

APPENDIX B

JAPANESE AMERICAN TIMELINE

The following timeline was adapted from U.S. War Relocation Authority (1946), Densho (n.d.) and the Japanese American National Museum (n.d.).

26 March 1790 - The U.S. Congress, in the Naturalization Act of March 26, 1790, states that "any alien, being a free white person who shall have resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for a term of two years, may be admitted to become a citizen thereof."

1873 - The phrase "persons of African nativity or descent" is added to the language of the act of 1790 thus allowing African Americans the right of citizenship but continuing to deny citizenship to Japanese and other Asian immigrants until 1952.

6 May 1882 - The U.S. Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act, ending Chinese immigration for the next 60 years.

8 February 1885 - The first 944 official Japanese immigrants arrive in Hawaii where they will be contract laborers on sugarcane plantations.

2 September 1885 - Anti-Chinese rioters set fire to Chinatown in Rock Springs, Wyoming, killing 28 Chinese miners and wounding 15, as a result of a swelling anti-Chinese reaction over cheap labor and strikebreakers. All 16 white suspects are acquitted.

1891 - Japanese immigrants arrive on the mainland U.S. for work primarily as agricultural laborers.

27 June 1894 - A U.S. district court rules that Japanese immigrants are not eligible to become citizens because each is not "a free white person" as the Naturalization Act of 1790 requires.

7 May 1900 - The first large-scale anti-Japanese protest in California is held, organized by various labor groups.

23 February 1905 - The *San Francisco Chronicle* front page headline reads "The Japanese Invasion: The Problem of the Hour." This headline helps launch a string of editorials against Japanese Americans thereby helping escalate racism towards the Japanese in the Bay Area.

14 May 1905 - The Asiatic Exclusion League is formed in San Francisco. In attendance are labor leaders and European immigrants, marking the first organized effort of the anti-Japanese movement.

11 October 1906 - The San Francisco Board of Education passes a resolution to segregate children of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean ancestry from the majority population.

1908 - Japan and the U.S. agree via the "Gentlemen's Agreement" to halt the migration of Japanese laborers to the United States. Japanese women are allowed to immigrate if they are wives of U.S. residents.

1913 - California passes the Alien Land Law, forbidding "all aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning land.

November 1920 - A new, more stringent 1920 Alien Land Law passes in California, intending to close loopholes found in the 1913 Alien Land Law.

1920 - Japanese American farmers produce \$67 million dollars worth of crops, more than ten percent of California's total crop value. At this time, 111,000 Japanese Americans live in the U.S. with over 25% of these born in the U.S. thus U.S. citizens.

19 July 1921 - White vigilantes deport 58 Japanese laborers from Turlock, California, driving them out by truck at gunpoint. Other incidents occur across California and in Oregon and Arizona.

13 November 1922 - The United States Supreme Court rules on the *Ozawa* case, reaffirming the ban on Japanese immigrants from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. This ban would last until 1952.

1924 - Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1924 effectively ending all Japanese immigration to the U.S.

November 1941 - A U.S. Intelligence report known as the "Munson Report" concludes that the great majority of Japanese Americans are loyal to the U.S. and do not pose a threat to national security in the event of war with Japan.

7 December 1941 - Japan bombs the Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii. Over 3,500 servicemen are wounded or killed. Martial law is declared in Hawaii.

7 December 1941 - The FBI begins arresting Japanese immigrants identified as community leaders: priests, Japanese language teachers, newspaper publishers, and heads of organizations. Within 48 hours, 1,291 are arrested. Most of these men would be incarcerated for the duration of the war, separated from their families.

8 December 1941 - A declaration of war against Japan is brought by the President and passed by the U.S. Congress.

December - January 1941 - The FBI searches thousands of Japanese American homes on the West Coast for contraband. Short wave radios, cameras, heirloom swords, and explosives used for clearing stumps in agriculture are among the items confiscated.

11 December 1941 - The Western Defense Command is established with Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt as the commander.

15 December 1941 - After a brief visit to Hawaii but without any evidence of sabotage, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announces to the press, "I think the most effective Fifth Column work of the entire war was done in Hawaii..."

19 February 1942 - President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 authorizing military authorities to exclude civilians from any area without trial or hearing. The order did not specify Japanese Americans--but they were the only group to be imprisoned as a result of it.

25 February 1942 - The U.S. Navy orders all Japanese Americans living on Terminal Island in the Port of Los Angeles--some 500 families--to leave within 48 hours. As the first group to be removed en masse, they incur especially heavy losses.

March 1942 - General DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command issues Public Proclamation #1 and begins the process of removing all persons of Japanese ancestry--U.S. citizens and aliens alike--living in the western halves of Washington State, California, Oregon, and parts of Arizona. A curfew goes into effect in these areas--all those of Japanese ancestry must remain at home from 8 pm to 6 am.

March 1942 - The Wartime Civil Control Administration opens 16 "Assembly Centers" to detain approximately 92,000 men, women, and children until the permanent incarceration camps are completed.

5 March 1942 - The State of California "releases" 34 Japanese American civil servants from their jobs.

18 March 1942 - The President signs Executive Order 9102 establishing the War Relocation Authority with Milton Eisenhower as director.

21 March 1942 - The first evacuees began to arrive at Manzanar Assembly Center.

24 March 1942 - The first Civilian Exclusion Order is issued by the Army for Bainbridge Island near Seattle, Washington. Forty-five families are given one week to prepare to depart.

27 March 1942 - The Army issues Public Proclamation #4 prohibiting voluntary evacuation. All Japanese Americans living in the western halves of Washington State, California and Oregon may not change residences without military approval.

28 March 1942 - Minoru Yasui walks into a Portland police station to surrender himself for arrest in order to test the curfew regulations in court.

May 1942 - The incarcerated begin transfer to permanent WRA incarceration facilities or "camps." They total ten: Manzanar, Poston, Gila River, Topaz, Granada, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Tule Lake, Jerome, and Rohwer.

16 May 1942 - University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi turns himself in to the authorities with a four-page statement explaining why he would not submit to the imprisonment on Constitutional grounds.

16 May 1942 - Hikoji Takeuchi, a Nisei, is shot by a guard at Manzanar. The guard claims that he shouted at Takeuchi and that Takeuchi began to run away from him. Takeuchi claims he was collecting scrap lumber and didn't hear the guard shout. His wounds indicated that he was shot in the front. Though seriously injured, he eventually recovered.

June 1942 - The movie "Little Tokyo, U.S.A." is released by Twentieth Century Fox. In it, the Japanese American community is portrayed as a "vast army of volunteer spies" and "blind worshipers of their Emperor", as described in the film's voice-over prologue.

3-6 June 1942 - The Allies victory at the Battle of Midway is significant, thus turning the advantage in the war to the United States.

12 July 1942 - Mitsuye Endo's attorney files a writ of habeas corpus on her behalf. The case wouldn't be decided upon until December 1944, but its ruling would signal the end of the incarceration camps.

4 August 1942 - A routine search for contraband at the Santa Anita "Assembly Center" turns into a riot. Eager military personnel had become overzealous and abusive which, along with the failure of several attempts to reach the camp's internal security chief, triggers mass unrest, crowd formation, and the harassing of the searchers. Military police with tanks and machine guns quickly end the incident. The overzealous military personnel are later replaced.

20 October 1942 - President Roosevelt calls the relocation centers "concentration camps" at a press conference. The WRA consistently denied that the term "concentration camps" accurately described the camps.

14 November 1942 - An attack on a man widely perceived as an informer results in the arrest of two popular inmates at Poston. The incident soon mushrooms into a mass strike.

5 December 1942 - Fred Tayama is attacked and seriously injured by a group of inmates at Manzanar. The arrest of the popular Harry Ueno for the crime triggers a mass uprising that leads to the deaths of two evacuees and injuries to nine more at the hands of the guards. Martial law is declared. Sixteen instigators of the uprising are removed from the center as are 65 evacuees targeted by the instigators.

January 1943 - The War Department announces the formation of a segregated unit of Japanese American soldiers, and calls for volunteers in Hawaii (where Japanese Americans were not incarcerated) and from among the men incarcerated in the camps.

1 February 1943 - The 442nd Regimental Combat Team is activated.

March 1943 - 10,000 Japanese American men volunteer for the armed services from Hawaii. 1,200 volunteer out of the relocation centers.

11 April 1943 - James Wakasa, a 63 year old chef, is shot to death by a sentry at Topaz Relocation Center while allegedly trying to escape through the perimeter fence. It is later determined that Wakasa had been inside the fence and facing the sentry when shot. The sentry would stand a general court martial and be found "not guilty."

13 April 1943 - According to General John L. DeWitt, head, Western Defense Command "A Jap's a Jap. There is no way to determine their loyalty...This coast is too vulnerable. No Jap should come back to this coast except on a permit from my office."

21 June 1943 - The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the curfew and exclusion orders in *Hirabayashi v. U.S.* and *Yasui v. U.S.*

13 September 1943 - From the results of the "loyalty questionnaire," "loyal" evacuees from Tule Lake begin to depart to other centers and "disloyal" evacuees from other centers begin to arrive at Tule Lake.

4 November 1943 - The Tule Lake uprising caps a month of strife. Tension had been high since the administration fired 43 coal workers involved in a labor dispute on October 7.

January 1944 - The War Department imposes the draft on Japanese American men, including those incarcerated in the centers. The vast majority comply, a few hundred resist and are brought up on federal charges. Most of the resisters are imprisoned in a federal penitentiary.

10 May 1944 - 63 Heart Mountain draft resisters are indicted by a federal grand jury. On June 26th the 63 are found guilty and sentenced to jail terms in federal penitentiaries. The 63 were pardoned on December 24, 1947 by President Truman.

24 May 1944 - Shoichi James Okamoto is shot to death at Tule Lake by a guard after stopping a construction truck at the main gate for permission to pass. The guard would be acquitted after being fined a dollar for “unauthorized use of government property”– a bullet.

18 December 1944 - The U.S. Supreme Court decides that Fred Korematsu was indeed guilty of remaining in a military area contrary to the exclusion order. This case challenged the constitutionality of the entire exclusion process.

2 January 1945 - The War Department announces that the exclusion orders are rescinded after the Supreme Court rules in the Endo case that "loyal" citizens could not be lawfully detained.

8 January 1945 - The packing shed of the Doi family is burned and dynamited, and shots are fired into their home. The family had been the first to return to California from the Amache Relocation Center, and the first to return to Placer County three days earlier. Although several men are arrested and confess to the acts, all would be acquitted. Some thirty similar incidents would greet other Japanese Americans returning to the West Coast between January and June 1945.

7 May 1945 - Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe.

6 August 1945 - The U.S. drops the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. Japan surrenders on August 14th.

August 1945 - Approximately 44,000 evacuees remain in the relocation centers. Many have nowhere to go having lost their homes and jobs. Many are afraid of anti-Japanese hostility and refuse to leave.

20 March 1946 - Tule Lake "Segregation Center" closes. This is the last War Relocation Authority facility to close.

15 July 1946 - "You not only fought the enemy but you fought prejudice... and you won." These were the words of President Truman on the White House lawn as he received the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

30 June 1947 - U.S. District Court Judge Louis E. Goodman orders that the petitioners in Wayne Collins' suit of 13 December 1945 be released. Native-born American citizens could not be converted to enemy aliens and could not be imprisoned or sent to Japan on the basis of renunciation.

2 July 1948 - President Truman signs the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act. Approximately \$38 million was paid from this act, only a small fraction of the estimated loss in income and property.

June 1952 - The Senate and House override President Truman's veto and vote the Walter-McCarren Act into law. This bill grants Japan a token immigration quota and allows Japanese immigrants to become naturalized U.S. citizens.

1980 - The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians is established calling for a congressional committee to investigate the detention program and the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066.

1981 - The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians holds hearings in 10 locations. They hear testimony from over 750 witnesses.

1983 - The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians issues its report, *Personal Justice Denied*, on February 24th and its *Recommendations*, on June 16th. The *Recommendations* call for a presidential apology and a \$20,000 payment to each of the approximately 60,000 surviving persons excluded from their places of residence pursuant to Executive Order 9066.

1983 - 1988 - The wartime convictions of Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu (the three men who protested the curfew and/or incarceration orders) are vacated ("nullified") on the basis of newly discovered evidence that the U.S. military lied to the Supreme Court in the original proceedings.

10 August 1988 - President Ronald Reagan signs HR 442 into law. It acknowledges that the incarceration of more than 110,000 individuals of Japanese descent was unjust, and offers an apology and reparation payments of \$20,000 to each person incarcerated.

9 October 1990 - In a Washington D.C. ceremony, the first nine redress payments are made.

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