

# Manzanar



## ID Card

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
Presidio of San Francisco, California  
May 3, 1942

### INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

**Residential Area:**

1. Within the Residential Area, persons of Japanese ancestry shall be permitted to reside only in the First Class and Second Class residential areas as shown on the map attached to this order.

2. All persons, dated May 3, 1942, shall report to the Residency Office within 10 calendar days of the date of this order.

3. If a family, or in case of grave emergency, is affected by this restriction to the Residential Area, the person shall report to the Residency Office.

4. No person shall be permitted to engage in any business, profession, or occupation which requires the use of a license, permit, or other document.

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In 1942 the United States Government ordered over 110,000 men, women, and children to leave their homes and detained them in remote, military-style camps. Two-thirds of them were born in America. Not one was convicted of espionage or sabotage.

In this booklet, you will read the story of a person who lived this history, in his or her own words.

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## **AYAKO MACHIDA**

### **Camp: Manzanar, CA**

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I remember December 7, 1941 (Sunday morning) very well. My mother had just made breakfast and the family was ready to eat. My brother came running into the kitchen to say that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor and that the United States declared war. I shall never forget the expression on my mother's face when she heard this as this since Japan was her birth country. The center of our family's conversation was about the war and what it was going to do to the family.

My brothers were in business for themselves so the going was not too good for them. Since they had to work until late at night they were constantly under surveillance with the neighborhood guards. They had to answer questions every night as to where they had been and why. We had a curfew and could not go anywhere after dark.

When I returned to school the next day, my classmates made fun of me and wanted me out of their classroom as they thought I was a threat and would harm them. The school principal talked to the Japanese in the school and asked that we consider quitting since there was so much animosity towards us. Needless to say, my "friends" were no longer my friends. They stayed away from me like I had leprosy. What made it worse was that the Ambassador from Japan waiting

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WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**  
Presidio of San Francisco, California  
May 3, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

**Living in the Following Area:**

All of that portion of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, within that boundary beginning at the point at which South Figueroa Street meets a line extending the middle of the Los Angeles River; thence northwesterly and following the said line to East First Street; thence westerly to East First Street; thence northwesterly to Alameda Street; thence northwesterly to East Third Street; thence northwesterly to East Third Street to Main Street; thence northwesterly to Main Street to First Street; thence northwesterly to First Street to Main Street; thence northwesterly to Figueroa Street to the point of

commencement of the Civil Control Administration Order No. 33, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and naturalized, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. M. T., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. M. T., Sunday, May 3, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Southern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

Japanese Union Church,  
120 North San Pedro Street,  
Los Angeles, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of visiting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency. The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation, leaving, etc., storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
2. Provide temporary residences elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
3. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

**The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:**

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This report be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:

- (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
- (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
- (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
- (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
- (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name and number of the evacuee in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. No jewelry or other valuables through its agencies will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
5. No personal dishes and see household goods will be provided for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner.
6. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as telephones, washing machines, planes and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
7. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by public automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

**Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.**

J. L. DeWITT  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

SEE OFFICIAL REGULATIONS SERIES NO. 33.

to see President Roosevelt had the same name as me and somehow that meant that there might be some relation to this person. The principal of the school peeked into our classroom and jokingly said, "I would be careful, Class, as you have one of those among you." I have never forgotten those words as it really struck a bad note with me-I could not understand why my being in school would be a threat. Now that I think about it, I think the administration was looking out for us so that things wouldn't happen to us. I was at an age (15) when events such as this could be very traumatic and the vulnerability of imminent danger if I stuck around. My thought then was what did I do? I was

born in the United States. How could I have started the war!!!

Then word came out that all Japanese must to be evacuated out of the west coast into internment camps throughout the United States. We were only allowed to take what we could carry on our backs. I remember people coming over to buy all of our furniture for next-to-nothing. My brother had just bought his first new car that he almost had to give away. People were very merciless and greedy. Signs started to show on the windows of business establishments, "NO JAPS ALLOWED."

My family and others who lived in or around the area were the first ones to leave as we were living in the danger zone (near Lockheed). I think it was perhaps sometime in late



*Arriving at Manzanar, 1942*

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**I was born in the  
United States.  
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started the war!!!**

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April or early May that we took the bus (with windows covered and two MP's aboard) to a place called Manzanar. We were each given a box lunch and made one stop to the unknown destination.

When we arrived in Manzanar, there was a greeting party of some more MP's who examined our meager belongings. They actually poked holes into our luggage with their

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**They looked upon us as if we had committed a crime and that we were responsible for the war.**

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bayonets when they could not get into it. They were not a friendly bunch. The treatment we received was very bad. They looked upon us as if we had committed a crime and that we were

responsible for the war. When we finally were able to get through the check-in line, we received our assignment for living quarters. Each family member had a cot allotted to them and a hay filled mattress that we had to fill ourselves. The floors had a lot of holes in it that made sweeping very easy as all the dirt went into these holes as we swept. Later, as time went on, we finally had the floors laid with some kind of linoleum. We had to make our own tables and chairs with whatever material we could find. Some of the people who were creative made cupboards and dressers.

Once my family settled, all students received notices to contact their schools to get textbooks and assignments so we could finish the school year. I missed about six or seven





*Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942*

weeks. We had to find teachers who would instruct us and give us our final tests, etc. These teachers were in college who needed credits to finish to get their degrees. Fortunately, I passed into the eleventh grade.

High school in camp was a brand new experience for me. All the classrooms were barracks similar to our home. Most of the teachers were Caucasians who taught the basic classes, and the Japanese taught most of the science classes. The exposure that I had with so many Japanese was very overwhelming since the school I previously went to had so few Japanese. The competition was great. I had done fairly well in my studies until I had all this competition. There were many leaders among us who were very competent and popular and became officers of the student body. There was even a football team that competed with Lone Pine High School. We won most of the time even though the boys from Lone Pine were bigger and taller. Life at Manzanar High School was fun. People became very close friends and have remained so after

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**Life at Manzanar High School was fun. People became very close friends and have remained so after fifty years.**

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fifty years. Many of the boys were drafted into the armed services after they graduated from high school. Many of the families moved to other parts of the United States as employment opened up to them.

I stayed with my family until they relocated to Idaho. After a short time, I started to apply for nurses training. I must have tried at least ten schools before I finally was accepted to a school in Illinois. Many of the schools were still afraid to accept Japanese into their schools because of the fear they had. There were twelve Japanese students in my class.

We had escorts into town and had to be in the dorm by 8:00pm. Some of the patients were afraid of us taking care of them. I had to wait a year before I could take my state board in California. By this time, my family had

moved back to California to start all over again. I felt there was prejudice for quite a while and it seemed as though I always had to prove myself to be better or more competent than my peers.

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# MANZANAR *Free Press*

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## **MANZANAR**

**Location:** Inyo County, California, at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada.

### **Environmental**

**Conditions:** Temperatures can be over 100 degrees in summer and below freezing in winter. Strong winds & dust storms are frequent.

**Acreage:** 6,000

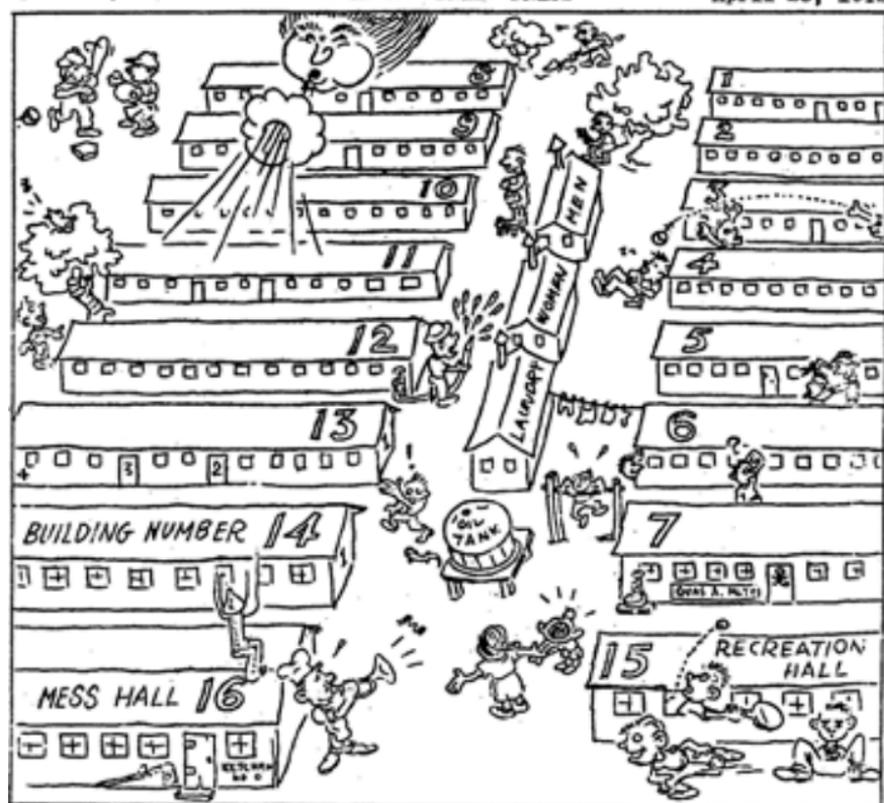
**Opened:** March 21, 1942 as a Reception Center and June 1, 1942 as a War Relocation Center.

**Closed:** November 21, 1945

**Max. Population:** 10,046 (September 1942)

**Demographics:** Most internees were from the Los Angeles area, Terminal Island, and the San Fernando Valley. Others came from the San Joaquin Valley and Bainbridge Island.





## LIFE IN A MANZANAR BLOCK

### Wind and Dust

This wind and dust I have to bear  
 How hard it blows I do not care.  
 But when the wind begins to blow -  
 My morale is pretty low.

I know that I can see it through  
 Because others have to bear it too.

So I will bear it with the rest  
 And hope the outcome is the best.

-- George Nishimura, age 16 (1943)



Manzanar Cemetery, Winter 2002.

This booklet was developed by the park rangers at Manzanar National Historic Site in partnership with the individuals profiled and their families.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. To learn more about your national parks, visit the National Park Service website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). To learn more about Manzanar National Historic Site, please visit our website at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).

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Printing was made possible by a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.