

August 30, 1999  
Memo to Frank Abe  
From the Herzigs

Re: Search at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for historical material in support of your film *Conscience and the Constitution*.

There are two groups of papers here. There are approximately 220 pages of documents we xeroxed. We used up \$22+ in xerox debit cards and three days to look through, xerox and sort/mark citations on the papers.

Documents enclosed are from two folders in Western Defense Command records, Record Group 338, that hold the material you are interested in:

1. Folder title: 291.2 Japanese-Segregation. This folder contains the List of Papers {LoP} which is like a table of contents itemizing many but not all of the memos, letters, TWX, transcripts of telephone conversations, routing slips in that folder. Attempts were apparently made to separate these into subject groups and datewise, but there is some overlap and inconsistencies. You will note that most of the papers have a number on the left bottom of the page often with FW in front of it. That number coincides with the number that appears in the first column of the LoP. Except for the umpteen pages of the list of names, I've numbered them on the back of each sheet so that you should not have trouble keeping them in order.

2. Folder title: 291.2 Japanese-Segregation Plan. This folder does not have the LoP. Because this is the folder that NARA is xeroxing for Paul Tsuneishi, I did not feel it necessary to xerox the whole 263+ pages, but I did do a few which I thought you need and/or would be interested in seeing.

Paul Tsuneishi will shortly be receiving the documents from the second folder. I asked for his order to be expedited but was told gently, "First come, first served." However, my contact there in the military reference branch said he thought it will not be long before Paul will get the papers. NARA has been subcontracting out the reproduction orders to private companies so the archivists we have been dealing with don't have the control over the requests that come into NARA like they used to. But maybe the private contractor will get much better copies of documents than what we are getting from the copying machines that are at our disposal in the researchers' reading room. I expect that those particular pages that will get to Paul which you want to scan into the web site will be of clearer, better quality than what we have enclosed to you with this batch. By this I refer specifically to:

Item 1-the page with the symbol G-2 against Masaoka's name, which comes from the second folder. [FW 9, *Central Utah Relocation Project*, page 4]

Item 2-the December 17, 1942, letter from DeWitt to Marshall. The copy enclosed comes from folder one. [FW 12, A-159.] We are very disappointed that we were unable to locate the original letter, even though we examined even RG 165, the Chief of Staff records.

Item 3-the page titled ANNEX I-List of Detainees (not Designees). [B-22]

*We made an exhaustive search for the original copies of items one through three but was unsuccessful. However, we got the best xerox copies we could.*

Then, we searched for

Item 4-the explanation of the G-2 classification which F. Chin believes to be proof that Masaoka was working for G-2. Eureka! We discovered the answer.

*As I told you, we found a letter of January 10, 1943 from McCloy to DeWitt which says "...the classification of 'G-2' indicating that G-2 Division of your headquarters has records pertaining to the particular evacuee." I've enclosed a second copy of this letter for you to send to Chin. [FW 14, A-160.]*

Item 5-the key to the Classification column of the 1,609 names that appear in folder one (copy of this list is enclosed). This list differs not only in number (the list that Paul is going to get from folder two has more than 5,000 names) but also in the information against each name. The list in folder one has two columns opposite each name: Classification and Remarks. The list in folder two has four columns: sex, age, WRA family number, and classification.

And what has been confusing is that the list we were first concerned with has five symbols: R for repatriation; P for parole; G-2 for Army Intelligence; S for WCCA subversive; Gr for WCCA police.

Now comes this other list with various numbers under Classification assigned to each name, rather than any of the five symbols, like G-2, that appears in the other list. Then it has the column headed Remarks, where such comments as "Nisei, Manzanar Council, associated with Communists" (Koji Ariyoshi), or "Paroled" of "Scholarship to Japan" appear.

Included in the pile of papers are some that will provide you with background documents that explores the story of the segregation, the role of some inu, etc.

The 19-page synopsis (abstracts or copies) of various communications, telcons, etc., especially is a good quick read. This series shows how much the Army pushed for segregation beginning, in this report, in August of '42 and goes up to December 17, 1942 with that letter to Marshall from DeWitt. The series is found under FW 16, A-167 through A-187 (these numbers are found on the back of the documents, left hand bottom of page).

There are a few interesting items that you may not have seen. One of the earliest attempts to conduct a survey in the camps to identify and evaluate the potential dangerousness of Kibei took place in June 1942 in Puyallup under the leadership of the "Mayor of Camp Harmony," James Sakamoto. A copy of the questionnaire he distributed (the attempt was unsuccessful) is attached (FW 2, A-01 through A-10). Then there is a letter from Tokie Slocum; report of an Issei on the urgent need for segregation; report of a meeting of August 8, 1942 in Manzanar by Fred Tayama, and a report of the same meeting by Karl Yoneda.

There are memos that show unequivocally that the Nisei soldier was not to be trusted and this kind of information is something the veterans should be educated about. The Fair Play Committee members were more aware of the inequities suffered by Nikkei than those Nisei who were blinded by their patriotism.

I have typed the source of the document on each page and it appears landscape on the left margin, so if a document gets mixed up, it should not be difficult for you to know where it originated [i.e., RG 338, entry number, box number, usually with the folder title, and often with an accession number]. This is how I identified documents for the CWRIC, so the editors of *Personal Justice Denied* could readily cite the source without having to ask me or to go to a catalog.

Please thumb through quickly the papers we are sending you. I've attached little Post 'em notes to some passages or particular messages that came through loud and clear!

If your contract has a provision for consultants' fees, we'd appreciate your consideration. I truly wish we could spend a lot more time on your project because we believe in its worthiness and in its eventual success. Although we're confident that you and Frank Chin have created a film that is dynamic, we would love to have been able to supply you with significant documentation to make it an even more unforgettable production.