

But alas, how many Americans are truly sincere in granting us this privilege? We know that you have long denied it to us and that military expediency is a large factor in the gift you have made to us.

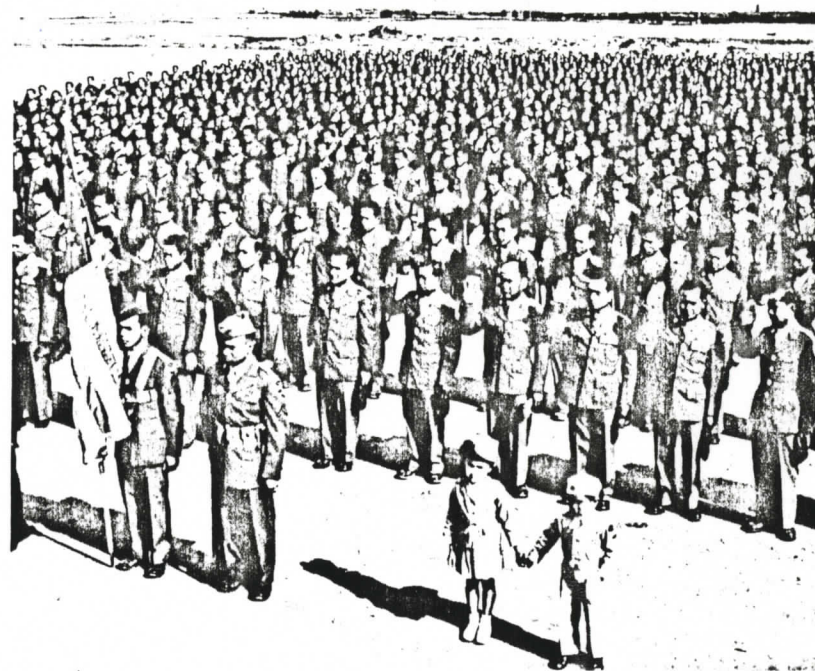
But you must know us by our unwavering loyalty to you. We came to the United States to learn the best, and we found that our place here was in the blind spot of America. We believed in your ideals, we expected you to practise them. But we were barred from the best in your society, we were barred from economic advancement, held to the most menial of your unwanted tasks, kept from labor unions, denied access to skilled jobs or professions, prevented from learning those things that would be of value to our country when we returned home, condemned here for our dark skins, the light of our high ideals ignored and shunned. Yet we have not become bitter. No Filipino in the United States harbors hatred against the Americans in spite of all the stupidities with regard to race prejudice. We have always been loyal to your ideals to the extent of tolerating the un-American dealings of some Americans. We have held to the hope in our hearts that some day you would know us for what we are—and now that day has come. It came by way of Bataan—but it is here—this citizenship ceremony proves it.

It was to perfect our citizenship that we came to America. And the work done by Filipinos on California ranches, in Alaskan fisheries and canneries, in the movie industry, on railroads, in mills, factories and in homes all over America has been a contribution to the economic welfare of the United States, but primarily apprenticeship for us in service and useful arts. Here, as well as in your American schools and colleges, we have absorbed the lessons of America. Now we advance another step. We are soldiers now, soldiers of freedom, who go to take back a free citizenship to our country. When this war ends, when reconstruction comes to our homeland, the Filipino citizen of the United States will go back home, not to renounce his oath to the American people but eager to fulfill his duty to the Philippines. The Philippines will need men who have been trained in your modern ways to rebuild the shattered Orient, to be the leaders of the new order. All that we learn now will one day be put to use for our country.

We are taking on a broad responsibility, a triple responsibility, really. We are responsible for our loyalty to the United States. Our duty to the Philippines means that we must take the leadership there. And we must also lead in the rebuilding of the new Orient. The Malayan lands, freed, must have leadership they trust and understand. We Filipinos must have trade and cooperation with our neighbors: we cannot live isolated from the rest of the Orient. The United States has already set up trade barriers against us. Furthermore, America has taught us well; now it is our duty to pass the teachings on to these other lands that will be freed from the Japanese invader, and freed also from European "colonizers," by the same army of the United Nations.

All this was bound up in the oath that we took at Camp Beale, as we stood in our Victory formation, as we saluted the American flag, proud American soldiers!

We are the Advance Echelon of the Army of the United States of the Orient.



Photograph of members of the First Filipino Infantry becoming citizens of the United States, 1943.

3. Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt Recommends the Removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast, 1942

The area lying to the west of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountains in Washington, Oregon and California, is highly critical not only because the lines of communication and supply to the Pacific theater pass through it, but also because of the vital industrial production therein, particularly aircraft. In the war in which we are now engaged racial affinities are not severed by migration. The Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on United States soil, possessed of United States citizenship, have become "Americanized," the racial strains are undiluted. To conclude otherwise is to expect that children born of white parents on Japanese soil sever all racial affinity and become loyal Japanese subjects,

From Manuel Buken, "Our Fighting Love of Freedom," *Asia and the Americas* 43, no. 6 (June 1943): 358. Hansel Mieth / TIMEPIX.

From United States Department of War, *Final Report: Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast, 1942* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943), 34–37.

ready to fight and, if necessary, to die for Japan in a war against the nation of their parents. That Japan is allied with Germany and Italy in this struggle is no ground for assuming that any Japanese, barred from assimilation by convention as he is, though born and raised in the United States, will not turn against this nation when the final test of loyalty comes. It, therefore, follows that along the vital Pacific Coast over 112,000 potential enemies, of Japanese extraction, are at large today. There are indications that these are organized and ready for concerted action at a favorable opportunity. The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken.

c. Disposition of the Japanese

(1) *Washington*. As the term is used herein, the word "Japanese" includes alien Japanese and American citizens of Japanese ancestry. In the State of Washington the Japanese population, aggregating over 14,500, is disposed largely in the area lying west of the Cascade Mountains and south of an east-west line passing through Bellingham, Washington, about 70 miles north of Seattle and some 15 miles south of the Canadian border. The largest concentration of Japanese is in the area, the axis of which is along the line Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Willapa Bay and the mouth of the Columbia River, with the heaviest concentration in the agricultural valleys between Seattle and Tacoma, viz., the Green River and the Puyallup Valleys. The Boeing Aircraft factory is in the Green River Valley. The lines of communication and supply including power and water which feed this vital industrial installation, radiate from this plant for many miles through areas heavily populated by Japanese. Large numbers of Japanese also operate vegetable markets along the Seattle and Tacoma water fronts, in Bremerton, near the Bremerton Navy Yard, and inhabit islands in Puget Sound opposite vital naval ship building installations. Still others are engaged in fishing along the southwest Washington Pacific Coast and along the Columbia River. Many of these Japanese are within easy reach of the forests of Washington State, the stock piles of seasoning lumber and the many sawmills of southwest Washington. During the dry season these forests, mills and stock piles are easily fired.

(2) *Oregon*. There are approximately 4,000 Japanese in the State of Oregon, of which the substantial majority reside in the area in the vicinity of Portland along the south bank of the Columbia River, following the general line Bonneville, Oregon City, Astoria, Tillamook. Many of these are in the northern reaches of the Willamette Valley and are engaged in agricultural and fishing pursuits. Others operate vegetable markets in the Portland metropolitan area and still others reside along the northern Oregon sea coast. Their disposition is in intimate relationship with the northwest Oregon sawmills and lumber industry, near and around the vital electric power development at Bonneville and the pulp and paper installations at Camas (on the Washington State side of the Columbia River) and Oregon City, directly south of Portland.

(3) *California*. The Japanese population in California aggregates approximately 93,500 people. Its disposition is so widespread and so well known that little would be gained by setting it forth in detail here. They live in great numbers along the coastal strip, in and around San Francisco and the Bay Area, the Salinas Valley, Los Angeles and San Diego. Their truck farms are contiguous to the vital aircraft industry concentration in and around Los Angeles. They live in large numbers in and about San Francisco, now a vast staging area for the war in the Pacific, a point

at which the nation's lines of communication and supply converge. Inland they are disposed in the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys. They are engaged in the production of approximately 38% of the vegetable produce in California. Many of them are engaged in the distribution of such produce in and along the water fronts at San Francisco and Los Angeles. Of the 93,500 in California, about 25,000 reside inland in the mentioned valleys where they are largely engaged in vegetable production cited above, and 54,600 reside along the coastal strip, that is to say, a strip of coast line varying from eight miles in the north to twenty miles in width in and around the San Francisco bay area, including San Francisco, in Los Angeles and its environs, and in San Diego. Approximately 13,900 are dispersed throughout the remaining portion of the state. In Los Angeles City the disposition of vital aircraft industrial plants covers the entire city. Large numbers of Japanese live and operate markets and truck farms adjacent to or near these installations. . . .

I now recommend the following:

(1) That the Secretary of War procure from the President direction and authority to designate military areas in the combat zone of the Western Theater of Operations, (if necessary to include the entire combat zone), from which, in his discretion, he may exclude all Japanese, all alien enemies, and all other persons suspected for any reason by the administering military authorities of being actual or potential saboteurs, espionage agents, or fifth columnists. Such executive order should empower the Secretary of War to requisition the services of any and all other agencies of the Federal Government, with express direction to such agencies to respond to such requisition, and further empowering the Secretary of War to use any and all federal facilities and equipment, including Civilian Conservation Corps Camps, and to accept the use of State facilities for the purpose of providing shelter and equipment for evacuees. Such executive order to provide further for the administration of military areas for the purposes of this plan by appropriate military authorities acting with the requisitioned assistance of the other federal agencies and the cooperation of State and local agencies. The executive order should further provide that by reason of military necessity the right of all persons, whether citizens or aliens, to reside, enter, cross or be within any military areas shall be subject to revocation and shall exist on a pass and permit basis at the discretion of the Secretary of War and implemented by the necessary legislation imposing penalties for violation.

4. Japanese American Mike Masaoka Vows to Cooperate with Government Removal Plans, 1942

We have been invited by you to make clear our stand regarding the proposed evacuation of all Japanese from the West coast. When the President's recent Executive order was issued, we welcomed it as definitely centralizing and coordinating defense efforts relative to the evacuation problem. Later interpretations of the order, however, seem to indicate that it is aimed primarily at the Japanese, American citizens

From Testimony of Mike Masaoka, House Select Committee Investigating Defense Migration, 77th Cong. 2nd Sess. (1942), 1137, reprinted in *Asian Americans: Opposing Viewpoints*, ed. William Dudley (San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 1997), 151-154.