

## FORCED MIGRATION

personal memorandum to the Capital condoning strict evacuation of all Japanese west of the Cascade mountains. "Though some have become 'Americanized'" he said, "the racial strains are undiluted...assume that...though born and raised here, will turn against this nation when the final test of loyalty comes."

The Hearst columnist newspaper man, Henry McLemore wrote, "Herd'em up, pack'em off..." into the Dakotas. The public in their letters to the Editors generally opined much the same thing. But, the opposition was also there, although sparse. J. E. Hoover director of the F.B.I opposed relocation camps. Elmer Davis, Director of OWI, wrote to the President, officially: "...as citizens ourselves who believe deeply in the things for which we fight, we cannot help but be disturbed by the insistent public misunderstandings of the Nisei; competent authorities, including Naval Intelligence people, say that 85% of the Nisei are loyal to their country and that it is possible to distinguish the sheep from the goats...[Axis] propaganda to the Philippines, Burma, and elsewhere insist it is a racial war. We can combat this effectively with counter propaganda only if our deeds permit us to tell the truth." Yet, at this time, even the renowned journalist, and distinguished national writer of civil liberties, Walter Lippmann, reluctantly gave in. Never in the history of the United States was the ugly mood so widespread and unbelievable.

On February 19, the administration issued Executive Order 9066. It defined military zones (which had been proclaimed by the Department of Justice in January, but just proclaimed), gave persons of Japanese descent until March 27 to migrate voluntarily to any interior State. With little military guard, approximately 9,000 persons evacuated voluntarily. On March 29, however, voluntary evacuation was halted thereupon only 48 hours would be given to sell their belongings before reporting to Army-

*Time* magazine, Feb 23, 1942, reported that in San Francisco, three employees of the Yokohama Specie Bank were apprehended. Two of the three, Harui Aoki and Uma Ikeda, were reserve officers in the Imperial Japanese Army.

In central California, the FBI picked up three Japanese priests in a Buddhist temple in Salinas. One priest was Koyo Tamanaha, reportedly a Tokyo police officer.

operated assembly centers. The army, wearing WW I-style helmets, was given jurisdiction to remove "any or all" persons from these areas.

From data taken from previous census, approximately 127,000 people of Japanese-descent were living in the United States. Of these, 95,000 resided in California; most everyone else lived in Oregon and Washington. Very few were in the Midwest or back East. So under the military, 112,353 persons were hurriedly relocated from the defined zones into one of ten rickety-built camps, the coined word was "interned for the duration."

Unknown to most people, the first people to be moved were those from two areas watched since May 1941 as areas of extensive espionage effort, Bainbridge Island near Seattle and Terminal Island in Los Angeles. They had been singled out by coded Japanese intercepts and by a Lieut. Cmdr. Itaru Tachibana, secret operative on the West Coast, until he had been deported in July 1941.

The detention camps were run by the War Relocation Authority. Most Japanese were second-generation Japanese, the Nisei; there were many kids among them. It has been estimated that about 40,000 were first generation Issei. They went by bus and train—including Pullman sleepers for the aged and sick. It was a shameful act, which lasted about two and one half years. [ed. note: What was done here was, for your information, also conducted up north, as the Canadian authorities began to relocate 24,000 Japanese-Canadians in January.] The entire Japanese population in Alaska of about 200 some people were evacuated to the mainland. All in all, they suffered many hardships. And, unlike other so-called enemy aliens in the U.S. who were usually released by D-Day in Italy (1943), not until 1944 was anyone permitted to return to the West Coast communities, although by then they were allowed to go to the East Coast, if that's

Many of the green produce was grown by Japanese-American farmers. When they were sent to detention camps, many jobs went to migrant workers from Mexico. No legal or illegal immigrant, incidentally, was allowed to work in the defense factories. When most Japanese-Americans returned home after the war, they had lost everything. In August 1988, Pres. Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 100-308 which granted an official apology for the injustices committed and compensation. Not until 1990 did the federal government apologize officially and start to pay 60,000 survivors a reparation of \$20,000 each. You will read about the 442nd and MIS in a subsequent volume.