



From the Commander

With this edition, we start the sixth year of publishing *Beyond the Wire*. It was difficult to produce the first few editions because the editors had only their own resources available for material. But as time went on, we started to receive much of our material from contributors, and the depth and variety of articles became more sophisticated. What started out as a simple newsletter has now evolved into a journal with articles of true literary significance. In fact, the quality and subject matter of some of the articles we have published has been so high that we frequently receive requests to reprint them in other journals and media.

Some of the most interesting articles have been contemporaneous accounts and extracts from the diaries people kept while interned. *Caroling During Blackouts* by Isabelle Holter and submitted by her daughter, Heather Ellis, tells about Christmas of 1944 and how the family made the holiday a little brighter during the darkest time in Santo Tomas. *My Story of Santo Tomas* by Sarah England and submitted by Sally England Brown was published in two parts, the first about the night of liberation and the second about the Japanese shelling of the camp. And *Last Days in Los Baños* from Margie Squires' diary tells about the strange behavior of the guards and the rumors that swept through the camp in the last six weeks before liberation.

Stories of returning to America after those bitter years were always heartwarming. We kicked off this *Going Home* series with my own story about coming to America on a troopship after liberation from Santo Tomas. This was followed by the personal experience of repatriation by Sascha Jansen, Curtis Brooks, Karen Kerns, and Ted Cadwallader. Margaret Sams contributed a heartwarming account of an exchange of letters with a movie star titled *A Letter to Deanna Durbin*. And in this issue, John Montesa tells his story of returning from Los Baños in *At Last Homeward Bound*.

Other stories told us more about the camps, such as Robert Wheeler's *The Angels Came at Dawn*, and John Ream's *The Rescue of Bilibid*, which told about the liberation of Los Baños and Bilibid. John also wrote the interesting story of Herb Swick, a mining engineer and Arizona national guardsman who was captured and incarcerated and tortured in Baguio, until he escaped and returned to bedevil the Japanese as a guerilla. The article titled *Ingenuity*, submitted by Katie Sobeck, told about Fabian Ream casting aluminum dentures for himself in the Baguio camp. And in *Ingenuity II* Len Baker told about becoming an apprentice chemist, making pills for the hospital

Commander, continued on Page 2

Corregidor Under Siege Again

Outrageous insult to the Filipino people

By Sascha Jansen, Senior Vice Commander

Corregidor - this lofty Grand Dame's shared history with Spain since 1570, and America since 1898, tells an intricate tale of great history and lore of the Philippines. The scenic views, seen from all sides of this bastion of rock in Manila Bay, congers up history like no other in the world.

Over the years Corregidor was many things to many battles and sieges. But none as important as the two most costly sieges and pitched battles during WWII - the first few months of the war in the Philippines, when the Japanese invaded Manila, and the second in 1945, when the U.S. Armed Forces returned to retake it's possessions once again.

Take a good look at her today. Corregidor stands as a historically beautiful, yet grim reminder of battles lost and won, and of lives destroyed and saved. Her intricate tunnels tell stories of formidable men and women holding their own in defense of their inalienable rights to stay free. Most of the ravaged buildings have not been restored, and left how they were after WWII in reverence to the Filipino and American soldiers who died there.

Sadly, there is another siege beginning - another tragic segment surfacing today on Corregidor. There is a scourge taking over the sacred grounds of the meaningful Pacific War Memorials built to honor American and Filipino soldiers from WWII, and other beautiful Memorials such as The Eternal Flame of Freedom, the Corregidor Lighthouse, the Japanese Memorial, MacArthur Memorial, and the Filipino Heroes Memorial. The placement and vulgar usage of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), and cheap sports dramatization of Zip Lines, are all created to enhance tourism on the Rock. What next, pray tell, a Casino or two to bring in the dirty money to replace the historic reverence that this piece of land stands for? Money Speaks! In this case - grubby money. Cumshaw? You can bet on it.

The history of valor and remembrance of those valiant Filipino and American men who shed their blood and fought side by side in WWII will fall by the wayside if people don't stand up and preserve the rights of their fallen heroes.

The very idea of the unimaginable destruction and honky tonk desecration of one of our most amazing and historical

Corregidor continued on Page 2

Commander continued from Page 1

in Santo Tomas, which shaped his future career

Some of the more graphic articles told about the grimmer aspects of the war. Joseph Romero told about his personal experience in Manila while the fighting and Japanese massacre of civilians was going on all around him in *The Battle for Manila*. *Heroes Unseen* by Sascha Jansen told a story about what happened to a family friend who became a Filipina resistance fighter captured and tortured by the Japanese. Lou Jurika, in a two part story titled *A Philippine Odyssey*, told how guerilla fighter Major Tom Jurika returned to Luzon with MacArthur and started to search for his missing mother at Santo Tomas, then Bilibid and Los Baños, haunting the battlefield in Manila and continuing his search until the war ended, only to discover that she had been executed by the Japanese. Lou followed up with an article about Richard Sakakida, a Japanese-American intelligence agent with the Japanese who had witnessed his grandmother's trial and execution. And in this issue is my pictorial essay *The Demon Commandant of Santo Tomas*.

Other articles filled in our knowledge about the Philippines, such as Mike Houlahan's *American Gurkhas – The Philippine Scouts*, which told about these tough fighters who were America's premier fighting unit. *American Presence in the Philippines* by Fred Baldassare tells how the American civilian

community developed and became integrated with Filipino society and how it served the military as they defended against the Japanese invasion in 1941-42. *Pan Am Clipper Ship – Pacific Inaugural Flights* by Sascha Jansen on the 75th anniversary of the first flights to Manila told how the air service to the Far East started and its importance to the Philippines.

Another educational two-part story completed in this issue by Lee Allen, *The Other "Internees"*, tells what really happened to the Japanese-Americans who were relocated from the West Coast of the U.S. in 1942. The reasons for the relocation and the treatment of those people have been completely distorted in recent years by politicians and the media, and this history gives us a clear-eyed look at what really happened.

Other stories, editorials, book reviews and squibs filled the pages of *Beyond the Wire*, which has been praised many times over by readers who receive it by mail, on the Internet, and from our Website. We the editors are proud of what this journal has become and are grateful to the many contributors. To keep up the high quality of its content, we encourage you to submit articles for publication. We are particularly interested in photos, sketches, and cartoons, so those of you with special talents please share them with us. It is you, our readers and contributors, who give this journal its heart and soul.

Angus Lorenzen

Corregidor continued from Page 1

WWII sites has most of us bleeding and crying within. Not only are these unimaginable atrocities committed in the name of sports and fun, trampling on hallowed grounds, but also has those memories of the fallen and dear men who lost their lives for the Philippines been snuffed out.

Our two countries shared a devastating journey during WWII. Our men and women fought and died for a freedom from Japanese atrocities. Do not turn your backs on your country's heroes – do not turn your backs on your fallen countrymen whose souls keep Corregidor alive.

They say to you - We fought, and now we lay in nameless places.

They say to you - We were so very young.

They say to you - We thank you for your remembrance. May we now rest in peace.

Anonymous

If you are just as angry and concerned as we are, please write to the following to express your opinion. Please write to each name listed below. Remember – each one of us can make a difference.

Col. Art Matibag-Director-Corregidor Foundation (CFI): agmcfi@gmail.com

Divine Ronquillo – CFI – dgmronquillo@yahoo.com

Ms. Kristine Castro – SunCruises Marketing – kpcastro@suncruises.com.ph (Sun Cruises owns the ATVs and Zip Lines)

Secty of the Department of Tourism - Ramon R. Jimenez

RRJimenezJr@Tourism.gov.ph

MINI-REUNION LUNCHEON

BACEPOW will be holding a mini reunion luncheon in Sacramento on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento, where we held our highly successful reunion last April. For those who are coming from out of town, we have negotiated a room rate of \$149. This includes room, buffet breakfast, airport shuttle from Sacramento International Airport, and a Managers complimentary cocktail party each evening. For room reservations, [call 1-800-Embassy](tel:1-800-Embassy) and mention BACEPOW. Or call [1-916-326-5000](tel:1-916-326-5000).

For the free shuttle, call Embassy Suites at 916-326-5000 when you have collected your baggage. Hours of pick up – 6am to 10pm

The speaker will be noted author, Bruce Henderson, who will discuss how he researches his historical books, including some notes on his upcoming book about Los Banos Internment Camp. **Registration/ Reception - 10:30 – 12:00 Lunch – 12:00**

Contact Sascha Jansen for more information at 707-448-2909 or at Mabuhayma@aol.com

Luncheon will be **\$34.00 for members and \$36.00 for non-members**. Reservations are due by January 15. Please send your check and menu selection to:

**Sally Connelly
4 Hidalgo Court
Santa Fe, NM 87508**

Menu selections:

Chilled Roast Beef Sandwich - with Cheddar Cheese, Horseradish Cream on Sour Dough, Home Style Potato Salad and Fresh Fruit Garnish, Soup of the Day, Chef's Choice Dessert. Coffee /Tea

Vegetarian Wrap – Grilled Vegetables, Avocado, Baby Spinach, Tomatoes, Mushrooms, Cucumber and Napa Cabbage in a Spinach Tortilla. Home style Potato Salad and Fresh Fruit Garnish. Soup of the Day. Chef's Choice of Dessert, Coffee/Tea.

The Demon Commandant of Santo Tomas

By Angus Lorenzen



In early 1944, conditions became grim for the prisoners in Santo Tomas Internment Camp when the Japanese military police took over its administration. Rules were tightened, all contact with people outside the camp was forbidden, packages were no longer delivered, a barb-wire fence was built inside the walls necessitating the removal of many shanties, and the Japanese took over procurement and distribution of food. But the situation turned from bad to worse when Lt. Colonel Hayashi, with his right hand man Lt. Abiko, took over as commandant.

Under Hayashi's administration, food supplied to the prisoners declined to between 700 and 800 calories per person per day. By the end of the year, the death rate increased to 1% of the prisoner population per month, and continued to climb into 1945. Punishments for minor infractions became harsher. He jailed the senior internee doctor for refusing to change death certificates that named malnutrition as the cause of death. In January of 1945, he arrested four members of the internee Executive Committee for unknown reasons (one of whom was a case of mistaken identity), and they were subsequently found executed.

When the American 1st Cavalry broke into the camp on the evening of February 3, 1945, Hayashi and most of his garrison retreated to the Education Building, taking 218 prisoners as hostages. Lt. Abiko died shortly afterwards under mysterious circumstances. It is generally believed that he was shot when he was conferring with a group of American officers and reached for a suicide grenade.

Hayashi and his garrison initiated a firefight with the Americans surrounding the Education Building, but after a short fight with casualties on both sides, the Japanese dispersed among the prisoners, and it became quiet. Negotiations were initiated, and an agreement was eventually reached to release the hostages in exchange for allowing the Japanese to leave the camp with their weapons and wounded, to be released beyond the American lines in a district of Manila that they chose.

On the morning of February 5 after almost 2 days of the hostage crisis, the Japanese marched out of the camp between two columns of American troopers. Shortly after their release, they encountered a band of Filipino guerillas operating in the Japanese occupied district, and in the ensuing battle, Hayashi and most of his troops were killed.

The final release of the last of the Santo Tomas prisoners was cause for a huge celebration in the Plaza in front of the Main Building, which is shown in the famous Life Magazine photo.



At Last - Homeward Bound!

By John Montesa

On the morning of 23 February, 1945 we were 2,146 American and Allied nationals held as civilian internees by the Imperial Japanese Army in the Los Baños Internment Camp. In the evening of that thrilling, exciting and surreal long day we were 2,146 giddy, happy souls, rescued by paratroopers of the 511th Airborne in a daring and successful raid behind enemy lines. That night we were safely ensconced in the field evacuation hospital set up by the U.S. Army in New Bilibid Prison near the small town of Muntinlupa well beyond the Japanese lines. Oh, the euphoria ... the euphoria of it all !

In the field evacuation hospital we all underwent the necessary processing and soon individuals and families were establishing their own daily routines. Going home as soon as possible was the goal of all. What seemed interminable was the long, long wait, day after day, for available ocean transport back to 'Stateside'. Was it really that long from 23 February to about 13 April - a period of 49 days? You bet it was! Now, sixty-seven years later I can only smile wryly at that assumption; it was a piece of cake.

At last, approaching mid-April, we transported by army trucks to the port area of Manila to board the U.S.S. Admiral E. W. Eberle [APA-123] which was anchored out in Manila bay. This was a troop transport capable of carrying 4,751 troops and could maintain a speed of 16 knots; on a par with the fastest enemy submarine of that time. Ascending the ship's ladder and stepping onto the steel main deck was an introduction to a unique sea-going experience for all of us ex-internees.

Designed for the war effort, this ship had staterooms, dining halls and regular bathroom and toilet facilities only in the superstructure above the main deck that was reserved for officers and ladies; enlisted men were assigned to bunks stacked five high in the bowels of a vessel without air-conditioning. Here toilet facilities consisted of open latrines, which were constantly flushed twenty-four hours a day with salt water pumped in from the sea. Salt-water showers and salt-water soap provided for one's personal hygiene. Try working up a lather with that soap! All males twelve years of age and over were assigned to these quarters. Up above in the superstructure, females, small children and babies were assigned to the officer's quarters. All of us males ate our meals standing up at narrow counters in the troop's mess-deck: this was a troop transport, not a luxury liner on a cruise. Outbound troops would remember it as miserable and it was, but for us, what the heck, we were free, homeward bound, eating three meals a day and dressed in brand new clothing - U.S. Army olive drab without insignia. After over three years in the camps what could be better than that?

On April 13, 1945 in the late afternoon, the Eberle weighed anchor and steamed out of Manila Bay, passing shell-pocked Corregidor. A course was set for the San Bernardino Strait to the east between the southern tip of Luzon and the island of Samar. At sundown all passengers and ship's company had to leave the open deck and go below. The ship was darkened, hatches were dogged and no one was permitted back on deck until sunrise. This was a precaution that continued throughout our voyage in the event of a possible enemy submarine attack. The nights were less than pleasant in that hot,

crowded sweatbox of a hold.

The following morning found us well into the Sibuyan Sea, located in the central Visayas, site of one of the four major engagements comprising the naval battle for Leyte Gulf, world history's greatest naval conflict of all time. Below the water's surface were the remains of the Imperial Japanese Navy, which was destroyed here four months earlier. On this day however the sky was blue and clear, the sea was calm and the surrounding islands were a beautiful jade green. We were on a Caribbean cruise... well, not really, but it sure beat the last three years.

Within a few days of exiting the San Bernardino Strait, zig-zagging towards the Ulithi Atoll, the former POWs had established various routines to pass the days which would otherwise have been more boring than they were. There were letters, books and magazines to be read, diaries and manuscripts to pen, radio news broadcasts to absorb. But wait... all of those older teen-agers and young adults had energy to spare now that they had all they could eat. There had to be a release and fortunately there was. The ship's executive officer had some crewmembers set up a record player and speakers on a cleared portion of the forward main deck. We all looked forward to the two-hour dance period in the afternoons between two and four o'clock; spectators as well. We danced our way across the Pacific. How about that? A caution however: when the ship 'zigged', all the dancers had to 'zag' or go sprawling onto the deck.

Astounding, astonishing and awesome are the only words that can describe what met our sight upon arrival at Ulithi. The horizon, from one end to the other was filled with all manner of warships and auxiliary vessels to transport troops and war materials for the invasion of the Japanese mainland. The Eberle's call there was unknown to us and our stay was only for a few hours before we were on our way once again. Our next port of call would be Pearl Harbor thousands of miles to the east, a distance perhaps more than doubled due to our zig-zag course. Once again the interminable and thankfully uneventful voyage continued, though we did practice a lot of life-boat drills. The enemy submarine menace was deemed to be practically nil but it must be remembered that three months after our voyage, on the night of July 30, 1945 a lone Japanese sub did sink the USS Indianapolis, the heavy cruiser that was enroute to Leyte Gulf from Guam after delivering the atom bomb to the island of Tinian for further delivery by a B-29 to Hiroshima. In retrospect, the voyage should have been a nail-biter; but none of us aboard the Eberle were concerned. We were more than happy to be where we were, torpedoes, mines, and sharks notwithstanding.

Immediately upon arriving at Pearl Harbor on a late April morning, FBI and U.S. Immigration agents came aboard to insure that all of the ex-internees were entitled to enter the United States. Surprisingly, a few could not prove U.S. citizenship or other national identity. These unfortunates were classified as displaced persons. Other foreigners who had been in the camps were now attempting to enter the U.S. on visas that had expired during their internment camp sojourn. These unhappy persons were removed from the ship for further disposition. Upon the conclusion of the investigation by the authorities the Eberle got underway once again. Our stay in Hawaii was less than twenty-four hours.

At last on the morning of May 2, 1945 we arrived off

the California coast just outside of the harbor of San Pedro. A marine layer obscured the sight of land and, as is the maritime protocol, a harbor pilot brought the vessel into the harbor and to the pier. The voyage had taken only twenty days. Why did it seem to take forever? Because on the USS Admiral E.W. Eberle, operating on Manila time, there were forty-eight hours in each day!

Greeting us on the pier was one of the popular dance bands of the time and singer Dinah Shore; all very welcoming but more appropriate for heroic, returning troops. We were more concerned in getting to our final destinations. On and on played the band and on and on sang Dinah Shore and on and on we groused. We wanted off! OFF! Finally in the late afternoon we disembarked and boarded Gray Line tour buses for the Elks Club located in the center of the city of Los Angeles.

I remember entering the great hall of the Elks Club. The chandeliers hanging from the high ceiling were lit up like the 4th of July. The hall was crowded with ex-internees and their friends and relatives who had come to greet and welcome them to America. For some Americans this was the first time that they had been to the U.S.; they had been born on some foreign soil. In a way, this arrival was very dream-like; but reality quickly set in.

Immediately after we were individually checked off as having arrived at the Elks Club, all draft-age males were required to register for Selective Service. Can you imagine that I would be returning west on the troop-ship U.S.S. Admiral E.W. Eberle for the invasion of Japan? That would be too, too much. Quoting Tom Hank's movie character, Forrest Gump, "Life is a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get."

The Other "Internees"

Part 2

In Part 1 of this article, Lee Allen described the military and intelligence imperative that led to the relocation of Japanese citizens and Japanese-Americans on the West coast during 1942. He also describes how the congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), concluded in 1982 that the motives for relocation were racism, hysteria and lack of political will, ignoring the declassified information that proved otherwise. This coupled with repetition in media and government sources led to the monetary compensation and government sponsorship of a particular version of revisionist history, including millions of tax dollars spent or committed to propaganda supporting the findings of CWRIC. The Smithsonian Institution even accepted a large donation from a Japanese Class A war criminal to help pay for its flawed exhibition on the subject. In this second part, Lee describes the actual treatment of those who were relocated, which matches the stories of most Nisei who were in the relocation camps, but is considerably different from what has now become the public and politically correct version.

The attack on Pearl Harbor changed history for our country. We were at war with Japan and shortly would be with Germany and Italy. Our economy had to be restructured to a war-time footing. Major disruption of lives, dislocation of people and attendant hardships were the result.

With the Pacific Fleet crippled, Hawaii exposed, and the West Coast poorly defended, there was considerable concern over the threat from within posed by those of Japanese ancestry who were part of Japan's intelligence effort set up in 1941 to function in the event of war. Our government knew that both Japanese and Japanese-Americans were involved in Japan's intelligence organization; but didn't know exactly who.

Enemy Aliens

The first action came against Japanese, German and Italian citizens by the FBI, which had been compiling lists of suspected enemy agents. Presidential Proclamation 2525 dated December 8, 1941¹ classified all citizens of Japan as "alien enemies" and stripped them of their protections under the U.S. Constitution, making them subject to internment and confiscation of property without legal restraint. Similar proclamations did the same for German and Italian citizens. The Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilian (CWRIC) all but ignored the implications of this classification.

Those rounded up by the FBI throughout the country were given a hearing before a board of prominent citizens, which could recommend their internment or release. [IA 125]ⁱⁱ Often, because of a lack of more concrete evidence against in-

dividuals, they were interned based on their position of leadership in an organization or activity within the Japanese community. About 2,600 Japanese were interned out of a total of 126,947 persons of Japanese ancestry in the U.S. [IA 8:93]

The government allowed the families of those interned to voluntarily join them in Department of Justice Detention Facilities. In early 1945, 5,600 Nisei (U.S. citizens by birth), also joined them because they renounced their U.S. citizenship.

All those interned were afforded protection under the provisions of the Geneva Convention even though its provisions did not apply to enemy aliens. This was done in the hope that Japan would reciprocate. [IA 322;2] [IA119; 1-10] [IA116;1-2] Detention Facilities were regularly visited by representatives of the Spanish Government, who looked out for Japanese interests, and by the International Red Cross who passed on their complaints to the U.S. Government including one about being forced to eat long-grain white rice.

Hawaii

Japanese-Americans in Hawaii were treated differently from those on the West Coast. Instead of evacuation, Hawaii was placed under Martial Law, and consisting of islands and easily controlled, this solution provided the necessary security. However, 1,118 individuals were evacuated to Relocation Centers on the mainland [IA 2:23] and several hundred were taken into custody and interned in Dept. of Justice Detention Centers. [IA 258:1]

West Coast

President Roosevelt made the decision to evacuate all people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast when he signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. The popular understanding of the event is that the evacuation consisted of rounding them all up, shipping them out and keeping them interned for the duration of the war, which is not true. In fact the evacuation affected only those of Japanese ancestry living in the western halves of Washington and Oregon, all of California, and the southern part of Arizona. Japanese in other parts of the country were unaffected except for 219 individuals who petitioned the government to be allowed to reside in the Relocation Centers, no doubt a first in the history of "concentration camps". [IA 2;23].

The evacuation was carried out generally in three phases. First, those affected were urged to leave the exclusion area voluntarily and move to the interior. By March 29, 1942 some 9,000 had left.

When it became clear that voluntary evacuation wouldn't get the job done, it was decided to move the rest of the people into 10 centers located in the western U.S., from which they could be relocated to the interior once a suitable work and living situation was found. It was no coincidence that the first two areas evacuated were San Pedro and Bainbridge Island, the two areas mentioned in the intercepted Magic messages outlining espionage organizing and efforts.

Since the President placed a priority on swift action, those to be evacuated were first moved to Assembly Centers at facilities such as fairgrounds and racetracks along the West Coast, where some accommodations already existed and others could be quickly built. A small number of people moved directly to what was to become the Manzanar Relocation Center in Southern California.

The Army handled the movement to Assembly Centers and thence to Relocation Centers, when they were built. At the Relocation Centers, the program was supervised by the War Relocation Authority (WRA), an agency initially formed under the Executive Office of the President and in 1943 transferred to the Department of the Interior.

Claims have been made that those evacuated could only bring with them what they could carry. In fact they brought with them anything that could be carried to the pick-up points where they boarded buses to the Assembly Centers. Their baggage was loaded on trucks and moving vans and taken to the Centers. (See photos at archives doc 311.)

Various governmental agencies were used to handle issues related to the evacuation and lessen the impact on those involved. The Federal Reserve handled evacuee property protection and the storage of all types of personal property. The Farm Security Administration handled the disposal of crops in the field, arranged storage for farm equipment and settled leases. For a first-hand account of how this was handled see archives document 1. The Federal Security Agency was responsible for providing all necessary social and public health services. The U.S. Public Health Service examined "each evacuee for communicable diseases...undertook the acquisition of infirmary and hospital equipment and medical supplies for Assembly Centers", and supervised the entire medical program within the centers. Also involved were, among others, the U.S. Employment Services and, U.S. Post Office.

Evacuees were assigned family apartments based on the number of family members. Food was served cafeteria fashion, and was based on the Army subsistence rate of 50 cents per day (\$7.06 in 2012 dollars), and an effort was made to accommodate the tastes of the evacuees. [IA 8;196] Some centers even had commercial dishwashing equipment. There were center newspapers, movies and other recreational activities. Later, at the Relocation Centers, tofu and pickling factories were set up to enhance the preferred diet of the evacuees.

It was during the transition between Assembly Centers and the larger, new Relocation Centers that the issue of repatriation arose. Most of those involved in the Gripsholm exchange were Japanese citizens living outside the exclusion area, diplomatic and business people from the east. Requests for repatriation or expatriation to Japan, which started early in the evacuation process, continued throughout the war years, reaching a total of 20,627, 17% of those under WRA control. The number of requests decreased significantly in late 1944 when the handwriting was on the wall concerning the defeat of Japan. [IA 2;172]

Relocation Centers

Trains transporting evacuees to the Relocation Centers had dining cars if two or more meals were required in transit. Lunches were provided for shorter trips. Baggage that could not be accommodated in two baggage cars was forwarded to the Relocation Center by freight. Sleeping accommodations were provided for the elderly, infirm and women with babies. [IA 8;296]

Evacuees were assigned to Relocation Centers largely based on the area of the West Coast they came from. The Centers were constructed along the lines of a semi-permanent Army facility. Housing blocks included 12 barrack buildings 20'X100' divided into family apartments. Each block included a mess hall/kitchen, a recreation building and an H shaped building with toilet and bath facilities for men and women and a laundry room and a heater room. [IA 8;272]

A measure of the care taken to provide evacuees with suitable facilities was the design of the hospital. The norm was a 250-bed facility. The hospital buildings provide space for the principal medical activities carried on in any metropolitan community. Such facilities as modern surgeries, obstetrical and isolation wards, X-ray rooms, a morgue and a full-equipped laundry were included. All buildings were steam heated. [IA 8;272]

Included in the administrative area of the Center was warehousing, with a refrigerated warehouse. Schools, churches and recreational facilities were central to the complex. Banks, post offices, stores, beauty parlors, newspapers, (See archive doc 199 for an early edition of the Manzanar Free Press) and other facilities usually found in a small community were provided. [IA 314; Photos] There were jobs with pay, and after initial settling-in, there was free movement to visit local towns. [IA 145;5]

As could be expected in any such mass movement there were problems. Establishing a community government under democratic principles was not without its tribulations, but on the whole the centers were effectively run.

Relocation

Over 4,000 students, both U.S. citizens and Japanese,

were relocated to colleges and Universities during the course of the war.ⁱⁱⁱ The program was organized by a coalition brought together by the American Friends Service Committee and the National Student Relocation Council. [IA 178;14].

Even before relocation offices were formally opened, resettlement committees had been established in many Midwestern cities. Groups of concerned individuals representing many interests in the communities, particularly the churches, formed resettlement committees. By the close of FY 1943 there were 42 of these relocation offices scattered from Spokane to Boston. [IA 178;20]

Several problems slowed relocation, but by the end of December 1944 there were 35,989 individuals who had been relocated on indefinite and terminal leave. [IA 2;45] Considering the number of children and old folks involved in the evacuation, this number represented a significant portion of those who could both work and speak English.

Loyalty

The issue of loyalty was central to the evacuation. When on January 28, 1943 it "was announced that the War Department would soon create an all Nisei combat team to be composed of volunteer Japanese-Americans including many from relocation centers...it was decided to conduct a special registration of male Nisei, 17 years and older at all relocation centers."

Included in the questionnaire used for this purpose was question #28, the so-called loyalty question, and a similar question was used for female citizens.

"Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of American and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?" [IA 2;177]

17% of male Nisei, answered NO to this question, a total of 3,421. Another 517 either qualified their answer or left it blank. 81% or 16,435 had no problem proclaiming their loyalty to the U.S. by answering YES. [IA 2;180] Those answering NO were shortly thereafter shipped to the Tule Lake Center, which was re-designated a Segregation Center.

CWRIC in its selective study of the evacuation concluded "That there was no evidence that any individual American citizen was actively disloyal to his country". [PJD 28] It found the loyalty program, "did not extend the presumption of loyalty to Americans citizens of Japanese descent.... and was conducted so insensitively, with such a lack of understanding of the evacuees' circumstances that it became one of the most divisive and wrenching episodes of the camp detention." [PJD 13] It was meant to be divisive. It was intended to divide the loyal from the disloyal, and it seemed to work pretty well. Later a large number of those who answered NO petitioned the U.S. government to be allowed to return to Japan in order to fight with the Imperial forces, [428;3] and when the opportunity arose, voluntarily renounced their U.S. citizenship. [IA 2;192-3]

Photos of some of these disloyals conducting military style drills, Banzai cheers, and ceremonies honoring the emperor reveal the extent of their actions. [IA 315;] Any person with the faintest understanding of Japanese operations before and during the war cannot help but imagine the trouble these disloyals and others like them would have caused were they running loose on the West Coast. Evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry

was the price paid to ensure they did not.

Compensation

Despite efforts to secure the property and minimize losses of those evacuated, there were some losses. A detailed account of the handling of property concluded, "Individual losses vary in amount from a few hundred to many thousand dollars. ... However, a bill is being ... forwarded to the Congress." [AI 5;111-112]

In 1948 Congress passed the Japanese-American Evacuation Claims Act under which over 20,000 claims were paid for a total of \$38 million or over \$350 million in 2012 dollars. In 1972 evacuees over the age of 18 were "deemed to have earned and contributed to the Social Security system during their detention." In 1978 evacuees were given "civil service retirement credit for time spent after the age of eighteen." [PJD 461]

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which accepted the CWRIC report, authorized the payment of \$20,000 and an apology to those yet living who had participated in the evacuation. Only those who returned to Japan during the war were excluded. Payment went to those who voluntarily left the West Coast before the evacuation, those who were Japanese citizens, those who were born in the Relocation and Detention centers (over 6,000), and those who attended college.

The redress program even included those who professed loyalty to Japan, those who demonstrated on behalf of the Emperor, and those who petitioned the government to be allowed to return to Japan and fight for the Emperor and renounced their U.S. citizenship. It also included those who worked in Japan's intelligence networks and those who knew about this activity and didn't report it. Even special phone numbers were established in Japan to allow people to start the process of establishing their claim. [IA 217;] "Approximately 29 individuals refused payment" a small but not insignificant number. [IA 110;]

The cost to our country has gone far beyond the money involved. The fraudulent account of this trying period in our history, oft repeated in our media and never truthfully taught in our schools, has taken a toll on the confidence in our nation and in its institutions.

Senator S. I. Hayakawa testified before Congress that the effort to seek redress for the Japanese-American evacuation "makes my flesh crawl with shame." One wonders what this master of words would have to say about the situation thirty years later. [AI 206;8]

Footnotes

i Go to Internmentarchives.com, select "Special Reports, select "Critique of the Smithsonian Institution's Exhibit: 'A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution,'" Click on "Next: Table of Contents," then click on "Appendix 5" for a copy of Presidential Proclamation 2525.

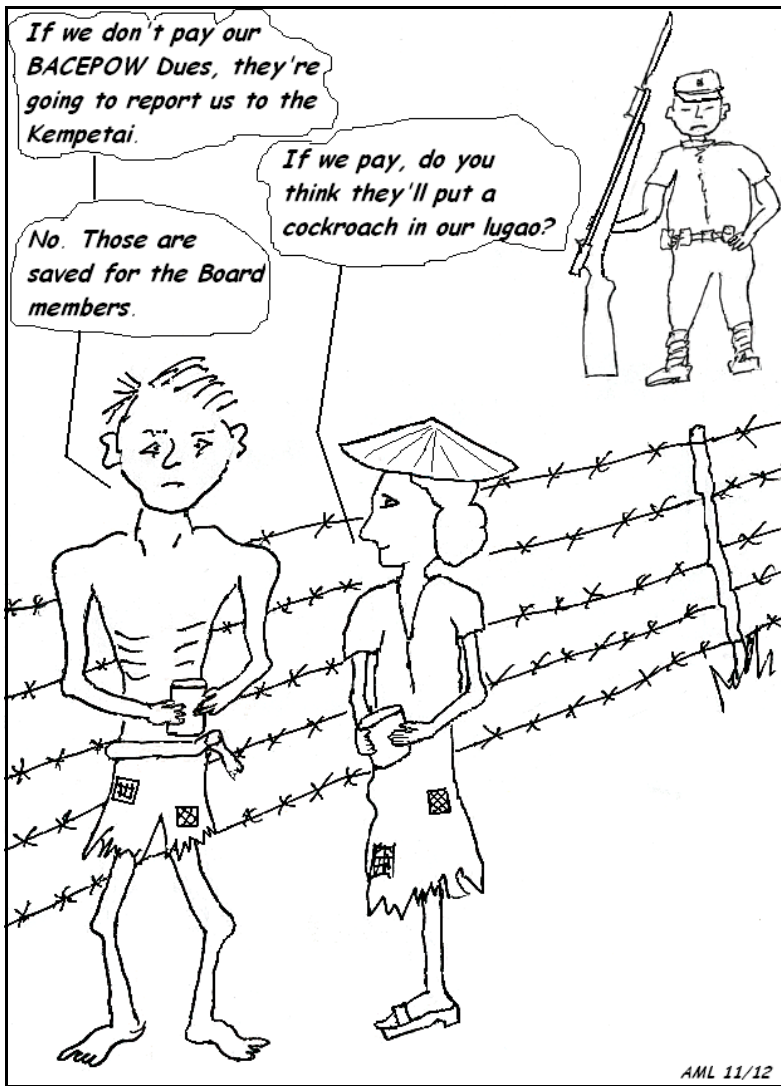
ii [IA 125;1] The numbers represent respectively the document and page on which the reference may be found at www.internmentarchives.com. Go to the site, click on "Search Archives", scroll to the bottom of the page where it says "Jump to Document," insert the document and page number and click on "Go." Note: The document and page numbers are archive specific and not related to either book or document pages.

iii Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund edition, University of Washington Press, 1997, p. 181. (All references to PJD refer to this edition.)

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