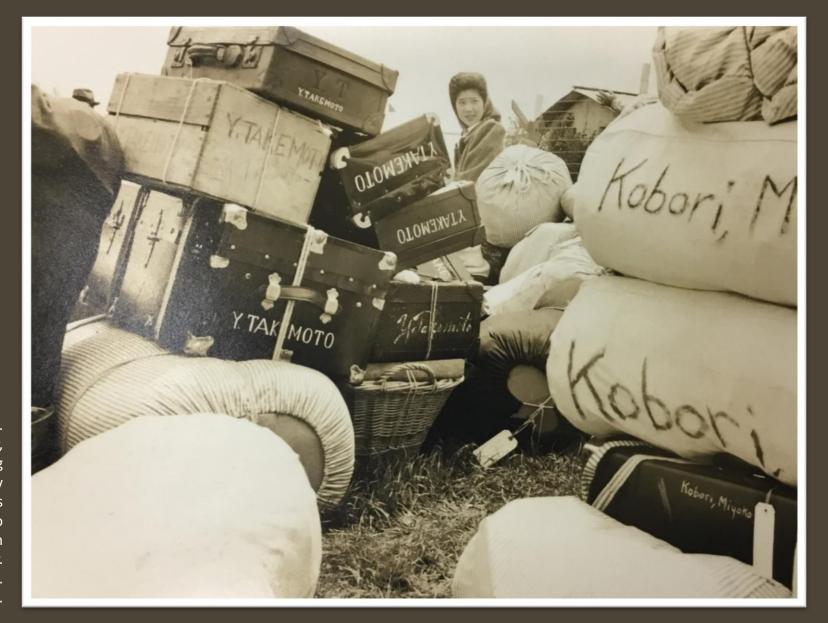
# Through an Extended Lens: Louisiana, Internment and the Geography of Chance

# In war, Truth is the first casualty.

- Aeschylus, Greek Dramatist, 525-456 B.C.

## World War II Internment



War Relocation Authority.
Salinas Assembly Center,
Salinas, California. A young
woman of Japanese ancestry
identifies her baggage at this
assembly center prior to
transfer to a War Relocation
Authority Center.
Photographer: Clem Albers.
Date 3/31/42.

# A Day That Will Live in Infamy

"December 7, 1941 was a Sunday. My father, as usual, went to swim early in the morning, but this morning he looked up and saw many planes flying overhead.

He didn't realize that these planes were the Japanese planes. Then it happened, and we didn't know about the attack until we heard it on the radio."

"And that evening two FBI agents and a local policeman came to pick up my father and handcuffed him and took him away.

# We didn't see him until the reunion in Crystal City, Texas."

# Enemy Aliens

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### NOTICE TO ALIENS OF ENEMY NATIONALITIES

\* The United States Government requires all aliens of German, Italian, or Japanese nationality to apply at post offices nearest to their place of residence for a Certificate of Identification. Applications must be filed between the period February 9 through February 28, 1942. Go to your postmaster today for printed directions.

EARL G. HARRISON, Special Assistant to the Attorney General. FRANCIS BIDDLE,
Attorney General.

AVVISO

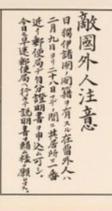
Il Governo degli Stati Uniti ordina a tutti gli stranieri di nazionalità Tedesca, Italiana e Giapponese di fare richiesta all' Ufficio Postale più prossimo al loro luogo di residenza per ottenere un Certificato d'Identità. Le richieste devono essere fatte entro il periodo che decorre tra il 9 Febbraio e il 28 Febbraio, 1942.

Andate oggi dal vostro Capo d'Ufficio Postale (Postmaster) per ricevere le istruzioni scritte.

#### BEKANNTMACHUNG

Die Regierung der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika fordert alle Auslaender deutscher, italienischer und japanischer Staatsangehoerigkeit auf, sich auf das ihrem Wohnorte naheliegende Postamt zu begeben, um einen Personalausweis zu beantragen. Das Gesuch muss zwischen dem 9. und 28. Februar 1942 eingereicht werden.

Gehen Sie noch heute zu Ihrem Postmeister und verschaffen Sie sich die gedruckten Vorschriften.



Courtesy Notice to Aliens of Enemy Nationalities
February 9, 1942
National Archives Catalog

Please be advised that information has now been	٦
received from the Special Defense Unit that	
INS SECTION :	
Buntetsu Miyamoto	
Box 195 Kaleiwa, Post Office Waialua	
1941 Ochu, T.H.	
has been tentatively placed in:	
RI OI JOSPIC:	
X Group A. Individuals believed to be the most	
dangerous and who in all probability should be interned in event	
of War.	
d - Way	
Group B. Individuals believed to be somewhat	
less dangerous but whose activities should be restricted.	V
(b) 3345.6- Q	*
Group C. Individuals believed to be the least	8
dangerous and who need not be restricted fire assembly of additional.	
information, but should be subjected to general surveillance.	
υξυ 9 ρ /	4.
Il's Decourage of the	1
U. S. DEPUNTMENT OF JUSTICE	:
(0:0:10)	.
DECLARATED BY SPICK 197	~
ON 1-14-00	

# Camp Livingston, Louisiana



# BUILDING SCHEDULE

CAMP LIVINGSTON, LOUISIANA

75-4" 150-6" DIP. CONS. NO. T.331-JOB NO. CR.LIV. T2-5

BUILDING	TYPE	SIZE	CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY		
HUTMENTS	18M	16' × 47'-6"	DIR. CONS. NO.7-	1/1	
LAVATORIES	L-2	18' - 24-2'	JOB NO. CAMP	il .	
	4.5	25.4.48:2"		<ul><li>Sout</li></ul>	
*	L-6	25-4"x 57-2"	**		
MESS HALL -	7.0.	20' 84'			
	7.0.	20' × 140'			
ADMINISTRATION	A-2	20' 100'		Can	
INFIRMARY	I-1	20'-100'	.,	• Cons	
FIRE STATION	FS-1	47' 160			
STOREHOUSE	SH-1	20' 100'			
GUARDHOUSE	GH-I	20' 460'			
GUARD TOWER				• " i	
SENTRY HOUSE	-	- Carrie	"	'''	
		No.		that	
OFFICERS'QUAR.	HQ-12	29-6' 80	DIR.CONS. NO. 7-23	tillat	
NURSES' QUAR.	HQM-13	29:6'×110'	JOB NO. CAMP		
E.M. BARRACKS	118-54	29'-6" × 150"		nego	
ADMINISTRATION	A-1	25:4" 147-2"			
MESS HALL	M-8	25.4" 138:2"			
WARD BLOG.	W-/	25-4.150:6	tions and the second se	*	
	W-2				
	W-8	25' × 152'-0"			

HBH-12

STOREHOUSE

BOILER HOUSE

OPEN COVERED WK.

25-4 126-2"

47' . 49'

Southwestern side of the camp

TOTALS

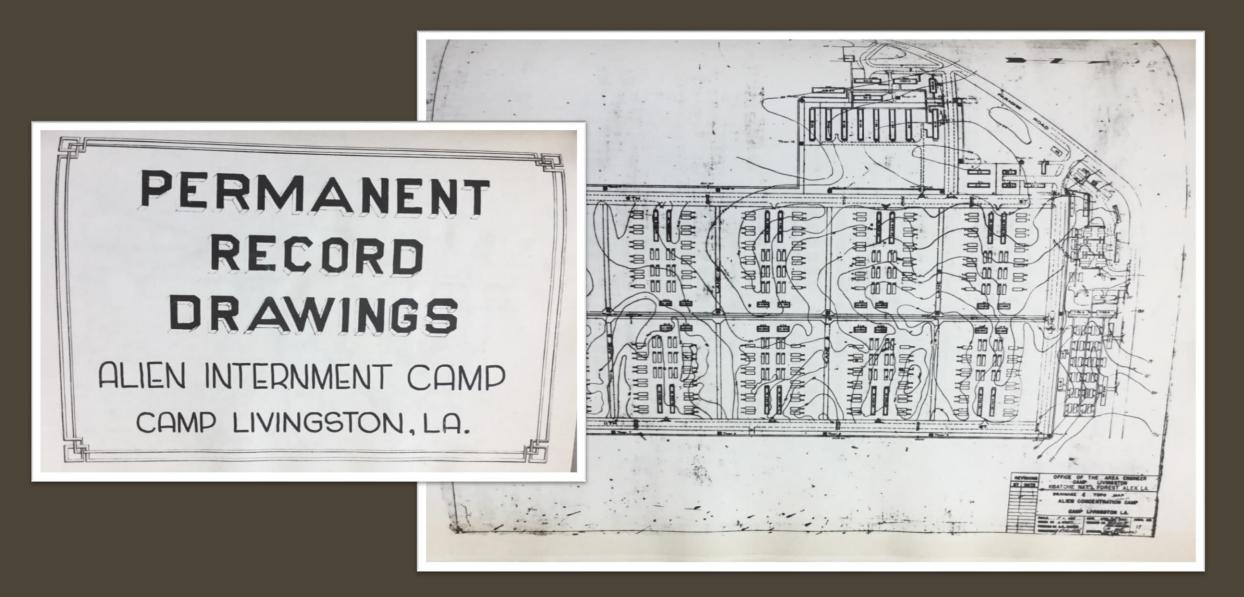
REMARKS

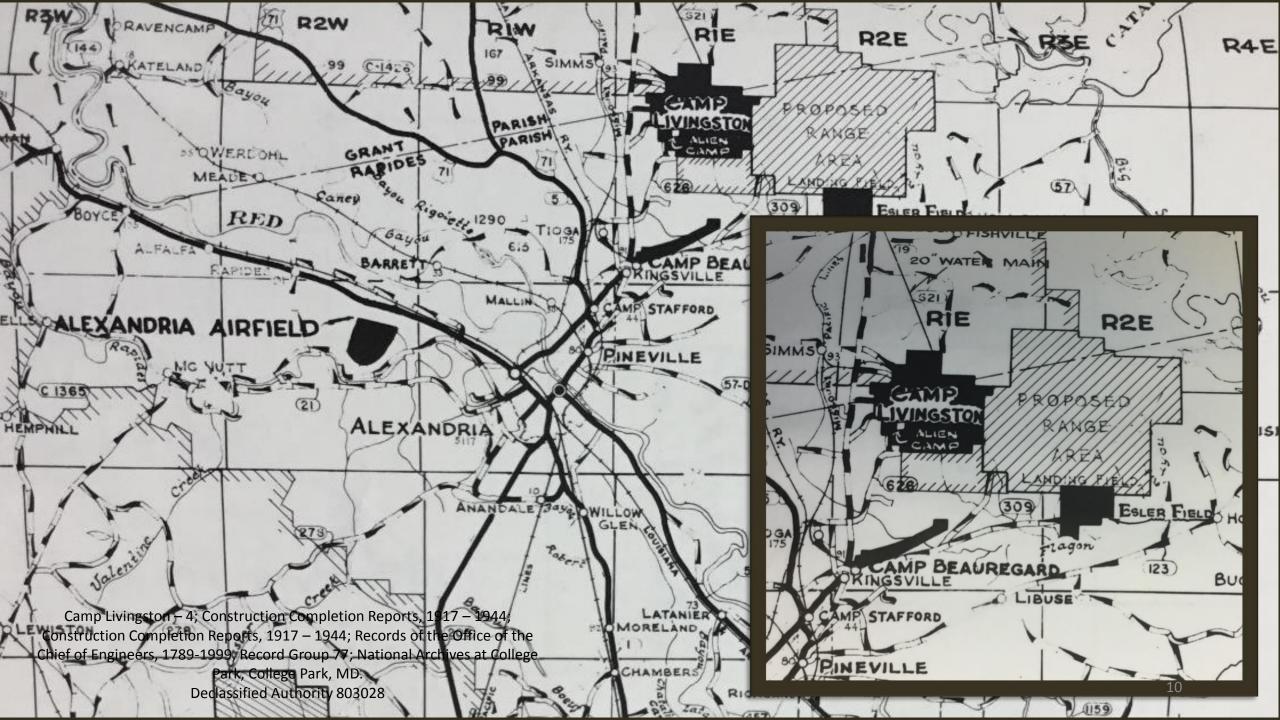
2 THESE BLOG LOCATED IN STA. HOSP.

- Construction cost \$1,576,281.00
- "... it is in the interest of the National Defense that this work be not delayed awaiting the negotiation of a formal contract."

Camp Livingston – 4; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 – 1944; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 – 1944; Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1789-1999, Record Group 77; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Declassified Authority 803019

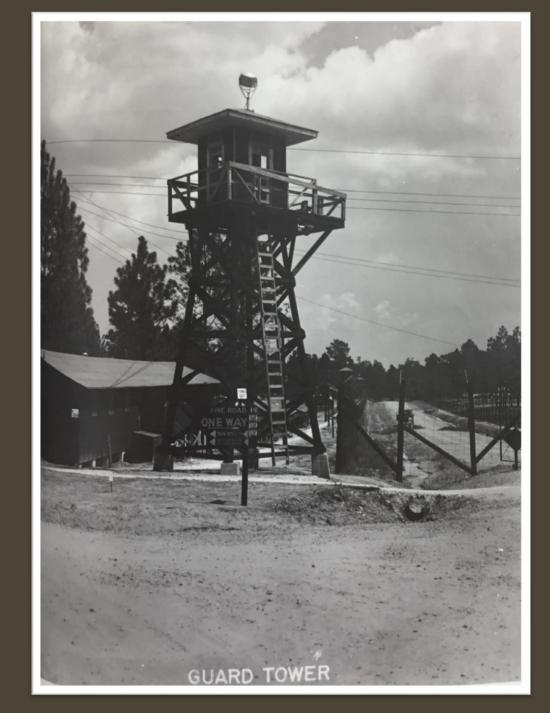




Camp Livingston – 4; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 – 1944; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 – 1944; Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1789-1999, Record Group 77; ☐ National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD. Declassified Authority 803028.







Camp Livingston — 4; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 — 1944; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 — 1944; Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1789-1999, Record Group 77; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Declassified Authority 803028

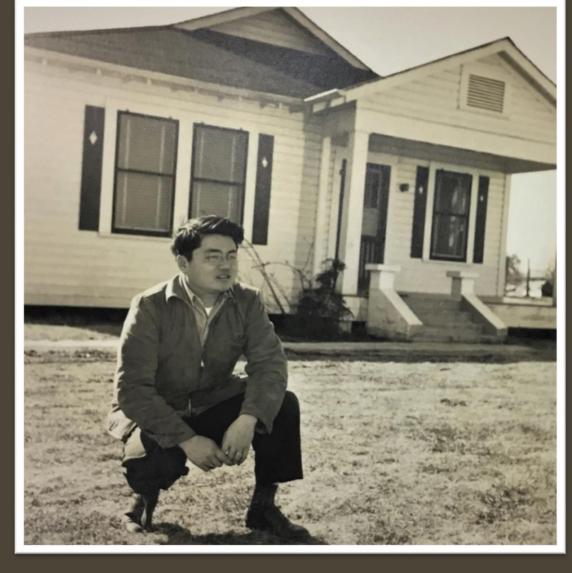






War Relocation Authority. No. 14I-733. Alexandria, Louisiana. Mrs. M. Kohara and one of her Caucasian employees in the Kohara Studio.

Photographer: Hikaru Iwasaki.





War Relocation Authority. No. 14I-730. Alexandria, Louisiana. Sam Kohara, age 30, is the oldest son of Mrs. M. Kohara. Photographer: Hikaru Iwasaki.

Kohara studio at 410 Murray street was closed last night on orders of the U.S. treasurer department until for

from becoming

ther notice. Chief of city police were pos family's home at 1;

Sammy Kohara since his father's reing the place was o atlow treasury dep agents to determine tus of its financial c under federal regulation have frozen all Japanes

Only Business, Says "There is no suspictor to the closure as for as termine," said Chief Gr is strictly a business m cerning finances, as I u

He said the treasury d in New Orleans teleph to close the studio until send agents here.

Young Kohara said ti came just as the studio gaged in its busiest more year finishing photogr Christman use. He as patrons be patient until dio's status is cleared, tra efforts will be mad liver all photographic None of the family was all being allowed to stay

Family History The Kohara family in 1929 from Glenmos they had unsuccessfull after moving to Louisi Council Bluffs, In., in had previously resided t Neb., Denver, Colorado

Mr. Kohara came to States in 1904 from J studied at the Universit ifornia. He died only after a stroke.

Mrs. Kohara came to ed States from Japan in 1912. Mother Not a Citizen

Doris Walker were in Olla on Red Sammy said neither his father Cross work Thursday afternoon.

Mother Not a Citizen nor his mother had been natural-

the United States. The which her husband was

dren had never had any Japanese children to play with.

0000

### KOHARA STUDIO OPERATED BY **AMERICANS**

And They Are Proud of Their American Citizenship

This makes them pretty good Anterican citizens, and if you will visit the Kohara Studio and with them a few minutes you will realize they are as thorough-American as one whose forefathers landed at Plymouth Rock

day in Council Bluffs, Ia

Both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Treasurer department have made investigations thorough Kohara family, and not one regarding of doubt was found. patriotism

hildren, sons and Mrs. M w operating 410 Murray of the United not one of utside of the

is 26 years in Denver. ars old, and are natives kie, 19 and the light of

pretty good if you will Studio and minutes you as thoroughwhose foremouth Rock ather, came in 1903, and n this couner ever re-

urcaulof Innited States

Transvers department have made

#### THE KOHARAS OF LOUISIANA

#### Story of Nisei Family in the South

By ROKU SUGAHARA

THE SUGAR CANE country of Louisiana, in the from the local high school with distinction and in subsequent years Depart of the Pelican State, is nestled the town of Alexandria. distinction and in subsequent years received their degrees from Louisi-Most of the nearby regions of this upper Evangeline country is and State university at Baton flat, but a little beyond the muddy waters of the slow-moving Red Rouge river, which flows through the town, can be seen low rolling hills "My chief pride and joy," relates sprinkled with stubby southern pine trees. Mrs. Saki Kohara, the spry mother sprinkled with stubby southern pine trees.

Alexandria is a town of some 30,000 people, one of the family "is that all five of my chillargest in this middle Louisiana area, and is 1

During the

one-family US

Nisei were eve

dozen trainees

hara home ov

Everyone in

This is the modern storefront of the Kohara photography shop

New Orleans. The pretentious Bentley hotel overlooks the park The Koharas w square, around which the city grew; the old historic city hall and shiny modern stores flank the other three sides of the quadrangle of this small park.

A few doors off the main shopping artery of Alexandria is Kohara's—a handsome modernistic photo studio. During the day, nabrite Alexandrians stream in to have their pictures developed or to make at appointment for a family picture. At night a large prominent mean sign keeps blinking, "Kohara."

Many of a Nisei G. I, well re-members this name. They recall either done i the cordial hospitality and kindness store or else r of the Kohara family during their Kohara childre basic training days in Louisiana. Sam, Tom, and

in Alexandria, La.

During the war years the Ko-haras of Alexandria served as a one-family USO for which many Nisei were ever grateful. There were times when as many dozen trainces stayed at the Kohara home over the week-ends. Some slept on the floor, ate off them of "back home."

> tive interest in the photo store which she was instrumental in building up during the past 20 years. It is almost second nature with her to see that every department of the store is running in perfect order.
>
> Kohara's has a wonderful repu-

tation in Alexandria area. Many of the leading families of the region depend upon them for all of their photographic needs.

Tom Kohara, the second son, has a job with the State Department of Forestry. He does public rela-tions work in the Visual Aid divi-

The elder daughter, Kay, who has an M.D. degree, is now married to an attorney in Baltimore. The youngest in the family, Marion, is a recent LSU graduate and (Continued on page 23)



#### THE KOHARAS OF LOUISIANA

(Continued on page 18) the only unmarried member of the family. She is a private secretary on the LSU campus.

"How and why did you come to Louisiana?"

Mrs. Kohara beamed and her eyes twinkled when I asked her this question,

"Almost everyone asks us the same thing," she replied, "because Louisiana is out of the beaten path

for the Japanese."

k in 1928 Manabu Kohara
is wife and children decided ve the colder climate and hotography store in Omaha, and at truck farming. They eard of the wonderful farm mities in Louisiana and, behe depression was slowly aftheir business.

two long years the Koharas the plowing, planting, and ting game but somehow the s and market prices were t them. They then decided urn to the photo business hey knew so well. In 1930 arted a small shop in downiexandria. It was a diffi-

ral months before World son who had recently gradu-from college, Mrs. Kohara ole to carry on, ng the war years the Ko-

tore was one of the busiest e entire war-swollen city. worked almost day and night to complete the mountain of orders that arrived daily from such large nearby military installations as Camp Polk and Camp Livingston. It was during this peak period that the Koharas employed some 20

I asked Mrs. Kohara if she en-countered any difficulties shortly after Pearl Harbor,

"Because we were a photo shop, the FBI must have thought that we had files of secret photographs. They ferreted through every negative and every scrap of paper at the store and at our house but did not find anything in the way of contraband. Our shop was closed about a week or so and that was the end of the

investigation."

The elder Kohara was born in Kitsuke, Oita-ken, in 1886, While still a young man of 17, back in 1903, he joined other adventurers and came to this country. Until 1912 he lived in San Francisco and



Mrs. Saki Kohara, able to get a little rest now from her former exacting duties, sits in a circle of grandchildren,

Alexandria. It was a diffind uphill struggle during the years. With the help of all idren the store survived the struggle during the business and the business and the business and the business has graduated from College of Padis an expert crattaman and the quality of his fine work as an expert crattaman and the quality of his fine work to Saki, who had just recently arrived from Japan. Mrs. Kohara moved to Danke, where they stayed until 1928. ral months before World was a newcomer from Shidzucka, the father passed away, and also a graduate of Aoyama h the able assistance of the Jogakko.

In 1915 Mr. Kohara decided to state as their permanent home.

The Koharas have been in Louisiana since 1928 and the entire family are proud to claim that

#### MINATO ZUSHI

1715 Post St. IOrdan 7-9770

SUSHI OUR SPECIALTY

Tempura

Nihon Meshi MRS. A. MAYEDA

Season's Greetings . . .

#### CAL-ORO RICE GROWERS, INC.

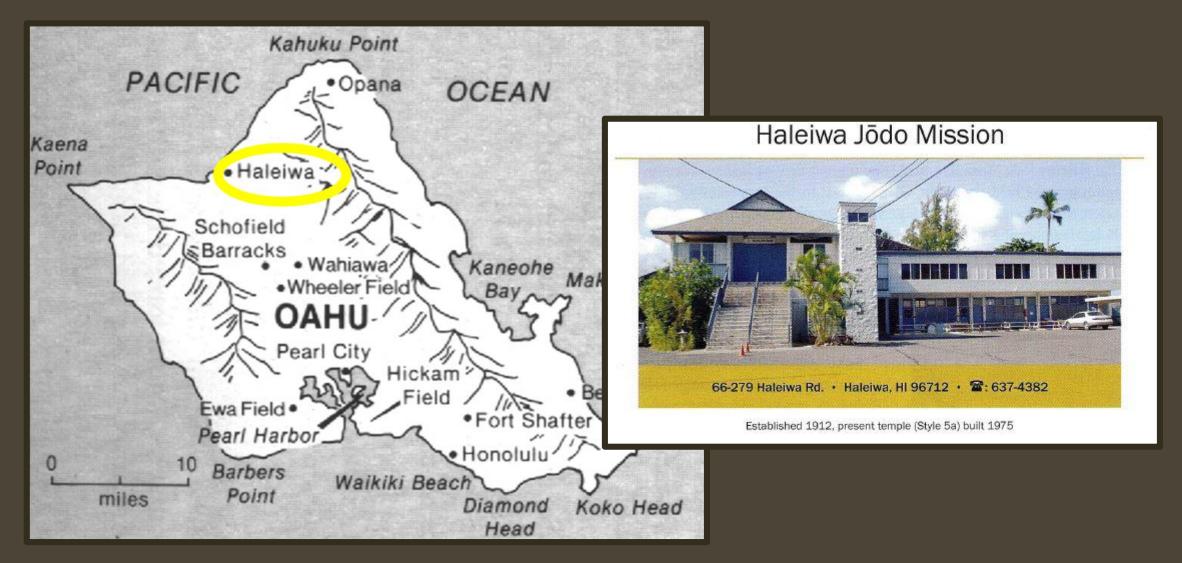
South Dos Palos, California Phone: 45-F-6 Box 77-A SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

112 Market St. Phone: EXbrook 2-1047

J. S. RITTERBAND, Sales Manager

A Merry Christmas !!

# Miyamoto Family in Hawaii



W. D., P. M. G. Form No. 2 December 9, 1941

10-25525-1

Note amputations in proper space

\* Do not fill in.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 947020

muy rummi.

HEADQUARTERS HAWAITAN DEPARTMENT Fort Shafter, T. H.

#### WARRANT OF ARREST

To any Sheriff; or to any Sheriff's Deputy; any Police Officer within the Territory of Hawaii; or any Member of the Military Police; or any Member of the Corps of Intelligence Police; or any Officer of the .

Federal Bureau of Investigation; or to any Member of the Navy Shore Patrol;

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to take the body of

#### BUNTETSU MIYAMOTO

on suspicion of being an alien enemy of the United States, and to detain said person pending final action by the Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, United States Army.

This Warrant of Arrest is issued under the authority of the Secretary of War of the United States by his delegated agent this 7th day of December , 1941.

(SEAL)

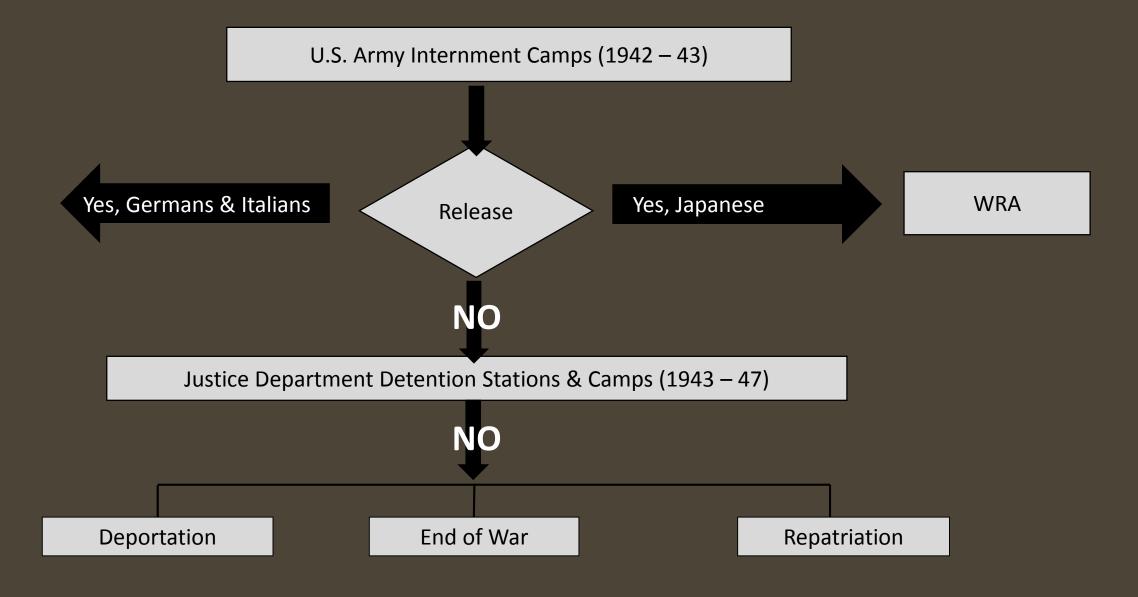
Authority NND 740063

GEORGE W. BICKNELL, It. Colonel, G S C., Asst. A. C of S., G-2. Contagt Officer

EXECUTED the within	BUNTETSU MIYAMOTO	on the boo			
named therein, this	a o span day	of			
	2nd	Assista	nt Provost	Marshal.	7.

Peclassified

EXHIBIT "B"



Declassified (By Recorder) To whom do you owe your allegiance? Authority NND 740063 I am a Japanese, and I cannot possibly forget Japan, of course, but as far as direct loyalty, since I have been living all these years in America, Hawaii, and my children are all here, my feelings are for America, but I cannot forget Japan. In case of Japanese invasion, would you assist in fighting them A I am living in America, and my children are here, and I would certainly help America, but it is very painful for me to think that we would have to work against the Japanese here. Would you or would you not help fight them from our shores, yes, A I am a Buddhist, and as such, we want peace. In that case I would

Record of the Hearings of a Board of Officers and Civilians Convened Pursuant to Paragraph 33, Special Orders No. 320, Headquarters, Hawaiian Department, Dated at Fort Shafter, T.H., 19 December 1941. In the Case of Buntetsu Miyamoto, ISN-HJ-131-CI; Hawaii, Civilian Internees: Miyamoto, Buntetsu; Subject Files, 1942 – 1946; Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, 1920 – 1975, Record Group 389; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD. Declassified Authority NND 740063.

JOHN H. MIDKIFF, was called as a witness and being duly sworn, testified as follows:

RECORDER: You have been called as a witness in behalf of Miyamoto A Yes.

- Q (By Recorder) State your name and address and business? A John H. Midkiff, I am at Waialua, the manager of the Waialua Agricultural Company.
- Q (By Board) And what is your postoffice address? A That is my postoffice address.
- Q How long have you known this gentleman? (Indicating the internee)
  A I have been at Waialua about 18 years, and I have known him ever since he has been there.
- Q Are you familiar with his activities as a teacher and a priest out there?
- A I am.
- Q Have you any reason to believe that he has ever done anything that would bring into question his loyalty to the United States?
- A I have never run into anything that would make me, personally, question his loyalty. If it is permissible, Judge, for me to do so, I would like to amplify my statement.
- Q Yes, just tell us what you know, at this time, that is, the better way.
- A good many months ago I thought that things were going to pot, between America and Japan, and after talking to Mr. Shivers, of the F.B.I. he suggested that I hold meetings with a number of the Japanese people out there and put the cards on the table, and Reverend Miyamoto was one of the men, one of the leaders in the Japanese community, that I called in, and we pointed out the things



Image from Midkiff, John. "Torn Between Two Emotions." Jitsugyo no Hawai, 1938.04.01, Hoover Institution Archives.

Q All right.
A This is what Reverend Miyamoto said:

"We, the first generation, are very envious of you young men.
(This is to the draftees who were going away)
Although we have lived here and tried to assimilate the
American ways, and enjoyed every protection of your country,
we cannot become American citizens. We deplore this fact
very much.

You young Americans, by your birth right are Americans, and it is your solemn duty to preserve, protect and defend your country, the United States of America, against any encroachment, and it is your right to do this. Needless to say, in the performance of your duties it may be necessary to make a great sabrifice; maybe necessary to lay down your lives to accomplish this.

It is our sincerest desire that you do this un-hesitatingly and willingly. It is your sacred duty to take and protect these United States whose principles and ideals are embodied in the Constitution of the United States of America, as represented by your flag, with the stars and stripes."

Q As far as you know, you have every reason to believe that that is his composition?

A As far as I know, that shows his attitude. I have asked a number of other people just what it was, especially, since they have been called in there, and I found no one in the Waialua Community that has any reason to feel that it should not represent and did not represent his ideals.

Q In the event that this man should be released and paroled, Mr. Midkiff, would you accept the responsibility; would you be responsible for him?

A I would be glad to be responsible for him, if he would report to me.

# The Findings

#### FINDINGS:

The Board, having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds:

- 1. That BUNTETSU MIYAMOTO is an alien, born in Japan; resident in Hawaii since 1915.
  - 2. The internee states that he is loyal to the United States, and reliable statements and testimony showed nothing to the contrary.
  - 3. The internee has acted as a consular agent, stating that his activities consisted of reporting vital statistics.
  - 4. No information was presented connecting this internee with subversive activities.
  - 5. Reliable testimony indicated that the internee had advocated loyalty and service to the United States, on the part of Americans born of Japanese ancestry.
  - 6. The internee has taken no steps towards the expatriation of his own children, leaving that entirely to their own initiative.

### Recommendations

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of the above findings, the majority of the Board recommends:

That BUNTETSU MIYAMOTO be released on parole to Mr. John H. Midkiff of Waialua.

Lt. Fred A. Thompson dissents, and thinks the internee should be held for the duration of the war.

The Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m. o'clock on 14th January, 1942.

(PRESIDENT)

1 of Lt 251 CA (AA)

ISN-HJ- 131 -CI

#### IN THE FOREGOING CASE OF:

BUNTETSU MIYAMOTO

We, the undersigned representatives of our respective Intelligence Bureaus, do not concur in the recommendations of the Board and recommend that, the Internee be interned.

The Verdict

Contact Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department.

Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence,

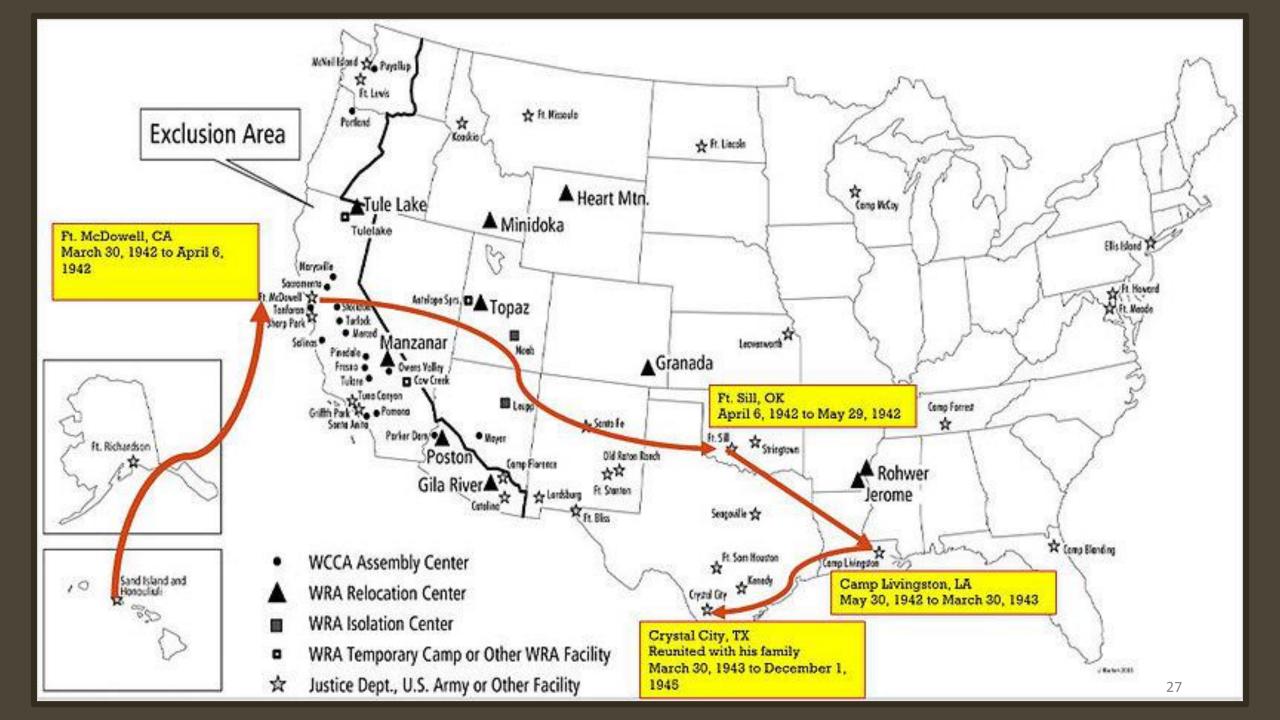
Contact Office, Dillingham Building, Honolulu, T.H.

26 February 1942.

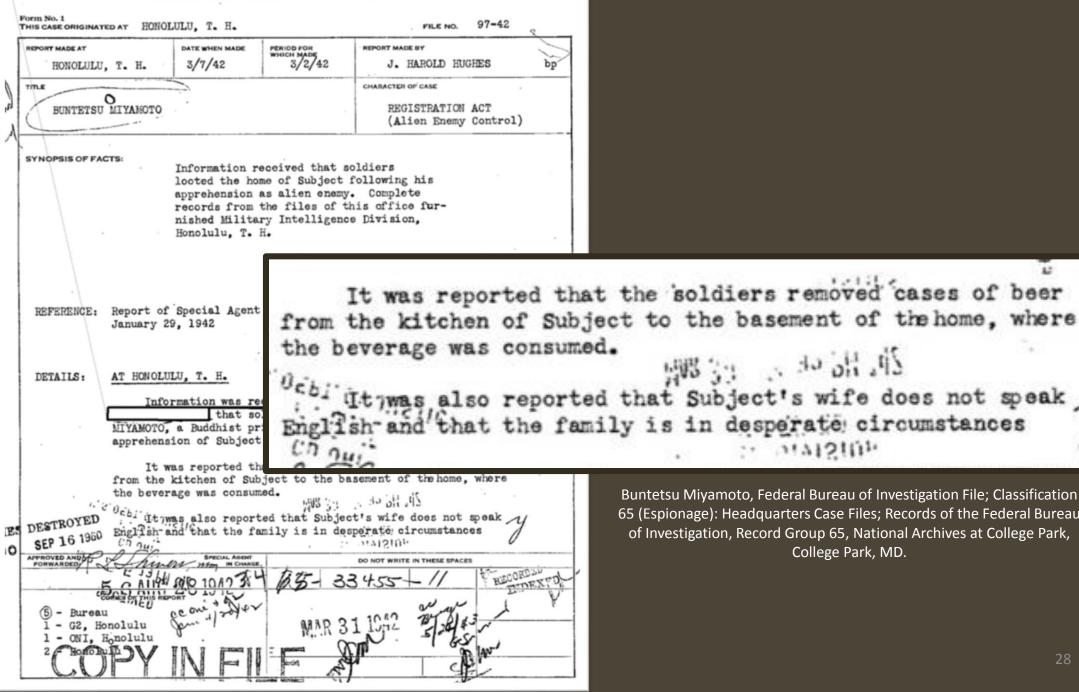
District Intelligence Office, 14th Naval District.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

26



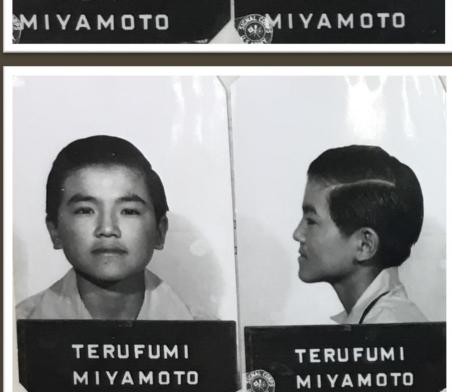
#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



Buntetsu Miyamoto, Federal Bureau of Investigation File; Classification 65 (Espionage): Headquarters Case Files; Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Record Group 65, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

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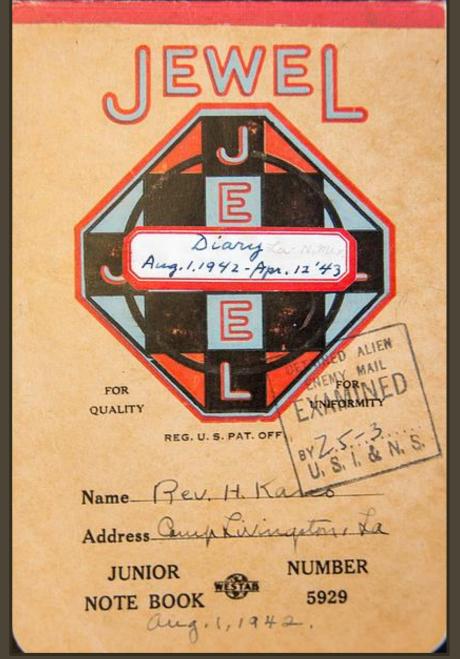




# Life inside Camp Livingston

- Arrested on December 7, 1941.
- Of the 5,000 Japanese residing in Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming, Father Kano was the only one to be interned.
- He was placed in several camps and spent time at Camp Livingston, Louisiana.





(1942) comp Livingston, La. August 1 (Saturday) 1942 Beveille 5:10 am. L'hourdo bam Boyer meeting 6: >0 a.m. Hairackly Mr. H. Uno. Visites K compfortusiness. Letter writing. Janewell farty in turn of 18 interned Nisei Sp.m. at Hawaii Messball - Dr. Miga moto, M. Jashiro, Honday Araki, Sakamoto Kagawa Etc. Wrestling (Sumo) proc laps 10 f.m. Aug. 2 (Sunday) Reveille 6a.m. Chowado 6: 20 am Moiming prayer + serum by Chaplain Applaton to a in at Keamp. Evening knoch & Sermon 7:10 fund Klaup, where Iwas made a quest preacher on the subject \$ 7 5 12 882 The tild at Barrock



Baggage hanging over our shoulders

We trudge toward summer clouds

In this camp among the pine trees

We finally settle down

Machine guns atop the guard tower

Sounds from a radio drift down

Young prisoners make music Without musical instruments

In the pine forest, fireflies everywhere

An evening sky in a foreign land

Under the blazing sun

The camp sleeps



V-P-HIST-03413-10, Date: 21/11/1942, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Groupe d'internés. ICRC archives (ARR).



V-P-HIST-03413-11, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Internés dans un jardin potager. ICRC archives (ARR).





V-P-HIST-03415-07, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Sciage de bois. ICRC archives (ARR).



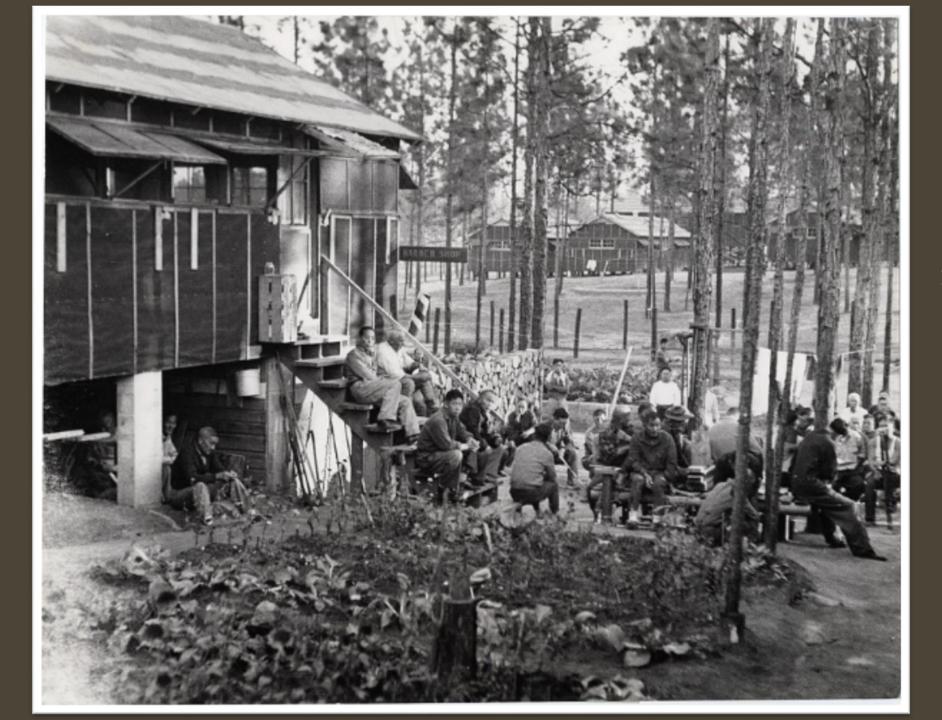


V-P-HIST-03415-10, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Défrichage. ICRC archives (ARR).



V-P-HIST-03390-34, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Pavillon du camp d'internés civils japonais. ICRC archives (ARR).







V-P-HIST-03412-25, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Match de baseball. ICRC archives (ARR).

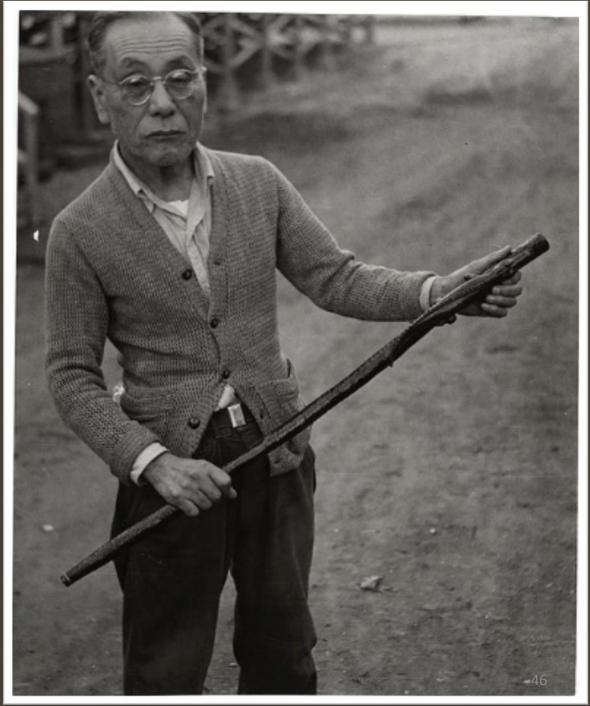


# Gaman (我慢)

V-P-HIST-03412-23, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Le gouverneur et le directeur du musée. ICRC archives (ARR).

V-P-HIST-03412-26, Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Objets du musée. ICRC archives (ARR).





Camp Rosters

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	Livingston - Hawan Resid
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ARAKI, Joseph manage settlights	10/25/96 Jerome; Gila River
ARAKI, JOSEPH IN THE TOTAL	02/14/03 :
ARITA, Tamaki  ASAEDA, Horyu Rev. Lili ha Shins	04/04/06 ?
ACAOKA Kahukokey	1/5/02 ?
ASATO, Eishuhotelowner (Hindre Whites	03/17/10 Jerome; Tule Lake
ATSUUMI, Noriaki grai stre sales n BABA, Tokuji union talahin ooku u	08/09/89 ?
CHIKUMA, Masayuki asst maroga and	sument 4/21/02?
DEME, Josen minister-Kealia Hongwanj	10/1/90 Santa Fe
FUCUINO Hago	
FUJII, Seiichi punu pul putsh	07/22/90 Santa Fe; Tule Lake
FUJIIE, Eshobo	09/10/14/33 Jerome = born 1903 - under
THIMOTO Herbert Kenkichi	
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# Visitors to Camp Livingston



"But this officer of the day, when he saw us in uniform, his jaws dropped, and he told the two guards, "You get out of the quonset hut, leave these people alone ." And so we had freedom of visitation for about an hour and a half in [Louisiana]. And my dad was taking it very nicely. All the Japanese isseis, I think, were being treated really nice because by physical appearance, there was no way they could run away. So they would give you a lot of freedom. And they had a lot of outings that they would go out to, one, two guards instead of being, you know, looked over by four or five guards, or forty or fifty people could go out with one guard or two guards. And I think the Japanese people there, actually, they don't complain. And so, I think the American security was more lenient to them..."

"Fountain-of-Joy Grandpa'



Weglyn, Michi, and Betty E. Mitson, eds. *Valiant Odyssey: Herbert Nicholson In and Out of America'*s

, Gran Cli-Ris

MID 201. MICHOLSON, Herbert (H.V.)

### WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington 25

24 August 1943

Subject: NICHOLSON, Herbert (H.V.) 1554 Las Lunas Street Pasadena, California

Summary of Information:

According to an article appearing in the Rafu Shimpo, Los Angeles bi-lingual Japanese daily on 22 January 1942, the Rev. and Mrs. Herbert (H.V.) NICHOLSON are particularly prominent members of a committee in charge of "aid to distressed resident Japanese families".

The above committee is one of a number of committees of the AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE which is affiliated with the AMERICAN QUAKER GROUP. Although there is no indication of subversive intent on the part of this committee, which has been under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it appears that its interracial and international connections leave it liable to manipulation by anti-American elements.

In its Sunday edition of 28 March 1943, the Des Moines Register-Tribune, on the "People's Open Forum" page devoted about two and a half column of space to several articles favoring more equitable treatment of loyal Japanese. A "letter to the editor" occupying a large share of this space was written by H. V. NICHOLSON, 1554 Las ... Lunas Street, Pasadena, California. "Letters to the Editor" were unde the main caption: "Nisei Ideals Declared as High as any Person's-One Contributor Thinks Democratic and Christian America Should Set Example for the World". A photograph allegedly showing the evacuation from the West Coast was printed on the page with this caption: " .... this wholesale evacuation from the West Coast was primarily caused by certain high pressure economic and political groups using false propaganda about sabotage in Hawaii to influence the primitive minds of the American people. These false stories have been officially denied but the damage was done." a quotation from the NICHOLSON letter.

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"Confidential memo regarding surveillance of Rev. Herbert V. Nicholson. Details his involvement in the American Friends Service Committee, and a letter to the editor of the Des Moines Register-Tribune criticizing the U.S. government's wartime decisions, Aug. 24, 1943.." *Densho Encyclopedia*. 17 Jul 2015, 15:34 PDT. 4 Apr 2018, 05:41 <a href="https://encyclopedia.densho.org/sources/en-denshopd-i67-00016-1/">https://encyclopedia.densho.org/sources/en-denshopd-i67-00016-1/</a>.

..."Oh, you can't! These are dangerous men!"

I said, "Now, just wait a minute, Colonel. There's not a single dangerous man there. They're all loyal Americans. They would be citizens if they were allowed to be. The FBI picked the cream of the Japanese American community to arrest, and they're wonderful people. Have you noticed — haven't they organized already? Don't they have a mayor? Don't they have a city council?"...

...Before we got through, he shook my hand and said, "Nicholson, I'm so glad you came. I realize these are decent people. They're not dangerous, you're right."

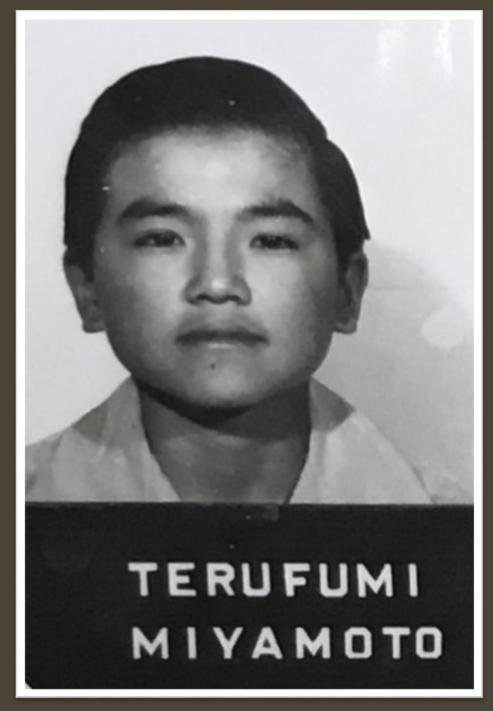
## After Livingston

## Reactions to Internment

# ...it's not easy to raise good Americans behind barbed wire.



- Dillon S. Meyer, Director of WRA



"As Abraham Lincoln said that all men are created equal, well, so I say do not discriminate or criticize others because of their race or color of their skin."

Special thanks to the American Library Association for its funding of this project through the ALA Carnegie Whitney Grant and the NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant.

Additional thanks to the Kohara, Miyamoto, and Kano families for their willingness to share their memories, stories, and lives with us for this project.

Without them, it wouldn't have been possible.



## Citations

**Slide 3:** War Relocation Authority. Salinas Assembly Center, Salinas, California. A young woman of Japanese ancestry identifies her baggage at this assembly center prior to transfer to a War Relocation Authority Center. Photographer: Clem Albers. Date 3/31/42.

Slide 4, 5: Oral History Interview with Clifford Miyamoto. Courtesy of Clifford Miyamoto

### Slide 6:

Courtesy Notice to Aliens of Enemy Nationalities, February 9, 1942, National Archives Catalog.

Buntetsu Miyamoto, Federal Bureau of Investigation File; Classification 65 (Espionage): Headquarters Case Files; Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Record Group 65, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Slide 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12: Camp Livingston – 4; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 – 1944; Construction Completion Reports, 1917 – 1944; Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, 1789-1999, Record Group 77; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

## Slide 13:

Image courtesy of the Bolton Library, LSU, Alexandria. Images courtesy of the Kohara family.

Slide 14: War Relocation Authority. No. 14I-730. Alexandria, Louisiana. Sam Kohara, age 30, is the oldest son of Mrs. M. Kohara. The Kohara family moved to Alexandria, Louisiana many years ago. Mr. Kohara farmed for a short time and then opened a photographic studio in that city. The family consists of three sons and two daughters. Two of the sons are in the army. Sam, the oldest, gives part of his time to the studio and the rest to a farm which he recently purchased. The Kohara farm house has all the modern conveniences including city water, electricity, telephone, and gas. Sam has a new Farmall tractor and says that he has had no serious difficulty securing farm machinery. Photographer: Hikaru Iwasaki.

War Relocation Authority. No. 14I-733. Alexandria, Louisiana. Mrs. M. Kohara and one of her Caucasian employees in the Kohara Studio. Mrs. Kohara manages the studio and has ten employees. She had an evacuee employee until quite recently when he was called by the army. Mrs. Kohara, in addition to the studio, owns a large substantial home in the city of Alexandria. Of the five Kohara children, four of them have attended Louisiana State University. A daughter, Dr. Kay Kohara, is a resident physician at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. The second daughter is still in high school. Sam, the oldest son, divides his time between the farm, which is about three miles from Alexandria, and the studio. Photographer: Hikaru Iwasaki.

Oral History Interview with Marion Kohara Couvillon. Courtesy of Kohara family.

## Slide 15:

"Kohara Studio Closed by U.S. Here." *The Weekly Town Talk* [Alexandria, LA], 13 Dec. 1941, p.8. "Kohara Studio Operated by Americans." *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* [Alexandria, LA], 13 Jan. 1942, p.10. Oral History Interview with Marion Kohara Couvillon. Courtesy of Kohara family.

**Slide 16:** Sugahara, Roku. "The Koharas of Louisiana." *Pacific Citizen*, 24 Dec. 1949, p.18, 23. Oral History Interview with Marion Kohara Couvillon. Courtesy of Kohara family.

### Slide 18:

Basic Personnel Record: Miyamoto, Buntetsu; Internee Case Files, 12/15/1941 – 1945; Records of the U.S. Army Forces in the Middle Pacific (World War II), 1940-1950, Record Group 494; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Record of the Hearings of a Board of Officers and Civilians Convened Pursuant to Paragraph 33, Special Orders No. 320, Headquarters, Hawaiian Department, Dated at Fort Shafter, T.H., 19 December 1941. In the Case of Buntetsu Miyamoto, ISN-HJ-131-CI; Hawaii, Civilian Internees: Miyamoto, Buntetsu; Subject Files, 1942 – 1946; Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, 1920 – 1975, Record Group 389; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Slide 19, 20: Kashima, Tetsuden. Judgment Without Trial: Japanese American Imprisonment during World War II. University of Washington Press, 2003. Page 44.

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Slide 22: Midkiff, John. "Torn Between Two Emotions." Jitsugyo no Hawai, 1938.04.01, Hoover Institution Archives, https://hojishinbun.hoover.org/newspapers/jnh19380401-01

**Slide 28:** Buntetsu Miyamoto, Federal Bureau of Investigation File; Classification 65 (Espionage): Headquarters Case Files; Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Record Group 65, National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

Slide 29: Basic Personnel Record: Miyamoto, Buntetsu; Internee Case Files, 12/15/1941 – 1945; Records of the U.S. Army Forces in the Middle Pacific (World War II), 1940-1950, Record Group 494; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

**Slide 30:** The Rev. Hiram Kano. "A sainted life: Hiram Hisanori Kano turned internment camp into mission field." https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2015/07/02/a-sainted-life-hiram-hisanori-kano-turned-internment-camp-into-mission-field/

**Slide 31:** Journal Images Courtesy of the Kano Family.

Slide 32: V-P-HIST-03390-34A; Date: 24/11/1942; Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Vue générale du camp d'internés civils japonais. ICRC archives (ARR). Furuya, Suikei. *An Internment Odyssey: Haisho Tenten*. Translated by Tatsumi Hayashi, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'I, 2017, p. 123-124.

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Mitushiko H. Shimizu interview October 30, 1978 California State University, Fullerton Oral History Program. From "Those other camps: An Oral History Analysis of Japanese alien enemy internment during world war II. A thesis by paul Frederick clark 1980. p.108.

Slide 39: V-P-HIST-03415-10; Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. Défrichage. ICRC archives (ARR).

Slide 40: V-P-HIST-03390-34; Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Pavillon du camp d'internés civils japonais. ICRC archives (ARR).

**Slide 41**: V-P-HIST-03413-30; Guerre 1939-1945. Louisiane, Livingston. Camp d'internés civils japonais. ICRC archives (ARR). Furuya, Suikei. *An Internment Odyssey: Haisho Tenten*. Translated by Tatsumi Hayashi, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'I, 2017, p. 102.

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Slide 53: Miyamoto, Buntetsu. "Memories of Sand Island." The Hawaii Herald, 1 Jan. 1949.

**Slide 55:** "Interview of Dillon S. Meyer on the Relocation of Japanese Americans, Ca 1943." Department of the Interior. War Relocation Authority, 1943. https://archive.org/details/OnTheRelocationOfJapaneseAmericans

Slide 56: Oral History Interview with Clifford Miyamoto. Courtesy of Clifford Miyamoto