

Manzanar, California

January 8th, 1943

Mr. Dillon Myer,
National Director
United States War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In addition to the information submitted to you through Mr. E. R. Fryer and Mr. Louis A. Sigler, from the Internal Security Division at Manzanar, I feel that perhaps the following information may be significant in ascertaining the pattern, the amount of previous planning and preparation and the approximate number within the group involved in the incident at Manzanar, December 6th and 7th, 1942. Taken on an individual basis the points would not seem significant, however in the correlation of the information in aggregate, it may prove to be of value and should be brought to your attention.

(1) Is a list of the Manzanar population that I had obtained which gives a breakdown of the population. This breakdown was at a time prior to the incident and is the only one obtainable for discussion at this time:

Residing in the Center		9091
On Furlough - Montana and Idaho	1016	
On Furlough - Idaho (June Assignment)	64	
On Furlough - Confined in LA Hospital	<u>12</u>	<u>1092</u>
Total		10183

BREAKDOWN OF POPULATION

	CITIZENS		ALIENS	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Under 1 yr	138	97		
1 year	71	69		
2 year	82	61		
3 "	84	60		
4 "	78	53		
5 "	55	60		
6 "	59	69		
7 "	51	60		

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	CITIZENS		ALIENS	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
8 years	60	59		
9 "	63	69		
10 "	60	68		
11 "	77	66	1	2
12 "	66	82	2	1
13 "	82	94	2	4
14-16	211	201	0	1
16-18	240	268	0	1
18	98	137	1	2
19-30	813	1233	22	26
30-40	184	189	262	274
40-50	33	18	519	594
50-60	7	4	823	330
Over 60	0	0	442	174
	2632	3026	2094	1339
Net total				9091

Note: Information on the Furlough group is not tabulated. Deductible information would be that the group on furlough with the exception of hospitalized, would be in the middle age group male, the majority of which would fall into the 18-30 group.

We are concerned with this information in trying to ascertain the possible number of persons participating and involved in the incident. On the evening of December 5th two groups of persons were formed somewhere within the center. Simultaneously one of the groups marched on the police station (to free Ueno, under arrest and incarcerated for allegedly beating up Tayama) and the other one on the hospital located at opposite sides of the relocation center. At the police station were Caucasians that had had experience with crowds, previously, and would serve to give a reliable estimate of the number in the group that marched on that point. They are Top Sergeant Reed, 322nd Escort Guard Company, a former New Jersey State Trooper, who has had experience with football crowds, etc., Acting Assistant Chief of Internal Security A. L. Williams, who also has had experience with groups and crowds, Ned Campbell, Assistant Project Director and several others. These persons estimated to me that between 500 and 800 persons were in the group in front of the police headquarters. The estimate of the group at the hospital was given as between 3000 and 4000 persons (the reason for this group was to search the hospital and kill Tayama, who had been previously beaten up, allegedly by Ueno). This information I do not feel is as reliable as given by the station group. However, as a minimum let's assume that 500 persons were in the hospital group and 500 were in the police group. Another estimate given and more or less agreed upon was that the age of the participants on an average was between 19 and 30. No women participated. We will arrive then at an assumption or approximation that in the two groups, 1000 male persons were present who were approximately between the ages of 19 and 30.

likely not include the 18 group!

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In looking back at the breakdown of the population we find approximately 1851 persons in all, in the center, of this age group. This would indicate that over one half of that group were present. We can further assume that a number of these persons participated in only a "seeing" expedition. In other words, they were curious about the crowd and followed along only to see what was going on. Let us further assume that one half of this group participated in such a manner; leaving 500. We could further assume that one half of the remaining 500 were not within the inner circle or malicious group but that they were in accord with the feeling. This would leave about 250 persons which perhaps is a very conservative estimate of the group of trouble makers that had something to do with the planning of the troubles, participating in previous malicious intent.

* I am informed, and from questioning people, it is reasonably probable that the noon group was planned and real riot tactics were employed. The younger of the group with the exception of the committee were placed in front; Caucasian administrative personnel had at least seven Japanese persons with a group leader that were assigned (Specifically, Mr. Merritt, Project Director, Ned Campbell, Assistant Project Director, and John Gilkey, Acting Chief of Internal Security) to them and who were followed by that group wherever they went through the mob.

(2) When the six p. m. groups started, all of the dinner gongs in the relocation center were sounded for some time. This would indicate at least 36 more persons were a part of the planning group or else how could they have all been sounded at once and with the same significance.

(3) Black arm bands were worn by a great number of persons in the center. This group was estimated at about 4000. From my observation and through the observation of others, one of whom was Mr. Chamberlain, in charge of manufacturing and a cloth expert, stated that all the cloth was of the same material. Three days prior to the incident John McLaughlin, Caucasian employee, had purchased for an evacuee resident, two and one half yards of black arm band material in Lone Pine (a nearby town) because none could be purchased or was to be had within the relocation center. However, after the incident the estimated number of arm bands worn necessitated approximately 4000 feet of material. The question is, was it ordered before hand by the planning group, or, why had it not been sold to the persons who had wanted to buy two and one half yards for a small regular burial ceremony.

(4) For approximately two and one half weeks buying was stopped at the community enterprise canteens. Yet very little, if any, complaint was heard concerning the lack of tobacco or Kotex, items that would effect about 3000 of the persons in the center. The question is, if they had stocked up previous to the incident, why were they notified to do so and by whom.

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(5) An electrical supply building was burglarized soon after the incident and fuses, wire and ground loops taken. For two nights the shutting off of electric current in parts of the center was due to the use of ground loops. I am informed that only two persons know how to use a ground loop. One being a Caucasian and the other an evacuee. The question is in this case, was the evacuee "planted" to get this information and/or material, if not, the planning group knew where certain things were stored and whom they could intimidate for their useful practice. A further indication of good planning.

(6) The Steward Division, upon my questioning, informed me that for about a week and a half prior to the incident a very unusual and large request list for foods was sent to the division for delivery to the various kitchens. While these foods were not all delivered, this indicates perhaps the planning towards obtaining or laying away of supplies for the incident, in case of strike and closing of warehouses.

(7) In checking with the postal authorities, I ascertained that the largest day in C. O. D's and money orders that the Manzanar Post Office has ever had was on November 30th, 1942. The day's business involved 447 money orders and C. O. D's, of \$4,787.44 total. This unusual business was too soon after Thanksgiving and too far from Christmas to have any significant attachment to them. Even though the Post Office was closed for approximately four days after the incident, the postmaster collected the drop boxes within the center and dispatched them to their outside destination. This perhaps may be the reason for the after opening rush on the C. O. D. packages.

(8) The batchelor group in Block 1 adjoining the administrative offices have always been very reluctant to be moved away from this block. Was it in line of the plan, as these persons were seen to be the pressure group telling the Japanese not to return to work in the administration; or was it just a coincidence?

(9) Censership of evacuee mail by the Japanese Decisions Committee in Blocks 11 and 22 indicates good planning by the group.

(10) Community Enterprises advises me that only several days before the incident a great increase in buying at the Canteen and Dry Goods Store, depleted stocks and stores of material. It was more or less common talk that the stores were going to be closed; but this was treated by some members of the staff as another "rumor monger" story.

A number of persons have asked "What do the Japanese or Pro-Axis group (if any) hope to gain by having these troubles within relocation centers".

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Perhaps the reasons for this could be:

It has been reliably reported that Japan is trying to prevent any relocations by the Japanese. The approximated 14,000 evacuees who went out on furlough for harvest work are a very important and vital part of the United States war policy. The trouble that is publicized in the newspapers about trouble within centers makes the American people reluctant to hire these evacuees for harvest work, thinking that they are all trouble makers and all more or less loyal to Japan. In my travels between the various relocation centers the troubles that have been publicized have very well accomplished this sort of strategy and thus making the W. R. A. policy of relocation much harder. Some of the Japanese believe Japan will win the war, so they want to participate in some overt act of violence to show that they belonged. Some are radically inclined due to the evacuation order, to some of the treatment directed toward them, uprooting of families resulting in group retardation, the loss of real and personal property, a great deal of which had to do with gainful occupation, etc. Some are fanatically attached to Japan.

While this report is not based on any preconceived idea towards the anticipation or presence of Pro-Axis groups I feel that you should have the information for correlating with other facts and thoughts that your group might have.

Very truly yours

Willard E. Schmidt
Acting Internal Security Officer

P. S. Enclosed are figures from the Canteen and Dry Goods Store and also the charts concerning postal activities.

DAILY RECEIPTS OF COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES.

DATE	DRY GOODS		CANTINE		TOTAL OF TWO STORES	
Nov. 2	1396.	00	1129	63	2525	63
" 3	1169	89	578	45	1748	34
" 4	1494	64	750	99	2253	63
" 5	1405	30	733	54	2138	84
" 6	1331	36	601	11	2132	47
" 7	1556	73	906	13	2462	86
" 8	Closed		Closed			
" 9	1361	13	1161	76	2522	89
" 10	1284	65	740	52	2025	17
" 11	1290	28	547	42	1837	70
" 12	1278	93	559	94	1838	87
" 13	1384	70	733	37	2118	07
" 14	1906	92	723	99	2630	91
" 15	Closed		Closed			
" 16	1302	16	1476	82	2778	98
" 17	1360	52	620	39	1980	91
" 18	687	60	490	14	1177	74
" 19	928	52	604	72	1533	24
" 20	1345	74	734	95	2079	69
" 21	1826	10	889	07	2715	17
" 22	Closed		Closed			
" 23	1492	06	1116	16	2608	22
" 24	1236	59	796	04	2032	63
" 25	1467	94	1071	44	2539	38
" 27	2168	36	1504	75	3673	11
" 28	Closed		3241	32	3241	32
" 30	3870	07	Closed		3870	07
NOV. TOTAL	\$ 34544	19	\$ 21920	85	\$ 56465	04

DAILY RECEIPTS OF COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES.

DATE	DRY GOODS		CANTEEN		TOTAL OF TWO STORES	
DEC. 1	Closed		Closed			
" 2	3245	74	1862	58	5108	52
" 3	1926	24	850	89	2759	15
" 4	1577	54	769	31	2146	65
" 5	2086	14	1081	70	3167	84
" 6	Closed		Closed			Canteen closed from 6th to 20th.
" 20	5706	39	4295	47	10001	86
" 21	3230	09	1619	83	4849	92
" 22	3382	73	1540	49	4923	22
" 23	3310	66	1072	92	4383	58
" 24	4172	67	2201	14	6373	81
" 26	1897	13	2678	87	4576	00
" 28	2169	14	1619	29	3988	43
" 29	3010	19	1426	16	3436	37
" 30	1766	51	1873	26	3639	79
" 31	2281	40	1799	83	4081	23
DEC. TOTAL	\$ 38,564	57	\$ 25,567	78	\$ 64,152	35

All dates not shown canteens closed.