

NATIONAL RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

Washington, D. C.
May 20, 1942

SPECIAL TO OUR MEMBERS:

Re: Establishment of Japanese Relocation Areas.

Because of the widespread interest throughout the seventeen western states in the federal government's program for the relocation of more than 100,000 Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese ancestry now being evacuated from the Pacific coast military areas, the National Reclamation Association has conferred on numerous occasions with officials of the War Relocation Authority.

At our request this Authority has prepared the attached 20-page outline covering the problem, the relocation program, and relocation areas, work opportunities, approved relocation areas, and rather complete information on all phases of the program.

Since the decline in WPA labor and CCC camps has threatened the water conservation and utilization program under the Wheeler-Case Act for the duration, and because many strictly irrigation construction projects are being retarded, many areas throughout the West have indicated their desire to have relocation areas established in certain watersheds in the hope of securing labor to advance their irrigation and water conservation programs during the war period.

This bulletin is designed to furnish project sponsors in such areas enough general information to help indicate whether or not your area might be interested in having a relocation center established, and if so, whether or not it might qualify for such a center.

Those interested should correspond with the WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY, M. S. Eisenhower, Director, Barr Building, 910 17th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Respectfully submitted,

F. O. Hagie,
Secretary-Manager

RELOCATING JAPANESE-AMERICAN EVACUEES

Chronology:

- February 19, 1942 - President Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 9066, empowering the Secretary of War or designated military commanders to prescribe military areas and to exclude any or all persons from such areas.
- March 2, 1942 - Lieut. General J. L. DeWitt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, issued Proclamation No. 1, defining military areas No. 1 and 2, on western frontier. It was announced that future exclusion orders to cover all of Area No. 1, and certain zones of No. 2, would affect Japanese Aliens, American born persons of Japanese ancestry, and certain other aliens.
- March 15, 1942 - The Wartime Civil Control Administration was established under the direct and immediate supervision of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army to supervise the evacuation and to coordinate the assistance of civilian Federal agencies.
- March 18, 1942 - President Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 9102 establishing the War Relocation Authority to formulate and carry out a program for the planned relocation of persons evacuated from military areas. Within the Authority was established a War Relocation Work Corps in which evacuees may enlist for duration of the war to undertake useful work contributing to the nation's all-out productive effort.
- March 23, 1942 - First 1,000 evacuees - volunteers from Los Angeles - move to Manzanar Relocation Center, Owens Valley, California, to assist in preparing the new community for its ultimate population of 10,000. By May 1 the population has increased to more than 7,000.
- March 24, 1942 - Lieut. General J. L. DeWitt issued Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1, directing all persons of Japanese lineage, aliens and citizens alike, to evacuate Bainbridge Island, Washington state, or or before March 30.
- March 27, 1942 - Lieut. General DeWitt announced that effective at mid-night, March 29, voluntary evacuation from the military area would cease, and after that date all evacuation would be on a planned, orderly basis to War Relocation Authority relocation areas.

March 27 to date - Additional evacuation orders issued by Lieut. General DeWitt, applying first to the most sensitive and critical zones within the military area, evacuees being assembled at assembly centers throughout the military area to await completion of relocation centers, where they will be settled for the duration of the war.

DEFINITIONS

ASSEMBLY CENTER - A convenient gathering point, within the military area, where evacuees live temporarily while awaiting transfer to a relocation center outside of the military area.

RELOCATION CENTER - A new community, established on Federally-controlled land, with basic housing and protective services supplied by the Federal Government, for occupancy by evacuees for the duration of the war.

RELOCATION AREA - The entire area under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority, surrounding a Relocation Center. The lands are Federally owned or leased, are designated as a military area, and are under the protection of military police.

WAR RELOCATION WORK CORPS

- An organization within the War Relocation Authority for the mobilization of the employable evacuees for various kinds of useful work. Any evacuee, more than 16 years of age, may enlist voluntarily in the Corps. Enlistment is for the duration of the war.

ENLISTEE

- A person who enlists in the War Relocation Work Corps.

WORK PROJECTS

- Projects, such as the development of irrigated land, agricultural production, or manufacturing, undertaken by the War Relocation Work Corps.

EVACUATION - A MILITARY NECESSITY

Broad-scale war in the Pacific, including sinkings of American ships in American coastal waters, and the continuing danger of attacks against Pacific Coast cities and war industries, has made it necessary to consider the entire western coast as a potential combat zone.

President Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, issued Executive Order No. 9066, authorizing the Secretary of War or designated Military commanders to prescribe military areas and to exclude any or all persons from such areas. On March 2, Lieut. General J. L. DeWitt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, proclaimed the entire West Coast region to be a military area. Later orders provided that all persons of Japanese ancestry were to be excluded from Military Area No. 1, and from certain strategic zones in Military Area No. 2 and other areas.

The decision to exclude both alien and American born Japanese from these military areas recognized that:

1. In the event the West Coast should become an actual zone of combat, the intermingled presence of more than 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry among the population would be the possible cause of turmoil and confusion which could seriously jeopardize military operations, without regard to questions of the loyalty of this group as a whole or of any individuals among it.

2. Although a large proportion of the Japanese group might be found loyal to the United States, or loyal under most conditions, military considerations can not permit the risk of putting an unassimilated or partly assimilated people to an unpredictable test during an invasion by an army of their own race.

3. Once the Japanese group is removed to the interior, the elements of danger in this situation are considerably reduced.

The evacuation of Japanese from Military areas is not to be confused with the Enemy Alien Program of the Department of Justice, under which enemy aliens suspected of acts or intentions against the national security are interned. The fact that an individual, whether citizen or alien, has been evacuated from a military area does not mean that such a person is, as an individual, suspected of disloyalty to the United States.

THE PROBLEM

The exclusion of certain aliens and citizens from West Coast strategic areas - the sudden uprooting of a whole segment of the population - arises from stern military necessity, and poses a difficult problem that this country has not had to face before. It has been determined that this problem shall be handled in a thoroughly democratic, American way. Toward this end, both the military and the civilian agencies of the Federal government are cooperating to enable this mass migration to proceed in a planned, orderly, and decent manner.

The People:

The problem encompasses the lives and associations of nearly 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry who have been living in Military area No. 1. The group is not preponderantly alien, as commonly supposed. Of those migrating, about 63% are American-born citizens; only 37% are aliens of Japanese birth. The aliens, "Issei", are largely an older group who came

to this country as laborers and farm workers. Their average age is around 58 to 60. The citizens, "Nisei", are largely a young group, most of them educated or being educated in American schools. Their average age is around 22. More than one fourth of the entire population is made up of second and third generation children under 15 years of age.

The Japanese group on the West Coast has not been an isolated entity. During the years the lives and work of these people have become intermeshed with the whole gamut of social and economic relationships of the area in which they lived. In 1940, nearly 50,000 of them, age 14 and over, were employed in California, Oregon, and Washington. (This does not include the thousands of unpaid family workers who have helped to operate family stores and farms.) About 45 percent of the paid workers were engaged in agriculture. These were not just farm laborers, but ranged from highly skilled managers, owners, renters, and irrigation experts, down to "stoop" laborers who hand-tended the intensive vegetable and fruit crops. About 24 percent of the workers were engaged in wholesale and retail trade, and this group is particularly conspicuous in the marketing of farm produce. About 17 percent were in personal service-house servants, gardeners, maids, and so on. About 4 percent were in manufacturing, and 10 percent were engaged in other industries and commerce.

About 3 percent of the Japanese population - some 3,100 - are professional people, including doctors, lawyers, architects, nurses, airplane designers, artists, ministers. More than 1,000 of the young people have been attending colleges or universities each year.

The Federal Government is attempting to handle the evacuation and relocation of this group with the smallest possible economic and social

loss to the areas being evacuated and to the evacuees themselves. Provision must be made to replace evacuees in the factories, stores, farms and market places. They have many skills and abilities that are immediately needed in national production effort. As swiftly as possible, they must be given an opportunity to make use of these for the welfare of the nation and their new communities. And not the least part of the job is the physical task of moving such a large number of families in a short time and relocating them in suitable areas.

THE RELOCATION PROGRAM

Two Federal agencies are sharing the principal responsibility in planning and carrying out the evacuation and relocation program - The Wartime Civil Control Administration and the War Relocation Authority.

The WCCA

The Wartime Civil Control Administration is a staff organization of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, and has direct supervision of the evacuation of military areas on the West Coast. Government agencies have been called in to help the WCCA with the multitude of problems involved in suddenly cutting off the normal business, social and economic relationships of the evacuees. The Department of Justice, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Federal Security Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Treasury Department, the Alien Property Custodian, and others are working with the WCCA on this task.

The first step in the evacuation process is providing potential evacuees with information and assistance in closing up their affairs. A chain of 64 service offices have been established throughout Area No. 1 at which "teams" of Federal agency representatives are stationed to provide various services. For example, the U. S. Employment service registers evacuees and provides welfare service; the U. S. Health Service examines and inoculates them; the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, acting as fiscal agent for the Treasury Department, assists evacuees in the sale, lease, or management of their property; the Farm Security Administration arranges to provide new operators for evacuated farms so that a change-over can be made with minimum loss of agricultural production.

Assembly Centers

As zones to be evacuated are determined, a Civil Control Station, under Army direction, is established within each zone, where the head of each evacuee family may report for complete instruction on how to arrange for movement, how to prepare his household goods for storage, and when to be ready for transfer to an Assembly Center. Civil Control Stations are conveniently located throughout the military area.

An Assembly Center is merely a way-station to a war-duration Relocation area. It is a temporary collecting place where evacuees are provided with food, shelter, medical care, and protection while Relocation Centers are being selected and constructed. Each Assembly Center is organized and managed by a trained staff, and the rations are the equivalent of those served in the Army. Because Assembly Centers are only temporary residences, not many evacuees can be provided with jobs while there, although some evacuee personnel does help to operate the Center's services.

As Assembly Centers are emptied, there will be additional work for picked crews of evacuees in salvaging the temporary Assembly Center buildings for later construction of schools and school equipment and other community facilities at the Relocation Centers.

The War Relocation Authority

The War Relocation Authority was established by President Roosevelt by Executive Order No. 9102 of March 18, 1942, which directed this agency to cooperate with the War Department in evacuating, relocating and providing work opportunities for all persons who are evacuated from military areas.

Within the Authority was established the War Relocation Work Corps as a means for organizing and apportioning opportunities for work and income in the work program at Relocation Areas.

The Executive Order also directed the Departments of War and Justice to provide necessary protective, police and investigational services to the Authority.

Relocation Areas

The first, and one of the most important operations in resettlement of evacuees, is the selection of desirable Relocation Areas. The lands of the West are plentiful. They are productive if water is available. But water is scarce. Consequently, since its establishment the War Relocation Authority has had many experts who know the West's natural resources thoroughly, searching out the most feasible Relocation Areas.

In the course of this work these men have combed the country from the border of Military Area No. 1 to the Mississippi River. In their search, they have kept in mind that they are selecting the home communities for a large number of evacuees for the duration of the war. Furthermore, certain military considerations must be applied to each potential area. In brief, each Relocation Area must meet the following standards:

1. Work Opportunities:

The area must provide work opportunities throughout most of the year for the population to be relocated there. Such opportunities may consist of the following classes or combinations of classes of work:

Public Works - Such as development of land for irrigation, conservation of soil resources, flood control operations, and range improvement.

Agricultural Production - First, for foodstuffs required by the relocated community, and second, to aid in the Food for Freedom Program.

Manufacturing - Such as the manufacture of goods requiring a great deal of skilled hand labor, including products needed by relocated communities, and in the national production program. Some possibilities are wood products, clothing, ceramics, netting, woven and knitted materials.

2. Transportation - Power - Land - Water:

Each Relocation Area must have transportation and power facilities adequate for the new community; it must have a sufficient acreage of good quality soil and a dependable supply of water for irrigation. The climate must be satisfactory for crops and for people; the domestic and industrial water supply must be suitable in quality and quantity.

3. Minimum Population:

Each area must be able to support a population of 5,000 persons. The Army cannot provide protective services for communities of smaller population. Moreover, efficient administration of the program and the effective development of community services such as schools, hospitals and fire-control facilities require that communities be at least this size.

4. Public Land:

Each area must be on public land, owned or leased by the Federal Government, to assure that improvements made at public expense will become public, not private, assets. Any land purchased for Relocation Areas will remain in public ownership.

5. Military Requirements:

Each area must meet certain specifications of the Army. Each relocation area will be a military area, under protection of military police.

Relocation Centers

After a Relocation Area has been approved jointly by the Army and the War Relocation Authority, a Relocation Center is immediately constructed to house the new community.

Had canvas been available for tent cities, it would have been used. Tents would have been pitched and evacuees would have gone to work to build their new wartime homes. However, canvas was not available. So, before evacuees come to Relocation centers, group houses are built, streets are laid out, wells are drilled, and electric power lines are brought in. This construction proceeds rapidly. Houses for several thousand families have been built in the matter of several weeks at the Manzanar, California and the Parker, Arizona, Relocation Areas.

The initial housing is "basic". That is, the structures are soundly constructed and provide the minimum essentials for decent living. As evacuees move in, they will have an opportunity to improve their quarters by their own work.

Family Life, Self-Government At Relocation Centers

At relocation centers, as at assembly centers, families will be kept together, if they so wish. There is no reason whatever for interfering with normal family arrangements, and the Authority has no intention of doing so.

As evacuees settle in the relocation centers, it will be up to them

to plan the design of their community life within the broad basic policies determined by the Authority for over-all administration of such centers. They will establish and manage their own community government, electing their own officials. It will be largely up to them to maintain a community police force, a fire-fighting force, recreational facilities, and many other essentials.

Health and Education

Each relocation center will have basic hospitals and hospital equipment in accordance with standards of the U. S. Health Service. Doctors and nurses from among the settlers will operate the hospitals. These facilities may be improved as the community sees fit to do so by its own labor.

Elementary schools and high schools will be maintained by the Authority, in cooperation with the States and the U. S. Office of Education.

THE WAR RELOCATION WORK CORPS

The Work Corps is a device for mobilizing the energies, skills and abilities of employable evacuees to undertake programs of constructive work on Relocation Areas. It is the purpose of the Work Corps to assign individuals to the work for which they are most fitted by training and experience. It will provide additional training to adapt old skills to new jobs and to develop new techniques. It will provide the reserboir of workers from which personnel for community and administrative services will be recruited at relocation centers.

Enlistment in the Corps

Eligibility

All evacuees who are employable and more than 16 years of age, both men and women, may apply for enlistment in the Work Corps. Enlistment is entirely voluntary.

Obligations of Enlistees

Enlistment gives evacuees an opportunity to demonstrate in a very concrete way their loyalty and willingness to serve their country and their community. The enlistee assumes certain definite obligations:

1. He agrees to serve in the War Relocation Work Corps for the duration of the war and for 14 days after the end of the war.
2. He swears or affirms that he will be loyal to the United States; that he will faithfully perform all tasks assigned him by the Authority; that he will accept in full payment for his services such cash and other allowances as may be provided by law or by regulations of the Authority.

Obligations to Enlistees

The War Relocation Authority accepts an obligation to provide the

enlistee with an opportunity to work so that he may earn a living for himself and his family, and also may contribute to needed national production of agricultural and industrial goods. The Authority also accepts an obligation to provide the enlistee and his family with housing, food, clothing, education, and health services.

Income for Enlistees

The incomes earned on relocation areas by enlistees will depend to a great extent on the success that relocated communities have in organizing and operating their various productive enterprises. The precise methods of keeping costs, making monthly cash advances to enlistees, and computing benefits earned by enlistees, have not yet been exactly determined. However, it has been determined that in no event will the maximum monthly cash advances to enlistees exceed the basic minimum wage of the American soldier -- \$21 a month. Cash advances will vary according to the character of work performed by enlistees. Furthermore, the amounts to be advanced monthly may be changed from time to time, especially if the projects are operating successfully.

Types of Work

There will be work for all able hands at relocation areas. The range of work will be such that an enlistee generally will have the opportunity to continue at the type of work he has been performing in private life, or if such work is not available, or if he can better use his capabilities at different types of work, he will be given an opportunity to undertake training for more useful occupations.

One of the first jobs for enlistees at relocation centers will be the construction of schools and equipment so that children may continue

their education. Another job will be the construction of additional hospitals, meeting halls, and general improvement of buildings and grounds.

It is highly important that agricultural production be started on each relocation area as rapidly as possible. All enlistees with agricultural experience and all others with experience adaptable to agricultural work will be employed immediately in preparing land for cultivation, constructing irrigation canals, and planting, cultivating, harvesting, and processing of crops. It is hoped that all relocated communities will become self-sufficient in food production within the turn of a season, and that they will be producing additional needed crops for the Food for Freedom Program in the very near future.

The major undertaking at each relocation center will be the manufacture of many kinds of articles needed by the community and by the Nation. Simple factories utilizing a large amount of hand labor, simple machinery, and readily available materials will be established on the relocation projects wherever feasible to turn out such things as clothing, wood products, ceramics, netting, woven and knitted materials, and leather goods.

The types of work mentioned above cover only a few of the broader fields of activity in which the enlistees may be engaged. The range of types of their employment will be very similar to that in a normal community with an agricultural and industrial base. There will be much work for clerks, stenographers, machinists, nurses, reporters, accountants, doctors, lawyers.

Private Employment

Furloughs may be granted for specific periods of time to enlistees who wish to accept employment opportunities outside relocation areas,

under the following conditions:

1. Since the Army cannot provide protective services for groups or communities of less than 5,000, each State and local community where enlistees on furlough are to work must give assurance that they are in a position to maintain law and order.
2. Recruitment will be voluntary and must be handled by the U. S. Employment Service.
3. Transportation to the place of private employment and return must be arranged without cost to the Federal Government.
4. Employers must of course pay prevailing wages to enlistees without displacing other labor and must provide suitable living accommodations.
5. For the time enlistees are privately employed, they will pay the Government for expenses incurred in behalf of their dependents who may remain at relocation centers.

APPROVED RELOCATION AREAS

The following relocation areas have been jointly approved by the War Department and the War Relocation Authority and are examples of the type of area in which relocation centers will be established. These areas will provide for approximately 60,000 evacuees. An additional number of areas, perhaps 10, are now being selected to provide for the relocation of an additional 60,000 evacuees.

Manzanar

The Manzanar Relocation Area is located in the Owens River Valley in east central California. The Relocation Center at Manzanar will accommodate

a total of 10,000 residents, most of whom are already relocated there.

The area affords limited opportunities for agricultural development, with three or four thousand acres suitable for irrigation. At present several small work projects are under way on the land, such as the production of guayule seedlings.

It is likely that this center will depend largely on industrial opportunities and public works to provide useful work for its population. The equable climate is conducive to outdoor work, and an early project to be undertaken is the garnishing of camouflage nets.

Parker

The Parker Relocation Area is situated on the Colorado River Indian Reservation in southwestern Arizona, on a tract of land made available for irrigation by the erection of the Parker Dam. The area has an excellent potential agricultural base -- some 80,000 acres of raw land that can be developed for production of a variety of crops. There will be plenty of worthwhile work for everyone. The bringing of the land into cultivation will require construction of laterals and ditches, clearing and levelling of the land. Considerable acreage will be made ready immediately for cultivation and production of subsistence food crops. Then, as a public works program, additional acreage will be prepared for cultivation.

The Parker Relocation Area is designed to take care of 20,000 evacuees. This population will be divided among three centers, for which the basic housing is now practically completed. These three centers are: Number one, 17 miles south of Parker, with a capacity for 10,000; number two, 20 miles south of Parker, with facilities for 5,000; and number three, 23 miles south of Parker, capacity 5,000.

Gila

The Gila River Relocation Area is situated on the Pima Indian Reservation

in southern Arizona, about 40 miles from Phoenix. The relocation center now being constructed there will accommodate 10,000 evacuees -- divided into two communities of 5,000 each. There will be plentiful opportunities for agricultural and public work on the area. There is also opportunity for private employment.

At present about 7,000 acres of the land on the area is in alfalfa and is in excellent condition to be converted immediately to vegetables and other specialty crops. An additional 8,000 acres of raw land can be subjugated for agricultural production, involving the construction of canals and ditches, and clearing and levelling the land.

The growing season is 270 days, and the climate and soil are generally favorable for a wide variety of agricultural production.

Tulelake

The Tulelake Relocation Area in northern California comprises 30,000 acres of land owned by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. A relocation center is now being constructed there to house 10,000 evacuees.

Considerable work will have to be done to bring the land into intensive cultivation. Water is available.

The climate and soil are favorable for production of potatoes, field peas, small grains, and some other crops, as demonstrated by the type of agriculture carried on adjacent to the relocation area. Other possible work opportunities include the production of forest products, and the possible establishment of canning or dehydrating plants.

Minidoka

The Minidoka Relocation Area in southern Idaho, near Eden, consists of 17,000 acres owned by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. Construction of housing for 10,000 evacuees is now under way.

A constructive public works project will be the lining of the main canal now serving the region. The canal now loses enormous quantities of its water through seepage.

The land is suitable for intensive production of sugar beets, potatoes, beans, onions, and possibly some other crops. Construction during the first year of the necessary laterals and levelling of the land should bring about 5,000 acres into production by 1943.

Climatic conditions generally are favorable. There is a growing season of 138 days and annual rainfall is 8 to 10 inches.

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