

Memorandum, To Members of Congress from the Three West Coast States, not dated, c. 1946. Papers of Dillon S. Myer.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

XII

Washington

Office of the Director

TO MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS FROM THE THREE WEST COAST STATES

From time to time during the past four years, we have sent you information regarding the policies and the program of the War Relocation Authority. In view of the fact that the War Relocation Authority will close the last of its field offices within the next six weeks, it has occurred to me that you would be interested in a brief summary of facts and figures relating to the program that is now nearly completed.

All of the relocation centers were closed to residence by December 1, 1945, with the exception of the Tule Lake Center, which was closed on March 20, 1946. The property of all centers, both fixed and movable, except at Tule Lake, has been turned over to the agencies responsible for final disposition under the Surplus Property Act. The Tule Lake property will be inventoried and turned over to the responsible agency as of May 4, 1946.

During the existence of the War Relocation Authority, we have had jurisdiction over a total of some 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry, evacuated from the West Coast states and from Hawaii. Of this total, 109,300 have gone from the WRA centers into normal communities. This figure includes 2,300 men who went directly into the armed forces from the centers. A total of 24,590 men and women of Japanese ancestry had been inducted into the armed forces of the United States as of October, 1945. Of this number, 13,000 were from the mainland and the remainder from Hawaii. Several thousand of these men served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe, and there were some 3,000 of them serving in the Army Intelligence Branch in the Pacific Theater before V-J Day. Many additional are now serving in the occupation forces.

At present, there are about 51,800 evacuees who are living in areas away from the Coast, and 57,500 have returned to the West Coast states. Some 5,100 of these returned to the Coast from other areas where they had previously resettled. Approximately 12,500 have resettled in Illinois, which has the largest number of resettlers who moved eastward. Other states which received a substantial number of resettlers are:

Colorado	5,700	Idaho	3,600	New Jersey	2,300
Utah	5,300	Michigan	2,900	Minnesota	2,000
Iowa	4,200	New York	2,400		

About 3,000 persons, many of them family members of internees, were transferred from the WRA centers to internment camps administered by the Department of Justice. There were 4,700 persons who voluntarily repatriated to Japan from War Relocation centers. Most of these were from the Tule Lake Center.

Before the evacuation, California had a population of 92,785 people of Japanese ancestry. At the present time the population in California is approximately 48,100. The State of Washington had a pre-war population of 12,892 and the present population is about 5,900. Oregon's pre-war population was 3,714 and the present population is 2,800.

Within the next sixty days we hope to have available copies of my final report to the Secretary of the Interior and to the President. I will be glad to supply you with a copy when they are available if you are interested.

D. S. Myer

Director

