in August 1944.

After military service was opened to women in 1943, Miwako Yanamoto read in the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper that the Women's Army Corps (WAC) was seeking enlistees for the Japanese military language school. She had attended Japanese school through twelfth grade in Los Angeles and felt she had specialized skills to contribute. After a year and a half in the Poston Concentration Camp in southwestern Arizona, she was permitted to leave to work in New York. It was from there that Yanamoto decided to enlist in the WAC. She completed basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, before enrolling in the MISLS at Fort Snelling. Yanamoto was placed in the top class upon her entrance exam and was promoted to staff sergeant by the time of her graduation. Yanamoto was one of 51 women who graduated from the MISLS at Fort Snelling and one of 13 women deployed to Tokyo in January of 1946 to work in General Douglas MacArthur's office in the Army of Occupation after the war. She later recounted her time at Fort Snelling with her classmates: "I think our morale was good because as a group we got along well. I think we had a pretty good idea that we were all in there for honorable reasons. So we respected each other, and we enjoyed each other's company. And we all worked hard and studied hard."⁴

The language training at the MISLS was intense and typically lasted six to nine months. For many Nisei, these months spent in Minnesota were temporary, but others made Minnesota their permanent home.

One such soldier was Toshio William (Bill) Abe. Abe was drafted by the US Army in April 1941. He was first sent to Fort Ord, California, for basic training and placed in a segregated unit with 175 other Japanese Americans. A few months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, they were sent to Camp Wolters in Texas. From there, Abe, along with 20 others, was sent to Camp Savage in June of 1942. Meanwhile, his family was forced to move from their homes in San Diego and into the Poston Concentration Camp in Arizona. In a 2002 interview, Abe recalled, "I think most of us in the [military] service saw our friends and parents being sent to these camps. It was something that we weren't all that happy about, and yet there was nothing we could do about it." After training, he was deployed to the China-Burma-India Theater, where he was assigned to the British 36th Division and served with the MARS Task Force, gathering information behind enemy lines and from Japanese prisoners of war. After the war, he studied engineering at the University of Minnesota and later worked as a mechanical engineer for various Twin Cities companies, including 3M. In the 1970s, Abe, along with his fellow MIS veterans, supported the construction of the Japanese Garden at Normandie Community College.⁵

Saburo "Bill" Doi was another MIS soldier who had lifelong ties to the Twin Cities. Doi was from Washington State, and in 1942 he was sent to the Pinedale Temporary Detention Center near Fresno, California, and then to the Tule Lake Concentration Camp in far northern California. There he enlisted in the army. Regarding his decision to volunteer, he said, "People thought that we weren't American. We were . . . the enemy. . . . We had to dispel that. I didn't particularly like being in camp either. . . . You were restricted, . . . you didn't

belong there. . . . I felt that I wanted to show that I am just as American as anybody and that was one way to prove it." Doi served in the Office of Special Services at Camp Savage, Fort Snelling, and later at the Presidio in Monterey, California. After his service, Doi moved back to Minnesota, where he graduated from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and later worked in advertising. He also dedicated much of his life to civil rights activism, and he served on the Redress Committee to seek reparations for Japanese Americans. He also founded the Minnesota Nikkei project, which provides support for Japanese elders. Over a span of three decades, Doi advised numerous educational boards and committees on issues around equality.⁶

Abe and Doi were among almost 1,000 Japanese Americans to resettle in Minnesota as a result of World War II. The War Relocation Authority, the agency in charge of overseeing the concentration camps, also managed the resettlement process for Nisei during the war. Volunteering for military service was one means to gain permission to leave a camp. Incarcerated Japanese Americans were also allowed to leave through a complicated and slow process that included finding a sponsoring agency or person, a job placement, and housing accommodations. Minnesota's social service agencies quickly mobilized to assist Japanese Americans leaving the camps to relocate to Minnesota.

In the summer of 1942, the Minneapolis Resettlement Committee was formed to assist in the relocation of Nisei. Later in the fall, the St. Paul Resettlement Committee was formed under the International Institute, and together the two committees helped secure housing and employment for the Nisei. In addition, educational institutions such as the National Japanese American Student

Saburo "Bill" Doi served in the Office of Special Services at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, where he helped organize events and activities to occupy the soldiers during their free time and to increase morale.



Shiro and Patsy K. Omata being shown the kitchen of a hostel for Japanese Americans by Martha B. Akard, the director of the Twin City Lutheran Relocation Hostel. Shiro Omata was stationed with the army at Camp Savage.



Relocation Council helped Nisei college students to start or continue their studies outside of the concentration camps. In Minnesota, private colleges including Bethel, Carleton, Dunwoody, Hamline, Macalester, St. Olaf, St. Thomas, and possibly others sponsored Japanese American students to study at their schools.⁷

The impact of the location of the MISLS at Fort Snelling and the resettlement activity of Japanese Americans during and after the war is reflected in the census numbers. In 1940, 51 people of Japanese descent were living in Minnesota, and by 1950, there were 1,049. According to the 2010 census, the Japanese American population in Minnesota is now approximately 8,000. Today, the Japanese community in Minnesota includes former MIS veterans and their families, survivors of the incarceration, and resettled Japanese Americans who decided to stay in Minnesota.⁸

By the 1960s, the emergence of the civil rights movement reignited Japanese American activism, and by 1979, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, both of whom were World War II veterans, along with representatives Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui of California led the call in Washington for a commission to study the wartime treatment of people of Japanese ancestry. In 1983, a Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians published *Personal Justice Denied*, a report on the events from 40 years prior. In regard to the US government's actions and policies toward people of Japanese ancestry, it declared "the broad historical causes which shaped these decisions [that followed Executive Order 9066] were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." The report led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which acknowl-

edged wartime injustices, granted a formal presidential apology, and provided reparations to surviving incarcerated as well as creating the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.⁹

Eighty years after the issuing of Executive Order 9066, we look back yet again as a reminder that, despite our nation's flaws, our strength is in our ability to acknowledge those flaws and work toward a more just and equitable society for all. In the stories of Yanamoto, Abe, Doi, and thousands of others who fought for a country they believed in, we affirm the relevance of their fight, and we continue to remember and reflect. ▣

Notes

1. Executive Order 9066, Feb. 19, 1942, General Records of the US Government, Record Group 11, National Archives, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/124450932>; John L. DeWitt, *Final Report: Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast, 1942* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1943), 88, <http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/01130040R>; Paul R. Spickard, *Japanese Americans: The Formation and Transformations of an Ethnic Group* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009), 173.

2. DeWitt, *Final Report*, 86; John L. DeWitt, "Instruction to all persons of Japanese ancestry living in the following area: all of San Diego County, California," US Army, Western Defense Command, 1942, <https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/2001496>; Roger Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2004), 3.

A concentration camp is a facility in which noncombatant civilians are detained without legal due process on the basis of identification with a particular racial, ethnic, or political group, whereas internment is the legally permissible confinement of enemy aliens. Internees were protected by the Geneva Convention, which was not the case for those confined in the War Relocation Authority concentration camps during World War II. For more information on terminology, see Power of Words II Committee, *Power of Words Handbook: A Guide to Language about Japanese Americans in World War II* (San Francisco, CA: National Japanese American Citizens League, 2020), <https://jacl.org/power-of-words>.

3. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, *Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians* (Washington, DC: Gov-

ernment Printing Office, 1982; Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997), 253; James C. McNaughton, *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 2006), v; Peter J. DeCarlo, "Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS)," MNopedia, <http://www.mnopedia.org/group/military-intelligence-service-language-school-misls>.

4. Brenda L. Moore, *Serving Our Country: Japanese American Women in the Military During World War II* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2003), 124.

5. Toshio Abe, interview by Thomas Saylor, Mar. 1, 2002, Minnesota's Greatest Generation Oral History Project: Part I, MNHS; Japanese American Citizens League, Twin Cities Chapter Education Committee, *Minnesota's Remarkable Secret School for Language: Curriculum and Resource Guide* ([MN]: Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League, 2013), 27–28, <http://www.tcjacl.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/MISGuide2013.pdf>; Edwin M. Nakasone, *Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota* (White Bear Lake, MN: J-Press Publishing, 2002), 33–34; Matt Abe, email message to author, Jan. 22, 2022.

6. Saburo "Bill" Doi, interview by Richard Hawkins, June 26, 2005, Go for Broke National Education Center, University of Southern California Libraries, Los Angeles, CA, <https://digital.library.usc.edu/Share/7427joyrivm7djekfd2004i5bky1s068>.

7. Michael Albert, "The Japanese," in *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups*, ed. June Drenning Holmquist (St. Paul: MNHS Press, 1981), 558–71; Krista Finstad Hanson, "St. Paul Resettlement Committee," MNopedia, <http://www.mnopedia.org/group/st-paul-resettlement-committee>.

8. Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, "State of the Asian Pacific Minnesotans: 2010 Census and 2008–2010 American Community Survey Report," Apr. 2012, 6, https://mn.gov/capm/assets/StateoftheAsianPacificMinnesotans_tcm1051-114507.pdf; Albert, "The Japanese," 558–71.

9. Mitchell T. Maki, Harry H. L. Kitano, and S. Megan Berthold, *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999), 56, 191–200; Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, *Personal Justice Denied*, 18; "Civil Liberties Act of 1988 Conference Report, Jul. 26, 1988," Densho Encyclopedia, <https://encyclopedia.densho.org/sources/en-denshopd-p141-00060-1/>.

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