

CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE ONLY

TIME FILED

MSG CEN NO

HOW SENT

0822402

CONFIDENTIAL

(CLASSIFICATION)

8 DECEMBER 1942

NO.

DATE

2020

SEND THE FOLLOWING

- (URGENT) _____
- (OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES) _____
- (PRIORITY) PRIORITY
- (ROUTINE) _____
- (DEFERRED) _____

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MIS
G-2
WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

014,31

NO. 1466 AT 082215 ZED DECEMBER. CONFIRMS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL LIEBEL.

THE LATEST OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE AMONG JAPANESE EVACUEES AT MANZANAR IS ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF A TENSE AND INCREASINGLY INCONGRUOUS SITUATION WHERE PRO AXIS JAPANESE CHIEFLY ISSEI (ALIENS) AND KIBEI (THOSE JAPANESE WHO WERE EDUCATED AND SPENT THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS IN JAPAN) ARE GAINING GRADUAL CONTROL OF THE INTERIOR OF THE WAR RELOCATION CAMPS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN MOVED BY THIS COMMAND. WHEN THE JAPANESE EVACUATION WAS COMPLETED RECENTLY TO THE CONTROL OF THE W.R.A. THE FBI ASSUMED JURISDICTION OVER COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND ~~XXXXXX~~ SUBVERSIVE COVERAGE. WHEN THIS OCCURRED I TOOK PROMPT STEPS TO REQUEST OF MR. MYRON E. GURNEA, INSPECTOR OF ALL FBI FIELD OFFICES ALONG THE WEST COAST, THAT REPORTS OF THIS COVERAGE BE TRANSMITTED TO THIS SECTION PERIODICALLY. I ALSO MADE THE SAME REQUEST OF THE SEPARATE FBI OFFICES THROUGH THE G-2 BRANCH OFFICES IN THE WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND. TO DATE THE AMOUNT OF SUCH INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BY THE FBI HAS BEEN NEGLIGIBLE AND I HAVE HAD TO DEPEND FOR INFORMATION CHIEFLY FROM THE W.R.A. AND VARIOUS SOURCES CONSIDERED RELIABLE. BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY ME I CONSIDER THE FBI COVERAGE ~~EX~~ AT THESE CAMPS LARGELY INEFFECTIVE. OPEN RIOTING BOTH AT POSTON AND MANZANAR AS WELL AS RELIABLE REPORTS FROM ALL OF THE SIX W.R.A. CAMPS IN THIS AREA, HOWEVER, HAVE LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE INTERIORS OF THE CAMPS ARE LARGELY CONTROLLED BY A PRO AXIS MINORITY, THAT THIS CONTROL IS STEADILY INCREASING AND THAT THE RIOTING AND STRIKES ARE CAUSED BY EFFORTS OF THE PRO AXIS ELEMENTS TO RETALIATE AGAINST THE GENERALLY LOYAL NISEI, SOME OF

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Authority NPD130027
By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

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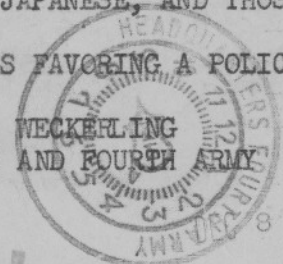
HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

WHOM HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED AS "INFORMERS". IT IS ALSO MY OPINION THAT THE W.R.A. MANAGEMENT OF THE CAMP IS WEAK AND INEXPERIENCED THOUGH POSSIBLY DUE IN PART AT LEAST TO LACK OF PERSONNEL TO ACT AS INTERIOR POLICE. AT PRESENT THE INTERIOR POLICE ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY JAPANESE. THIS COMMAND AND THE NINTH SERVICE COMMAND MAINTAIN M.P. BATTALIONS AND COMPANIES AT EACH OF THE SIX CAMPS IN THE WDC AREA AT MANZANAR AND TULE LAKE (NEWELL) CALIFORNIA: DELTA, UTAH: SACATON (GILA RIVER) AND POSTON (COLORADO RIVER W.R.A.) ARIZONA: ND AT PARKER DAM AND HUNT (MINIDOKA) IDAHO: BUT THE AUTHORITY OF THESE M.P. UNITS IS LIMITED TO THE OUTSIDE AREAS OF THE CAMP ENCLOSURES AND MAY BE USED ONLY IN THE CAMP INTERIOR WHEN SPECIFICALLY CALLED BY THE W.R.A. THE RIOTING AT MANZANAR ON 6 DECEMBER WAS THE FIRST INSTANCE WHERE THE MILITARY TOOK CONTROL SINCE THE W.R.A. ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY. ~~XX~~ I AM FURTHER OF THE OPINION THAT PROMPT SEGREGATION OF THE JAPANESE IN THESE CAMPS IS NECESSARY, THE LINE OF CLEAVAGE TO BE DRAWN INITIALLY AT LEAST, BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE REQUESTED REPATRIATION - ABOUT 3000 - PLUS A CAREFULLY COMPILED LIST OF JAPS WHOSE CONNECTION WITH THE HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC JAPANESE SOCIETIES AND FOR OTHER REASONS ARE SUSPECTED TO BE STRONGLY PRO JAPANESE, AND THOSE WHO ARE BELIEVED LOYAL. THIS HEADQUARTERS HAS GONE ON RECORD AS FAVORING A POLICY OF SEGREGATION

OFFICIAL:

[Signature]
 JOHN WECKERLING
 Colonel, G.S.C.,
 A.C. of S., G-2

G-2 WDC
DEC - 11 1942 PM



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~~291.2~~HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIAX201 *Camman*
#444
gfl

7 December 1942.

Transcript of telephone conversation between Colonel BENDETSEN and Captain HALL,
CO, MP Unit at Manzanar.

Colonel BENDETSEN: I just talked to the Chief of Staff, 9th Service Command, and I'll review the situation for you. I told him about the fact that the Project Director had talked to the Press, and told them about the killing and he's now acquainted with that. I also told him that I asked you to talk to him and tell him not to make any further statements. Has he agreed?

Captain HALL: Yes, sir.

B. I recommended to him and he has asked me to call you for him, that you clamp down on all incoming mail and outgoing mail - that you impose complete censorship.

H. For how long?

B. Until otherwise directed.

H. All right, sir.

B. In other words, by censorship is meant that you will allow no mail to go out and that you _____ incoming mail until further notice it should not be delivered.

H. We get about 60 bags a day.

B. Keep it under guard. Allow no outgoing or incoming mail. You should not allow anyone to use any communications except for necessity. In other words, completely clamp down on the place. No communications in or out except your own. Also, the staff, the Caucasian staff that stays there, should be kept in there and no one should be allowed in except in your discretion where it is absolutely necessary to maintain health and sanitation. Of course, deliveries of food must be made, but you'll have to control that. In that way, we'll be able to control any more leaks. We are going to ask through the War Department that they request in turn the Censorship Office in Washington to ask the Press not to print anything about the killings. In other words, until this story can be reviewed and the best slant put on it, it should not be put out, because you can realize what that means if gotten ahold of in Japan in terms of retaliation against our soldiers in their hands. So, you will naturally have to explain to the Caucasian staff - in a way you don't have to do it but it probably will ease the situation if you do - for the protection of our own soldiers in the hands of the enemy this is essential for civilians as well.

H. I'll go right over and see them.

B. You understand fully what I'm talking about, and the Chief of Staff, Colonel Davidson, asked me to so instruct you. Have you got it all?

H. I think so.

B. All right. Are there any questions?

H. No, sir.

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By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

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Page 2. Colonel Bendetsen and Captain Hall. 12/7/42.

B. All right, fine. If you want any further dope, the line remains open.

H. All right.

B. We can get through to Salt Lake for you. The situation all quiet?

H.....

B. All right. Go to it. Thank you.

* * * * *

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

014.31
~~291.2~~
X 201 *Ex name*
#447
gfl

Transcript of telephone conversation between Colonel BENDETSEN and Colonel DAVIDSON,
C/S, 9th Service Command, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Colonel BENDETSEN: I just wanted to report that I had talked to Hall and told him to
clamp down on everything. He understands.

Colonel DAVIDSON: We talked to him also.

B. Good.

D. I have not been able to reach the Bureau of Public Relations in Washington. I can't
get anything through their Central, can't raise anybody, but I did get the Provost
Marshal General's office and the duty officer there is going to call General Gullion
right now and then I suggested he get in touch with Surles and they get the thing
stopped. We have to act quick; the thing's already in Washington.

B. It is?

D. Oh yes. Associated Press called us.

B. I have asked our man here to call the wire services and tell them that such a request
is being made to censor and we would appreciate their cooperation and to explain the
reason why we want it. Perhaps it would be well if your Special Services man did the
same thing there.

D. I've done the same thing.

B. Fine.

D. That won't do any good, because that went out of Southern California on the TWX
office all over the country. I mean it's gone into the local office.

B. I know some of the .. I know Price. I also know some of the boys in OWI, Eisenhower
the Deputy in Washington. Perhaps I should call him direct.

D. I wonder if you can tell me how to reach Surles?

B. I don't know his home telephone number. You could call the toll line; the operator
could find him.

D. I can't raise his office at all.

B. I think a direct call to him at his home would be the best thing to do now. You can't
get him on the tact. They don't switch in to commercial circuits in Washington.

D. I'll have the Central look it up. If I don't hear from Gullion in the next 15 minutes,
I'll call Surles direct.

B. All right, sir. Is there anything we can do at this end meanwhile?

D. The quickest way to get this thing stopped would be to have General Gullion push it

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By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

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Page 2. Colonel Bendetsen and Colonel Davidson. 12/7/42.

through.

B. Yes, General Gullion or Surles. All right, sir.

D. Thank you very much, Bendetsen.

B. Thank you.

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Authority MPD130027By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY

291.2

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

X201 Eamome

445

1620 Z Dec 7, 1942

Transcript of telephone conversation between General BARNETT and General SURLES,
Director of Public Relations, Wash. D. C.

General SURLES: Good morning, Barnett. This is Surles.

General BARNETT: Yes sir.

S: We're getting repercussions from that Manzanar affair....mainly on account of the
censorship angles, you know.

B: Yes sir.

S: I saw the stuff that was on the tickers that came through. As far as we can see
here in Washington, there wasn't -- it didn't seem as though we ought to hold that par-
ticular thing up. There wasn't anything particularly unfavorable in the reports that
I saw.

B: I didn't think so either, but we were afraid that they had put some stuff out a
little bit hastily -- or rather before they knew what the story was. For example, the
paper this morning talked of Martial Law. Insofar as I know, there had been no Martial
Law declared. The MP's just moved in to clear up a situation.

S: Here is what I would recommend, Barnett. If it meets with your approval. I think
somebody should come out with a factual statement. . . . your headquarters.

B: That's right.

S: Poke that out and let it go on the way. You see they held up the AP, but the UP
and the INS weren't held up and the AP is mad now because they were the only service that
was held up.

B: I see.

S: So if you will put out a factual statement along the lines of the stuff that I saw,
I don't think it could possibly hurt anything.

B: I don't think so, sir. That's what we contemplate doing.

S: Good. All right. Thank you very much.

B: Yes sir. Fine. Goodbye.

* * *

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Handwritten initials and a circled 'a'.

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By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

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DATE 51 7 DECEMBER 1942
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(OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES)
(PRIORITY) PRIORITY
(ROUTINE)
(DEFERRED) 014.31

1984

SEND THE FOLLOWING

2-C W7681

MIS, G-2,
WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

~~SENT IN CONFIDENTIAL CODE~~

NUMBER 1451 AT 070745 ZED DECEMBER. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM OFFICIALS AT MANZANAR RELOCATION SETTLEMENT THROUGH OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE NINTH SERVICE COMMAND FORT DOUGLAS STATES THAT AT 0215 GCT 7 DECEMBER MARTIAL LAW WAS REQUESTED BY LOCAL CAMP AUTHORITIES AND IMPOSED UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN HALL COMMANDING THE 332ND ESCORT COMPANY AS A RESULT OF A BEATING GIVEN A JAPANESE INFORMANT AT ABOUT 0400 GCT 6 DECEMBER BY OTHER JAPANESE IN THE CAMP. ONE OF THE SUSPECTS WAS REMOVED FROM THE CAMP AFTER THE BEATING INCIDENT AND WAS ONLY RETURNED TO THE JURISDICTION OF A JAPANESE COMMITTEE AFTER AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WHEREBY NO FURTHER MEETINGS OR VIOLENCE WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE CAMP. THIS AGREEMENT WAS VIOLATED WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT A MOB HAD ORGANIZED TO ATTACK AND KILL THE PREVIOUSLY BEATEN MAN WHILE HE WAS RECOVERING IN THE CAMP HOSPITAL. CAMP AUTHORITIES THEN REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE MILITARY POLICE WHO REMOVED THE VICTIM FROM THE CAMP HOSPITAL. THE JAPANESE MOB THEN CONFRONTED LOCAL CAMP AUTHORITIES WITH MOB DEMANDS FOR THE RETURN OF THE MAN WITH THE INTENT OF KILLING HIM. WHEN THIS ACTION OCCURRED THE LOCAL CAMP AUTHORITIES DECLARED MARTIAL LAW AT 0215 GCT 7 DECEMBER AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE IN COMMAND OF THE CAMP. THE MOB CONTINUED DEMONSTRATIONS WITH THREATENED VIOLENCE WHEREUPON THE MILITARY POLICE FIRED TEAR GAS INTO THE MOB WHICH STILL REFUSED TO DISPERSE AND THEN HURLED ROCKS AND OTHER MISSILES AT THE MILITARY POLICE WHO HAD SET UP MACHINE GUNS AND TAKEN POSTS UNDER ARMS. THE MOB THEN ADVANCED UPON THE MILITARY POLICE WHO THEN FIRED UPON THEM. THE MOB PARTIALLY DISPERSED LEAVING ONE JAP DEAD, ONE JAP IN A DYING

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DEC 7 1942 08 AM

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HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

CONDITION AND 7 OTHER KNOWN WOUNDED. DUE TO THE CONFUSION AND DARKNESS AND THE SMALL NUMBER OF MILITARY POLICE, 135 INCLUDING 50 RECRUITS, FURTHER DETAILS AS TO CONDITIONS WITHIN THE CAMP HAVE NOT BEEN LEARNED. CAPTAIN HALL HAS ASKED FOR REINFORCEMENTS WHICH IT IS LEARNED FROM HEADQUARTERS NINTH SERVICE COMMAND ARE BEING SENT FROM RENO NEVADA. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY TEN THOUSAND JAPANESE IN THE MANZANAR CAMP ACCORDING TO CAMP OFFICIALS

WECKERLING
G-2, WDC AND FOURTH ARMY

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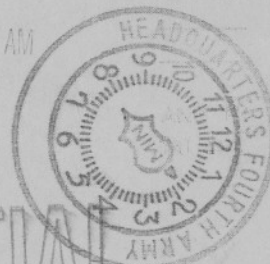
OFFICIAL:

John Weckerling
 JOHN WECKERLING
 Colonel, G.S.C.
 A. C. of S., G-2

*Sent 0850z
 Jew*

DEC 7 1942 1 58 AM

DEC - 7 1942 AM



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WAR DEPARTMENT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

4550 BRAZIL STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

November 26, 1942

NO. WESTERN DISTRICT COMMAND
AND NORTH AREA
DEC 15 1942

SUBJECT: Owens Valley Reception Center - Subversive activities.

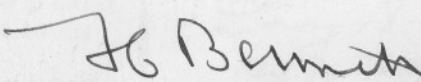
TO: The District Engineer,
U. S. Engineer Office,
751 South Figueroa Street,
Los Angeles, California.

1. Forwarded herewith is an English translation of a bulletin that was posted in a prominent place in 21 mess halls of the Owens Valley Reception Center. The poster was in Japanese script, and although the translation attached may not be literal it conveys the general idea. A copy of the original script is in possession of the Resident Engineer.

2. This is factual evidence of subversive activity that has existed in the Reception Center since its inception. The Resident Engineer has been advised that the subversive group constitutes a very small minority of the occupants and that there are about 20 active agitators. Their activities apparently include exhortations, threats of reprisal both at present and at the end of the existing emergency.

3. It is felt that this information should be brought to the attention of proper authorities as the camp administration has taken no apparent steps in the matter.

4. The Resident Engineer, in strict compliance with orders from this office, has refrained from any participation in the internal affairs of the camp and from unnecessary contact with the occupants, however, the information outlined above has been brought to his attention without effort on his part and he feels that he would be derelict in his duty if he did not pass it on to higher authority.


F. C. Bennett,
District Regional Engineer.

~~SECRET~~

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Authority MPD730027
By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject: Owens Valley Reception Center -
Subversive activities.
(Basic letter 11/26/42)

1st Ind.

Reference CE-4

U. S. Engineer Office, Los Angeles, California, December 7, 1942. To -
The Commanding General, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, Presidio
of San Francisco, California. (Through the Division Engineer, Pacific
Division, San Francisco Branch, San Francisco, California.)

1. Reference is made to the camouflage garnished net projects
operated by this office at War Relocation Authority centers at Manzanar,
California, Poston, Arizona, and Sacaton, Arizona.

2. In view of the unsatisfactory production of camouflage nets
during recent months at the relocation centers, the Chief of Engineers
has determined that this work shall be accomplished hereafter by private
contract. It is proposed to discontinue operations at the relocation
centers as soon as contracts can be made with private contractors, and a
good production obtained from this new source.

3. It is extremely important that maximum production be obtained
by the present garnished net projects during the interval of approxi-
mately two months, which it is estimated will be required for the pri-
vate contractors to get into production. In order to attain the desired
rate of production, this office has negotiated a contract with a private
contractor for operation of the present projects. Evacuee labor will be
paid directly by the contractor on a piecework basis, to provide the
necessary incentive for maximum production. This course of action has
been approved by the Assistant Secretary of War, the Under Secretary of
War, and the War Relocation Authority.

4. This correspondence is forwarded for your information. Atten-
tion is invited to the subversive element existing at the Manzanar Re-
location Center, as indicated by the attached translation of bulletin
referred to by paragraph 1, basic letter.

For the District Engineer:

BY MESSENGER

SF 707 (Owens Valley) 1

2nd

Office, Div. Engr., So. Pac. Div. DEC 14 1942

To: Cmdg. Gen., W.D.C. Attn: The Engr.

Attention invited to preceding indorsement

OFFICE, DIVISION ENGINEER
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION
DEC 10 42-12204m
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Guy B. Bebout
Guy B. Bebout,
Head Engineer.

RECORDED

U.S. WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY

DEC 15 1942

Action taken by *WJB*
DEC 15 1942 2 11 PM

HEN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Authority MPD730027
By PT NARA Date 9/14/05

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

November 25, 1942

Whoever takes this notice down is a dog and a son of a bitch.

The Director, National Security Council,
U. S. Executive Office

In the camouflage net industry there are Japanese dogs fostering along with the administration who are forcing the Japanese to accept a new contract. Stop the production of war material. To be bribed by a few cents as a Japanese you are a rat. Japanese brothers who are fighting on the battlefield will be disappointed in you. Think of the Japanese opportunities. Japanese victory. Make public the names of those dogs making this contract. Don't be a fool. Consider the work of a great people. Don't be like the chinks. Don't double cross like the Chinese. Blood brothers those in behalf of the Japanese.

~~SECRET~~

J. C. Bennett
J. C. Bennett,
District National Engineer.

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