

January 6, 1943

Dear General DeWitt:

Thank you for the report on the Manzanar affair which has just reached me. As you know, I have been concerned about conditions not only in the Manzanar project, but in all the other centers as well, and your report on the Manzanar affair gives a good picture of the development of these riots, all of which appear to have the same general pattern.

Upon reading the report, one point does not appear clear. Did the military police open fire on a "charging" crowd or merely as it was "breaking up" in trying to get away from the gas. The report specifically states that they "fired without orders." This point is important perhaps not so much as an interpretation of this incident as it may point to lessons for the military police in the future. I have sent the report to the Provost Marshal General, as it may be of help to him in his training.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt
Commanding General, Western Defense Command
and Fourth Army
Presidio of San Francisco, California

OASW:JJMc-WPS:EV

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January 2, 1943

Dear Mr. Myer:

With reference to the transfer of Japanese evacuees, lately in confinement at Mansanar, to Camp Mohave at Moab, Utah, Colonel Wing, Security Officer, Ninth Service Command at Fort Douglas, Utah, has informed this office that arrangements have been completed for military police guards to accompany these evacuees and guard them at their new station.

In this connection it is requested that you give this office some information as to the length of time it is expected these Japanese will be held at the Moab location. The Ninth Service Command looks upon this detail as being a temporary measure only and in view of the limited number of military police units available, the Commanding General desires to have the guard relieved as early as possible. I am assuming that in the case of aliens, measures will be taken to remove them from the camp and intern them. In the case of citizens it may be that you will wish to keep them there. In the latter case would you consider the organization of a civilian guard so that the military personnel might be relieved of this detail?

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

WILLIAM P. SCOBRY
Colonel, G. S.
Executive

Mr. Dillon Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building, Room 822
Washington, D. C.

OASW:WPS:MGB

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Following the return of the prisoner Bishop to the Relocation Center, the mob continued its threatening attitude disregarding the ~~reported~~ ^{directions given} ~~instructions~~ by the Project Director that it disperse, ~~when the mob's~~ ^{upon the Project Director's} refusal to meet the mob's demand to release the ~~demands that the prisoners be released~~ ^{prisoner} ~~prisoner~~ threats were made that they would go to the hospital and kill the Japanese who had been beaten ~~and~~ ^{as well as} all other informers. Along with these threats the mob members began to throw stones at the security police.

At this point the situation being out of control the Project Director requested the captain of the military police to enter the center proper and to assume complete charge

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of the project and restore order. The police who then were stationed on the external boundary of the relocation project entered the center late in the afternoon of December 6, upon official request of the center management.

When the military police took their position to safeguard the prisoners and to protect the security police, Japanese evacuees who were active in the demonstration demanded of the captain that the prisoners be released to them and upon being refused the mob members attacked the military personnel with stones.

The Captain of the military police
(2)

then ordered the assembly to disperse. this
 the mob refused to do but ~~instead~~
 continued to throw stones and threaten
 the military police. When the mob
 failed to heed the captain and began
 to advance, ^{on the military police position} tear gas was first used
 in an effort to stop it and disperse
 the members; this failing the order was
 given to halt or fire would be
 opened. The mob again ignoring these
 instructions the order to fire was given. one
 volley was fired, following which
 the mob ~~was~~ dispersed.

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(Hall Captain MP Co)

