

ENDURING SACRIFICE



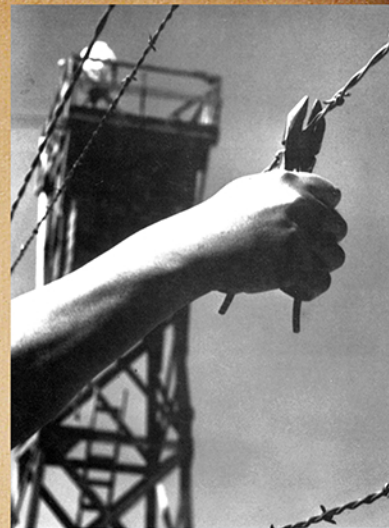
Jerome, Arkansas, housed many of the Fresno County internees from September, 1942 through mid-1944. Uprooted once again, prisoners were forced to relocate to Rohwer. Here, a sign erected by earlier residents of Rohwer welcomes the new arrivals from Jerome - June 21, 1944. Charles E. Mace, War Relocation Authority



Fresno County's Sergeant Kazuo Komoto, veteran of Guadalcanal and New Georgia, shows his Purple Heart to his younger brother, Susumu, while visiting his parents at the Gila River War Relocation Center near Phoenix, Arizona - October 31, 1943. War Relocation Authority



A view of some of the school children who participated in the Harvest Festival Parade held at the Gila River War Relocation Center in Rivers, Arizona, on Thanksgiving Day - November 26, 1942. Francis Stewart, War Relocation Authority



This photo by Toyo Miyatake appeared on the last page of "Our World," the 1944 high school yearbook produced in Manzanar War Relocation Center. Mr. Miyatake's son, Archie, was on the yearbook staff and held the wire cutters as his father captured this evocative and symbolic image. Toyo Miyatake



Recently-arrived internees fill mattresses with straw for use on cots at the Colorado River War Relocation Center in Poston, Arizona - May 28, 1942. War Relocation Authority



Hand-carved birds were painstakingly created by War Relocation Center internees during their years of captivity and helped to express the prisoners' longing to "fly away free."



After the devastating months experienced by internees in the Assembly Centers, Japanese Americans learned that they would be forced to move once again to War Relocation Centers that had been built in desolate and isolated inland places such as Manzanar and Tule Lake in California; Minidoka in Idaho; Topaz in Utah; Poston and Gila in Arizona; Heart Mountain in Wyoming; Granada in Colorado; and Jerome and Rohwer in Arkansas. The barracks were made of tar-paper without insulation, heating or cooling despite cold, blustering winters or hot, sweltering summers. The internment sites were enclosed by barbed wire fences and surrounded by armed sentries in guard towers. The guns were pointed inward to prevent escape. Most internees would be kept prisoner for the majority of the World War II years far from what was once home and without any information on what their fate would ultimately be.



A kindergarten class on the playground at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center in Newell, California - September, 1944. John Bigelow, War Relocation Authority

A conflict that arose at camp that tore apart families and friends was the "Loyalty Oath." The internees were given a questionnaire called an Application for Leave Clearance. Question 27 and 28 required a simple yes or no answer. Question 27 read "Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States, in combat duty, wherever ordered?" This was asked even of men far too old or infirm to serve in the military. Question 28 read "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and ...forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?" Confused internees agonized about the second question since, as American citizens, they had no loyalty to the Japanese emperor. Most had never even been to Japan. A "no" answer to either question branded the internee as disloyal and ineligible for leave clearance. Answering "yes" to both questions was essential for armed service or clearance to leave camp.

"No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
 "No State shall . . . deprive any person within its jurisdiction of the equal protection of the laws." Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

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