

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EVACUATION AND RELOCATION1941December 7

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.

Authorized by a blanket presidential warrant, the United States Attorney General, Francis Biddle, directs the Federal Bureau of Investigation to arrest a predetermined number of "enemy aliens" classified as "dangerous". This list includes Japanese, German and Italian nationals. By the end of the day, 737 Japanese are in Federal custody.

December 8

The United States declares war on Japan.

December 10

In a public statement, Attorney General Biddle calls for fair treatment of Japanese aliens and Japanese Americans.

December 11

1,370 Japanese classified as ". . . dangerous enemy aliens . . ." are detained by the FBI.

December 22

The Agriculture Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce recommends that all Japanese nationals in the United States be placed ". . . under absolute Federal control".

December 29

All enemy aliens in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Nevada are ordered to surrender all "contraband". "Contraband" includes radios with short wave bands, cameras, binoculars and a variety of weapons.

1942January 5

Contraband regulations are expanded to include the entire continental United States.

January 6

Los Angeles Congressman Leland Ford sends a telegram to the Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, urging the removal of all Japanese from the West Coast. ". . . I do not believe that we could be any too strict in our consideration of the Japanese in the face of the treacherous way in which they do things . . .", Ford writes.

January 28

California State Personnel Board votes to bar all ". . . descendants of natives with whom the United States (was) at war . . ." from all civil service positions. This rule is enforced only against persons of Japanese ancestry.

January 29

Attorney General Biddle issues the first of a series of orders establishing prohibited zones which must be cleared of all enemy aliens. German, Japanese and Italians are instructed to evacuate areas on the San Francisco waterfront.

January 30

California Attorney General Earl Warren calls the Japanese situation in California the "Achilles heel of the entire civilian defense effort . . .", and further states that, "Unless something is done it may bring about a repetition of Pearl Harbor".

February 4

The United States Army defines twelve "restricted areas". Enemy aliens in these designated areas must observe a curfew (9 pm to 6 am), and are allowed to travel only to and from their place of employment. In addition, they are forbidden to travel any further than five miles from their place of residence.

1942February 6

A Portland post of the American Legion circulates a resolution urging the removal of all ". . . enemy aliens, especially from critical Coast areas". The cover letter attached to the resolution indicates that the post is urging the removal of all Japanese regardless of citizenship.

February 13

In a letter to the President, the West Coast Congressional delegation urges the removal of ". . . all persons of Japanese lineage . . . aliens and citizens alike, from the strategic areas of California, Oregon and Washington".

February 14

General John L. DeWitt, the commanding general of the Western Defense Command, forwards his final recommendation to the Secretary of War urging the confinement of all Japanese. In his report he states, "The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken".

Native Sons of the Golden West urge the evacuation of all Japanese, regardless of citizenship status.

February 16

California Joint Immigration Committee urges all Japanese be removed from the Pacific Coast and any other areas designated vital by the United States Government.

FBI arrests and detention of Japanese aliens reported to be 2,192.

February 19

President Roosevelt signs and orders the immediate implementation of Executive Order 9066. This Presidential order gives the Secretary of War the authorization to establish military areas ". . . from which any or all persons may be excluded as deemed necessary or desirable . . ."

February 20

Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, appoints Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt as the military commander responsible for executing Executive Order 9066.

February 21

Hearings by the House Committee on National Defense Migration (Tolan Committee) begins on the West Coast to investigate problems of enemy aliens, and others living along the Pacific shore.

February 23

Submarines are reported seen on the surface off the Pacific Coast. Several shells are fired into a Santa Barbara oil field, causing little damage and no injury. The remains of the warhead are reported to have "Japanese markings".

February 25

An unidentified aircraft flies over Los Angeles. It is believed at the time to be an enemy and is fired upon by local anti-aircraft batteries. The only resulting injuries were from the anti-aircraft shells falling on residential areas of the city. Rumors later circulate that it was a U.S. plane. The military authorities neither confirm nor deny the story.

February 26

All Japanese on Terminal Island, California, are given as little as 48 hours to evacuate homes and businesses by military order. No provisions are made for transportation or reception centers.

February 28

House Committee on Un-American Activities makes public its Yellow Book. The 300 page document contains every possible charge against the Japanese in America.

1942March 2

General DeWitt issues a public proclamation designating military areas in the states of Washington, Oregon, California and portions of Arizona. It further states that certain persons or classes of persons might be excluded from these areas should the situation require it. The restrictions are to apply to Japanese, German and Italian aliens living in Military Areas One and Two.

March 6

The Federal Reserve Bank is designated as a cooperating agency to help persons being evacuated to dispose of their property or help persons in making arrangements to administer property left behind. Later, the Farm Security Administration is authorized to offer similar help involving agricultural property.

March 14

General DeWitt issues proclamations designating the states of Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Utah as Military Areas Numbers Three, Four, Five, and Six, respectively.

March 16

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers starts to work building housing for an evacuee assembly center at Manzanar, California.

March 18

President Roosevelt issues Executive Order 9102 creating the War Relocation Authority (WRA). Milton S. Eisenhower is named the first director and charged with the task of implementing a program of orderly evacuation of designated persons from the restricted military areas.

March 19

Tolan Committee attempts to determine the position of the governors of fifteen states on the question of the relocation of Japanese evacuees to their areas. All but one of the replies (Colorado) are unfavorable.

March 21

HR 6758, an Act of Congress providing penalties for persons who violate orders to enter or leave the designated military areas, goes into effect.

Santa Anita opens as the first of 15 assembly centers.

March 23

Civilian Exclusion Order Number One is issued by General DeWitt. It directed that all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien (American citizens) to evacuate Bainbridge Island near Seattle, Washington on or before March 30, 1942.

Public Proclamation Number Three extends travel restrictions, curfew and contraband regulations to Japanese Americans.

March 27

Public Proclamation Number Four issued by General DeWitt. It prohibits the voluntary evacuation from Military Area Number One by Japanese aliens.

April 7

WRA Director Eisenhower meets with the governors or representatives of ten states at Salt Lake City, Utah. States represented are Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Washington, and Arizona. The meeting is to ascertain the views of these states on accepting Japanese evacuees. Only Governor Ralph Carr of Colorado offers to cooperate.

April 16

Construction starts on the Gila River Relocation Center near Sacaton, Arizona.

May 7

National Student Relocation Council is organized through the efforts of the American Friends Service Committee. The Council is designed to assist evacuee college students to continue their education outside the prescribed Military Areas.

1942May 8

The first "relocation center" opens at Poston, Arizona.

Evacuation of all Japanese living within the Arizona Military Area is reported complete.

May 16

The Atlantic Coast is declared a Military Area by the Eastern Defense Command.

May 19

DeWitt puts Civilian Restriction Order Number One into effect. It authorizes the establishment as Military Areas of assembly centers and relocation camps in eight western states. The order further forbids evacuees from leaving the Military Areas without the express permission of the Western Defense Command.

May 21

Initial group of internees leave the Portland Assembly Center to do agricultural work in Oregon.

May 27

WRA opens the Tule Lake, California, Relocation Center.

June 2

General DeWitt issues Proclamation Number Six which forbids persons of Japanese ancestry from leaving Military Area Number Two (approximately the eastern half of California).

June 7

General DeWitt announces that the removal of 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Military Area Number One is completed.

June 12

Action filed in U.S. District Court for Northern California charging Fred Korematsu with a violation of Exclusion Order Number 34.

June 17

Milton Eisenhower resigns as the Director of the War Relocation Authority. Dillon S. Myer is appointed as his successor.

June 26

Trial brought by the Native Sons of the Golden West starts in San Francisco. The purpose of the trial is to deprive Japanese Americans of their voting rights.

June 29

1,600 evacuees released from assembly centers and relocation centers to relieve a labor shortage in the sugar beet producing areas of Oregon, Utah, Idaho and Montana.

July 9

Relocation of all Japanese and persons of Japanese descent living in Military Area Number Two begins.

July 13

Writ of Habeas Corpus filed in the name of Mitsuye Endo, asking that she be released from the Tule Lake Relocation Center, or show just cause why she should continue to be kept in custody.

July 18

Opening of the Gila River, Arizona, Relocation Center.

August 7

General DeWitt announces that the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from Military Areas One and Two is completed. He further reports that this move involved over 110,000 persons.

August 10

The first group of evacuees arrive to open the Minidoka Relocation Center near Enden, Idaho.

August 12

Heart Mountain Relocation Center near Cody, Wyoming, opened.

1942August 18

The War Department issues a proclamation designating the four Relocation Centers outside the Western Defense Command as Military Areas.

September 10

Lt. General Hugh A. Drum announces an "individual exclusion program" for the Eastern Military Area. He authorizes the removal of any person ". . . deemed dangerous to the national defense".

September 11

Opening of the Central Utah Relocation Center near Delta, Utah.

September 15

The Western Defense Command allows agriculture workers from Poston to return to designated portions of Military Area Number One to help harvest cotton.

September 20

The National Convention of the American Legion meeting at Kansas City passes a resolution asking that the control of the Relocation Centers ". . . be returned to military authorities and that . . . evacuees be denied the privilege of leaving these camps under any pretext for the duration of the war".

October 1

War Relocation Authority regulations allowing evacuees to seek temporary or permanent residence outside the Relocation Centers if certain conditions are met, go into effect.

October 6

The opening of the tenth and last Relocation Center at Jerome, Arkansas, near Dermott.

October 20

Trial of Gordon Hirabayashi starts with Federal Judge Lloyd Black presiding.

October 24

Over 8,000 evacuees involved in agricultural harvests in the western states to save the crops and relieve a shortage of farm labor.

October 27

Santa Anita closed as an Assembly Center.

October 30

War Relocation Authority announces that the last Assembly Center is de-activated with the transfer of evacuees from the Fresno Center to the Jerome Relocation Center.

November 3

Final group of evacuees from Fresno reach Jerome, Arkansas. This marks the end of the Army jurisdiction over evacuees, and their transfer to the control of the War Relocation Authority.

November 18

Poston Relocation Center demonstration over the arrest of two evacuees accused of beating a third who was thought to be a camp "informer".

November 23

The General Strike at Poston called after the arrests end.

December 6

Following the arrest of evacuees at Manzanar charged with beating another evacuee, violence breaks out. Military Police are called out and fire into the crowd with the resulting death of two evacuees, and the wounding of ten others.

1943January 5

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds the conviction of Gordon Hirabayashi, and the legality of the evacuation.

January 14

Military control ends at Tule Lake Relocation Center.

1943January 28

The Selective Service is opened to the Nisei. As a result, over 2,500 men volunteer for U.S. military service. Of this number, some 1,500 volunteers form the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

February 3

The War Relocation Authority begins the administration of a loyalty questionnaire to all evacuees over seventeen years of age.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team is officially activated by the United States Army. The unit is made up of the 100th Battalion from Hawaii, and Japanese American volunteers from the mainland. The source of these mainland volunteers is explained in the official Army History of World War II as ". . . most of the latter coming from concentration camps".

February 20

United States Circuit Court of Appeals dismisses charges brought by Native Sons of the Golden West that American-born Japanese are not citizens.

April 22

United States Circuit Court of Appeals forwards by certification the petition of Mitsuye Endo to the United States Supreme Court.

June 9

Earl Warren, now governor of California, signs an anti-Japanese Fishing Bill. The new law prohibits the issuance of commercial fishing licenses to alien Japanese.

June 23

The United States Supreme Court upholds the legality of the military-imposed curfew by concurring with the Lower Court conviction of Gordon Hirabayashi.

July 31

Tule Lake Relocation Center is designated as a "Segregation Camp" for "disloyal" evacuees by the War Relocation Authority.

August 14

Cemetery monument dedicated at Manzanar.

October 11

Final group of evacuees designated as "disloyal" arrives at Tule Lake.

November 1

United States Army assumes control of Tule Lake Relocation Center with resulting mass demonstrations by evacuees.

1944January 14

Army control of Tule Lake terminated.

January 20

Secretary of War Stimson announces that Japanese Americans are now eligible for the draft.

June 30

Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas becomes the first of the Relocation Centers to close. The 5,000 remaining evacuees are transferred to other camps.

July 18

Sixty-three men convicted of draft evasion file a common appeal in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, Colorado. The defendants, who had been sentenced to three years each, contended that their ". . . obligations to serve in the Armed Forces were dissolved when they were denied the full rights of citizenship".

July 29

An indictment of 26 Japanese Americans charged with violations of the Selective Service Act is dismissed by Federal Judge Louis Goodman. The judge finds the defendants are ". . . under the circumstances not a free agent".

1944October 11

Oral arguments before the Supreme Court begin in the Endo and Korematsu cases.

December 17

Major General Henry C. Pratt, Acting Commander of the Western Defense Command, issues Public Proclamation Number 21 which restores the rights of evacuees to return to their former homes. In addition, all contraband regulations are lifted. The Proclamation is to become effective January 2, 1945.

December 18

The Supreme Court hands down its decision on the Korematsu and Endo cases. In the Korematsu case, a six-to-three decision of the Court upholds Executive Order 9066, and the Army's subsequent evacuation of Japanese and Japanese Americans. The dissents condemn the ruling as ". . . a legalization of racism".

In the case of Mitsuye Endo, the Supreme Court rules in a unanimous decision that the War Relocation Authority cannot detain loyal citizens.

December 30

The War Relocation Authority announces the opening of relocation offices in Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. These offices are to assist returnees to the Pacific Coast.

1945January through October

Hood River, Oregon American Legion Post removes the names of seventeen Nisei from the town's Honor Roll.

Evacuees returning home are faced with a number of hostile attacks. These intermittent acts of savagery include: defacing of Japanese American homes in Seattle; an attempt to dynamite a Japanese American packing shed in Placer County, California; escheat actions against Japanese American property, and countless attacks on the person and property of newly released evacuees.

May 14

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes denounces the continuing acts of terror directed against Japanese Americans returning to the West Coast.

June 23

War Relocation Authority Director Dillon Myer orders the closing of the Gila River and Poston, Arizona Centers. The target date is set at October 1, 1945.

August 11

Japan agrees to unconditional surrender terms of the Allies.

August 25

The War Relocation Authority announces that Manzanar will close by December 1, 1945.

September 4

The Western Defense Command revokes all restrictions, both military and civilian, against Japanese and Japanese Americans.

November 21

Manzanar closes as the last 42 evacuees leave.

1946March 20

The lights go out at the Tule Lake Relocation Center for the last time. The population of all the Relocation Centers is now zero.

June 30

The War Relocation Authority officially goes out of business. All activities of the agency are concluded.

<u>TEN WORLD WAR II CAMPS</u>	<u>OPENED</u>	<u>CLOSED</u>	<u>MAXIMUM POPULATION</u>
Gila River, Arizona	7-20-42	11-10-45	13,348
Granada, Colorado	8-24-42	10-15-45	7,318
Heart Mountain, Wyoming	8-12-42	11-10-45	10,767
Jerome, Arkansas	10-6-42	6-30-44	8,497
Manzanar, California	6-1-42	11-21-45	10,046
Minidoka, Idaho	8-10-42	10-28-45	9,397
Poston, Arizona	5-8-42	11-28-45	17,814
Rohwer, Arkansas	9-18-42	11-30-45	8,475
Topaz, Utah	9-11-42	10-31-45	8,130
Tule Lake, California	5-27-42	3-20-46	18,789