

Recently declassified documents indicate wartime government officials knowingly suppressed key evidence, which would have cleared Japanese-Americans of charges they were all potential spies or saboteurs.

As a result, 120-thousand innocent people were forcibly incarcerated for years, solely because they were of the same race as the enemy.

KIRO NEWSRADIO'S FRANK ABE REPORTS.

Gordon Hirabayashi's (pron: he-ra-ba-YAH-she) conviction for resisting evacuation from Seattle was upheld on appeal by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1943.

Citing documents filed today in Federal District Court, Hirabayashi's attorney, Kathryn Bannai (pron: bon-NAI), accuses high-level wartime officials of altering or burning evidence favorable to Japanese-Americans, to keep the material from reaching the Supreme Court.

Among the documents are intelligence reports gathered by the Army, Navy, F-B-I, and Federal Communications Commission which all refute the official military claim of the need to summarily expel all Japanese Americans from the West Coast. Rejecting prevailing myths, the reports

show the government knew no one, Japanese American or otherwise, ever send radio signals to offshore subs.

Bannai says 40-years may seem like a long time, but she says the justice denied Hirabayashi and all Japanese Americans is still due.