

HQ. WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY

CHECK SLIP (Informal)
(Do not remove from this paper)

254

File No.

Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

Note: Use this slip for notes in connection with this paper. All notes will be NUMBERED CONSECUTIVELY, top to bottom. Papers should have attached all records necessary for intelligent action. A line will be drawn the full width of the slip below each note.

SUBJECT:

No.	Date	From	To	REMARKS
1	7/11/42	CAD	AG	Request copy of confidential memorandum (your file No. 254) from the Commanding General pertaining to conditions at Manzanar War Relocation Area, dated about June 20, 1942. <i>IF</i> <i>HTF</i>
2	7/12/42	AG	CAD	Desired memo herewith enclosed. <i>J. A. R.</i>

CONFIDENTIAL

File see open records for reply and action.

CONFIDENTIAL
(Use both sides)

CONFIDENTIAL

19 June 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division
(THRU: Chief of Staff)

1. As a result of a recent inspection of the Military Police Company at the War Relocation Reception Center at Manzanar, the following was reported:

a. There seems to be a distinct attitude of camaraderie and brothership between the camp management and the Japanese. In wother words, there seems to be an overly friendly attitude - in the opinion of the officers on duty with the Military Police Company.

b. There has not, apparently, been any special privileges given to the Japanese, but the following two incidents indicate a tendency in that direction:

(1) When Colonel Kress of the WRA Office in Washington visited Manzanar recently, the camp manager had Dr. Goto and his wife (Dr. Goto is the Japanese doctor in charge of the hospital) at a dinner at Independence. There were several of the white staff and Colonel Kress at this dinner. No permit was given Dr. Goto to pass the Military Police and the Military Police had no knowledge of his absence from the camp. Dr. Goto was reported by the State Police as being in Independence and the Military Police Company Commander went up and investigated and found that he was with the camp staff and did nothing more about it.

(2) Recently, three Japanese were permitted to go to work on a tract of land about three miles from camp. They were unaccompanied by white guards and the Military Police Commander asked Mr. Nash about this and was told that it was all right; that they were doing some surveying for the WRA.

2. Other than these two instances, the only parties that have gone out are the work details to unload freight at the railhead for transportation to camp. So while it appears that there has been no laxity on the part of the camp management in allowing Japanese to wander around through the valley, nevertheless there is a tendency that will ultimately lead to laxity, as indicated by the two instances cited above.

3. Dr. Goto and his wife should not have been permitted out of the camp without a written permit and should have been passed by the Military Police. The three Japanese who were reported as doing some survey work should have been accompanied by white guards and should have had written permits to leave the camp.

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Memo for AC of S CAD (THRU C/S) (continued)

19 June 42

4. It is also reported by the State Police and the Military Police that the camp management has a number of Government vehicles assigned to it; that these cars are speeding and exceeding the speed limits on the State highways and are being used for private purposes in going back and forth to the homes of the employees and taking the employees back and forth to meals at nearby towns. While this is no concern of this headquarters, nevertheless the above all indicates a tendency towards freedom and laxity that should be brought to the attention of the Regional Director of the WRA.

5. The above information should be given confidentially to the Regional Director of the WRA.

6. My opinion is that if this apparent easing down is not stopped in the beginning, it will lead to trouble; and as far as failure to grant permits to leave the camp is concerned, if this is not done instructions will be given to the Military Police to take positive steps to carry out their orders. In other words, the Military Police Company Commander would have been perfectly right in seeing that Dr. Goto and his wife were returned to camp even if they were in Independence as a guest of the camp manager.

7. Mr. Freyer should be informed that if steps are not taken by the camp management to enforce compliance with existing directives in that respect then steps will be taken by this headquarters to see that they are enforced, which may lead to embarrassment for the camp management. In other words, the military responsibility is going to be carried out irrespective of embarrassment to others.

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

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HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

RS No. 894

16 June 1942 7:00 p.m.

Transcript of Telephone Conversation Between COLONEL MAGILL, Provost Marshal, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, and MAJOR McGRAIL, Aide to General DeWitt.

Colonel Magill: I have just returned from Manzanar. At Manzanar I visited the Military Police Company and talked to three of the officers of the Company. I inquired particularly as to the attitude of the camp management toward the Japanese and any special privileges that may have been given the Japanese. The officers reported only two instances.

Recently, when Colonel Kress from the WRA office in Washington was visiting Manzanar, the camp manager had Dr. Goto and his wife — Dr. Goto is in charge of the hospital, at a dinner at Independence. There were several of the white staff and Colonel Keress present at this dinner. It happened that no permit was given Dr. Goto to pass the Military Police and they had no knowledge of his absence from the camp. He was reported by the State Police as being in Independence and the Military Police Company Commander went up and investigated and found that he was with the camp staff and did nothing more about it.

One other instance: Recently, there were three Japanese permitted to go to work on a tract of land about three miles from the camp. They were unaccompanied by white guards and the Military Police Commander asked Mr. Nash about this, and he said it was all right; they were doing some surveying for the WRA.

Other than these two instances, the only parties that have gone out are the work details to unload the freight at the railhead for transportation to the camp. So it appears that there has been no laxity on the part of the camp management in allowing Japanese to wander around through the valley. The Military Police Company Commander and the other two officers were quite concerned about one or two other matters.

The first: The camp management has a number of Government vehicles assigned to it. There are many complaints both by the State Police and by the Military Police about the speeding of these cars on the State highway. These cars are also reported by the Military Police Company Commander to be used for private purposes in going back and forth to the homes of the employees and taking the employees back and forth to meals at the nearby towns.

Major McGrail: Okay, Colonel. Anything else, sir?

Magill: There is one other thing that doesn't touch on this particular problem. They have had some difficulty in obtaining hospitalization for the enlisted men, and it is necessary that they report to the central defense area headquarters at Reno, by letter, in order to obtain an authorization to send a man to the hospital at Camp Haan. In a recent case, the contract doctor recommended hospitalization for a man and it took 12 days to get the authority to get the man there. There is no white doctor at the camp and there are no facilities there for the treatment of soldiers. I reported this to Colonel McCornack yesterday, but I did not have all the facts.

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Authority NND 730027

By JAB NARA Date 9/13/05

Page 2. Colonel Magill and Major McGrail. 6/18/42.

Magill (cont'd): There is one other thing. They did report to me that the camp management has now discontinued the inspection of parcel-post packages, and the Military Police are concerned about contraband being shipped in in this manner.

McGrail: Yes, sir. I know that that particular point -- General DeWitt has interested himself in that just recently. I think they will clamp down on it.

Magill: One other thing, though, I believe that would be apropos of that teletype this morning: The Military Police officers -- all three of them -- state that there is a distinct attitude of camaraderie and brothership between the camp management and the Japanese; that they are overly friendly, in their opinion. That is just their opinion.

I don't think of anything else that I believe the General would want to know now. My conclusion was -- as far as the handling of the Japanese and the public -- that they are very well taken care of. I did go around all through the camp and around the outskirts; they have a close guard and no evidence of any Japanese wandering around loose.

McGrail: That seems to cover it, Colonel. I will see that that is on the General's desk . . .

Magill: I'll not be leaving the house until about 8:00. If you want to have this written up before, you can call me back if I seem to have missed anything.

McGrail: All right, sir.

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