

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

Excluded Area:

1. Within the Excluded Area there is a number of San Francisco Bay Area residents who are permitted to live in their homes, those who are in the Excluded Area on the date of

its designation, dated May 3, 1942, all persons from the above area by 12 o'clock noon or earlier after 12 o'clock noon, P. M. T., representative of the Commanding General.

2. If a family, or in case of grave emergency, as defined by this regulation in the Excluded Area, or other disposition of area lands, residential, public, business, educational and

religious, to include new residents.

Do, as the person in whose name most of the Civil Control Administration number - War Relocation Authority, San Francisco, California.





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.

TADASHI TATSUI

Family # 1223

Camp: Manzanar, CA

Address: Block 6



My father came to the United States in 1919 from Hiroshima with his two older brothers. Mother came later. Dad did many jobs like most immigrants...farming, produce stand, gardening...After World War II, Dad packed goods in a dry good warehouse. My brother worked at the same plant and at Sears. My younger sister taught elementary school.

I was in Junior High School in Los Angeles when the war began. All kinds of sports interested me.

After Pearl Harbor things became hectic as rumors of camp grew and rumors about our bad disloyalty were rampant. My brother and I stayed closer to home.

My worst experience was having to sit in home-room class as President

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WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Presidio of San Francisco, California
May 24, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area:

All of that portion of the State of California which is under military control as of the date of this order and which is within the limits of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army shall be governed by the provisions of this order. These instructions are subject to such changes as may be made from time to time. Persons of Japanese ancestry who are in the State of California on the date of this order shall be subject to the provisions of this order.

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Roosevelt gave his declaration of war speech. I was stunned but the nice teacher put her hand on my shoulder and said, "Don't feel bad, we know you had nothing to do with Pearl Harbor."

When my Uncle got orders to go to Manzanar, my father volunteered to go with his younger brother

so we quickly sold, literally gave away, everything we owned except what we could carry to Manzanar.

I remember my brother and I tried to sell our new bikes but every merchant knew we were desperate so we couldn't get even a quarter of their worth. Luckily, my Dad's insurance friend was visiting and he felt so sorry for us he bought both at a reasonable price.

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Train Arriving at Lone Pine, 1942

We went directly to the train depot in L.A. and boarded a train to Manzanar. I carried my 1 year old sister and a cloth bag so Mom, dad and brother

I carried my 1 year old sister and a cloth bag so Mom, dad and brother could carry their allotted two suitcases or bags. We took mostly clothes.

could carry their allotted two suitcases or bags. We took mostly clothes. The trip to Manzanar was grim even though it was April Fool Day.

We were among the first groups to arrive at Manzanar. Only 6 blocks were built (camp eventually grew

to 30-36 blocks) and we were assigned to block 6. Enough topsoil was removed so it was very dusty. We had just one small room for the five of us so it was crowded with very little privacy. The armed M.P.s were always visible in their Jeeps and in the Watch Towers.

As the camp grew in size, schools and churches were opened, and activities developed. Fortunately, some friends from L.A. came and we immediately formed a club to play baseball, football and basketball and to attend church.



Manzanar under construction, 1942

School had a few dedicated teachers—I especially recall a blind speech teacher who patiently taught us how to pronounce the “Th” and “R” sounds. But the curriculum was limited. It was difficult to plan



Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942

for the future, especially college. Being young, I think I was able to endure camp better than the older people and parents.

My brother graduated High School in Camp and went to Chicago to look for a job. When he found a job and an apartment, we followed. Fortunately



Maeda Boarding House, Chicago Illinois 1944



Chicago accepted us with little prejudice. I was still in High School. I wasn't too motivated in school because I was so far behind the other students and I had a part time job I had to go to after school. I had to support myself because the family had so little money when we left Manzanar.

Camp changed a lot of people's lives. My brother had to assume the leadership of the family as Dad found his skills as a farmer and gardener useless in Chicago.

I went from a part time worker to a full time worker at the same plant. I had no idea what I wanted to

do. I tried auto repair school but that didn't work out. It wasn't until after the Korean War that I was able to use the GI bill to go to college and get a BA and MA. degree from the University of Illinois.

My advice to students from my Manzanar experience is that we should be careful and watchful that it should never happen again. To have your rights as a citizen be denied and taken away because you happen to be of a different race and to look a little different is unconstitutional.

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MANZANAR *Free Press*

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. To learn more about Manzanar National Historic Site, please visit our website at www.nps.gov/manz.

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