

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



SEP 27 1943

Hon. John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

Following your suggestion there is stated below in more detail than time permitted at our conference on September 12 the features of "Standard Operating Procedure for Military Police at Tule Lake Center" which appear objectionable to the War Relocation Authority. A copy of this Standard Operating Procedure for the purpose of reference is enclosed with this letter.

In voicing exception to certain provisions and statements contained in this document, it is realized that it is issued as a regulation for the exclusive guidance of the Military Police and not for the establishment of War Relocation Authority policies. Further, our past experience with the Commanders of Military Police Guard Companies gives us every assurance that these regulations, regardless of their phraseology, would be administered sympathetically and with a spirit of cooperation. Nevertheless, as written, there exists the possibility of misinterpretation of the limits of authority of both the Military Commander and the Project Director which should be clarified. There are certain provisions of this Standard Operating Procedure which if strictly applied would infringe upon the responsibilities of the Project Director for his administration of the project.

The Executive Order of March 18, 1942, assigns to the War Relocation Authority responsibilities of which we cannot and should not divest ourselves. Among them is the responsibility for the administration of the projects. In the past when there were possibilities of conflicting responsibilities between the Military Commander who is charged with the exterior security of the project and the Project Director who is responsible for the administration and interior security of the project, the matters were made the subject of letters of agreement between the War Department and the War Relocation Authority. This resulted in a clear-cut statement of the limits of responsibilities of both officials. The War Relocation Authority wants no change to be



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made in the responsibilities of either the Military Police Guard Commander or the Project Director as a result of designating Tule Lake a segregation center.

With this hypothesis, your attention is invited to the following provisions of the Standard Operating Procedure for Military Police at Tule Lake Center with which the War Relocation Authority is in disagreement. Suggested changes in phraseology are noted.

A - Page 2.

"II. USE OF TROOPS WITHIN RESIDENTIAL AREA"

Paragraph 1.b. should be omitted, and paragraphs 1. and 1.a. should be changed to read,

"1. The Commanding Officer will cause troops of his command to enter the Residential Area for the purpose of maintaining order only when requested to do so by the Center Director or in his absence the Acting Center Director."

Reasons - The primary mission of the Military Police Escort Guard Companies stationed at War Relocation Projects is to prevent unauthorized persons, including evacuees, from entering or leaving the Project Areas. In addition to this primary mission, the Commanding Officer of the Military Police Escort Guard Company may be called upon by the War Relocation Project Director, in the event of an emergency, to assume full and sole command of the entire project.

The decision as to when an emergency exists or as to when it becomes necessary to request the military to take over the control of the project for the purpose of maintaining order must remain exclusively the responsibility of the War Relocation Project Director.

The authority given the Commanding Officer of the Military Police command by paragraph 1.b. infringes upon the Project Director's responsibilities, for which reason paragraph 1.b. should be omitted.

B - Page 2.

"III. IDENTIFICATION

The underscored words should be added to paragraphs 1. and 2., so that they read as follows:

"1. Registration. Every segregee resident of the Center will be registered under the registration procedure established by the Commanding General in collaboration with the War Relocation Authority.

"2. Identification. Every segregee resident of the Center who is of the age of twelve years or more will be issued an identification badge. Processing (photographing and registration) of incoming segregees designated for residence at the Center will be accomplished, as far as feasible, upon their arrival at the Center. Processing of segregees now resident at the Center who are designated for continuing residence therein will be accomplished in accordance with arrangements to be established by the Commanding General in collaboration with the War Relocation Authority."

Reason - the administration of the Center is a function of the War Relocation Authority. Any procedure affecting the residents of the center becomes a matter concerning which the War Relocation Authority should have a voice.

C - Page 3.

"IV. CONTRABAND"

3.b. The last two sentences of paragraph 3.b. should read,

"In collaboration with the Center Director a check out system for agricultural tools will be established by the Commanding Officer. Ordinarily each item so used shall be returned at the close of each day. Consistent with the maintenance of external security, this activity should be organized so as to reduce to the minimum any interference with Center operations."

Reasons - Since the operation of the various industries of the Center is a function of the War Relocation Authority and since the time involved is a considerable expense to the War Relocation Authority in the matter of wages, any procedure such as the above should be determined in collaboration.

D - Pages 5 to 7.

"V. ENTRY AND EXIT"

This entire section is based upon a premise that is incompatible

with our prior agreements. The right to determine who may enter or leave a Relocation Center is exclusively a function of the War Relocation Authority. The fact that the Commanding General is in charge of the external security of the Tule Lake Center does not mean that he must control entry and exit from the Residential Area. He is properly concerned with travel through the evacuated area, and it is understood that all evacuees must have a travel permit from him for that purpose. Otherwise, however, the Military Police should permit anyone to enter or leave the Center if he carries proper credentials from the War Relocation Authority. Let me mention briefly some specific objections to this section:

The preamble on page 5 should be omitted for the reason just stated.

The policy on entry should not indicate that the Commanding General may approve the entry of anyone without the consent of the Center Director. (1.a.(2), page 5.)

The policy on entry should not indicate that a United States soldier of Japanese ancestry may enter without the consent of the Center Director. Soldiers who have relatives or friends there or who have legitimate business there will certainly be admitted. Others may not be admitted. In any event the Center Director must know who applies for entry and determine each case on its merits. (1.a.(3), page 5.)

The policy on entry should not indicate that members of Congressional investigating committees, the Spanish Consul, individuals approved by the Commanding General, and representatives of the FBI or other Federal agencies when on official business may enter without the specific consent of the Center Director. He is in charge of the internal administration of the Center and should control all visits. (1.b.(2), (3), (4), (8), pages 5 and 6.)

The Commanding Officer's approval should not be required for the entry of persons rendering necessary Center utility and other services or for the entry of casual visitors if entry is approved by the Center Director. (1.b.(6), (7), page 6.)

Paragraph "2. Place of Entrance", page 6, should read as follows:

"All persons entering the Residential Area will enter through the Main Gate. In collaboration with the Center Director arrangements will be made to permit work parties

and members of the War Relocation Authority staff possessing proper identification to use any secondary gate."

This will save time and greatly facilitate the functioning of the project.

The entrance procedure should not provide for the admission of any visitors, United States soldiers of Japanese ancestry, or others without the permission of the Center Director. (3.b.c., page 6.)

The entrance procedure should provide that regular War Relocation Authority identification cards for its employees will be honored as admission passes. (3.c.(1), page 6.) The War Relocation Authority identification passes issued to employees answer the description of the prescribed passes and a duplication of expenses and effort will be avoided by their use.

The Commanding General should not prescribe any denial list containing the names of Center residents who are not to be permitted to leave the Residential Area (paragraph 2 on page 7). The War Relocation Authority has complete responsibility for the internal administration of the Tule Lake Center as well as all other Relocation Centers. The War Relocation Authority determines which evacuees are required to live at the Tule Lake Center, when they shall be transferred there and when they may leave. It would unnecessarily interfere with the administration of the Center for the Commanding General to establish a denial list which restricts the movement of evacuees within the Center.

A specific authorization from the Commanding General should not be required before evacuee residents are permitted to leave the center. A permit to leave the Center is separate and distinct from a travel permit to travel through the evacuated area. The War Relocation Authority is responsible for determining who may leave the Center. The Commanding General is responsible for prescribing travel restrictions applicable while the evacuee is traveling through the evacuated area. (3.b., page 7.)

An evacuee resident should not be allowed to depart from the Center on the basis of an emergency travel permit issued by the Commanding Officer without the specific approval of the Center Director. (3.c., page 7.)

The foregoing comments would be met if Section V. ENTRY AND EXIT were rewritten as follows:

ENTRY

1. Policy. No person shall be allowed to enter the Residential Area without prior authorization from the Center Director or his representative except:

a. Persons of Japanese ancestry designated for residence there by the War Relocation Authority. (Persons of Japanese ancestry resident at the Center prior to the initiation of the segregation program will be permitted to remain at the Center until such time as the War Relocation Authority arranges for their transfer; until such time as they are transferred, their status in regard to leave or to re-enter the Center and the reception of visitors will be as set out herein.)

b. Employees of the War Relocation Authority and members of their households resident within the Center.

c. Military Police when their entry is under approved policy, and any other military personnel when on official business.

2. Place of Entrance. All persons entering the Residential Area will enter through the Main Gate. In collaboration with the Center Director, arrangements will be made to permit work parties and members of the War Relocation Authority staff possessing proper identification to use any convenient secondary gate.

3. Entrance Procedure.

a. Persons of Japanese ancestry resident at Center.

(1) Upon Arrival: Each segregee arriving at the Center for residence will be processed at the time of entry wherever feasible. The Commanding Officer will make appropriate arrangements with the Center Director for processing such segregees, as well as for those who are now resident and who are designated to remain. The processing will be in the Entrance Area. The processing shall consist of obtaining from the segregee his fingerprints, photograph and certain vital statistics; thereafter the segregee will be issued a temporary identification card and will enter the Residential Area. Approximately one week later the segregee will be issued a laminated identification badge and the temporary identification card will be taken up.

(2) Upon Return from Work Pass: See Section VI, Work Passes.

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b. Employees of the War Relocation Authority and resident family members:

The Center Director will issue to such employees and the resident members of their families permanent passes with a photograph and description of the authorized bearer. Identification cards issued by the War Relocation Authority to its employees shall be honored as permanent passes.

c. Others:

Other persons will be permitted to enter only upon authorization of the Center Director or his representative. They will be issued a temporary identification badge by the Commanding Officer upon signing the visitors' register.

4. Records: The following record will be kept on a daily basis by the Commanding Officer:

- a. Evacuees inducted.
- b. Evacuees departed: (1) Authorized
(2) Unauthorized
- c. Travel permits issued.
- d. Work passes issued.
- e. Visitors' register.

EXIT

1. Evacuee Residents: An evacuee resident will be permitted to leave the Residential Area on the following conditions:

- a. Under work pass.
- b. Upon issuance by the Center Director of a written authorization to leave the Center and receipt by the Commanding Officer of specific prior authorization from the Commanding General authorizing travel through the evacuated area. When the Commanding Officer has established to his satisfaction that:

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(1) There is an extreme emergency involving the imminent loss of life or of continued health of a resident of the Center; and

(2) There is insufficient time to communicate with and obtain authorization from the Commanding General;

he may issue a travel permit for travel under escort. An immediate report of such action will be made in each case.

2. Others: Other persons will be permitted to leave the Residential Area upon proper identification.

E - Page 8.

"VI. TRAVEL PERMITS AND WORK PASSES"

Paragraph 1.a. should be changed to read as follows:

"The Commanding Officer is authorized, by name, to sign and issue on behalf of the Commanding General permits for travel of segragees from the Center through the evacuated area to a point outside of the evacuated area where the departure from the Center is authorized by the Center Director."

This restatement will not restrict to emergency cases the authority of the Commanding Officer to issue travel permits for travel to a point outside the evacuated area.

Paragraph 1.b. should be changed to read as follows:

"The Commanding Officer will not issue a travel permit unless specifically requested by the Center Director."

This restatement omits the words "except where directed by the Commanding General". Since residents are detained at the Center by order of the War Relocation Authority, the Commanding General should not authorize a travel permit unless the departure from the Center has been approved by the War Relocation Authority.

F - Pages 9 and 10.

"WORK PASSES"

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 should be combined and rewritten as follows:

"On request of the Center Director or his representative the Commanding Officer will issue work passes to segregees. If in the opinion of the Commanding Officer a work pass should not be issued to a particular segregee, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Center Director for adjustment. Night work will be kept to a minimum. The Commanding Officer will inform the Center Director of any limitation on the number of work parties for which he is able to furnish guard in sufficient time to permit the proper adjustments to be made in the work schedules; to the reasonable limit of his possibilities, the Commanding Officer will furnish guards for such work parties and in priorities designated by the Center Director or his representative."

The supervision and detailed planning of all work on the Center are functions of the War Relocation Authority and require freedom of action. Unless the control of work parties is in the War Relocation Authority, serious losses in crops are apt to occur and other activities may be unnecessarily hampered.

F - Page 11.

The statement on page 11 revoking all earlier instructions with reference to the issuance of travel permits by civilian authority at the Tule Lake Relocation Project should be deleted. WDC Public Proclamation No. 8, dated June 27, 1942, was issued at the request of the War Relocation Authority and upon the understanding that authority would be delegated to the War Relocation Authority to control the entry and exit from Relocation Centers. This understanding was put into effect by a letter dated August 11, 1942, signed by Capt. Hugh T. Fullerton, authorizing the War Relocation Authority to issue permits for ingress to and egress from War Relocation Project areas subject to the requirement that travel permits be obtained from the Commanding General if travel through or residence within the evacuated area should be involved. The revocation of this letter would be incompatible with our understanding at the time WDC Public Proclamation No. 8 was issued. It is requested that that letter not be revoked.

G - Page 12.

"VII. TRANSPORTATION"

Paragraph 1 should be rewritten as follows:

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"1. The War Relocation Authority Administrative Motor Vehicle Park is located in the Entrance Area for the purpose of security only. The administration and operation of this Park and all motor vehicles assigned to the War Relocation Authority (except as noted in paragraph 3. below) are functions of the Center Director."

Paragraph 2 should be rewritten as follows:

"2. The Commanding Officer will arrange with the Center Director to have the motor vehicles assigned to the War Relocation Authority marked in a manner that is easily recognizable and that will conform to military markings."

Paragraph 3 should be rewritten as follows:

"3. The Commanding Officer will cause an adequate guard to be placed on all motor vehicles leaving the Center which are driven by or carry segregees. This guard will be charged with the security of the occupants and the vehicle and will supervise and be responsible for the operation of the vehicle while it is outside of the Center Area."

The following phrase should be omitted from paragraph 4.d.:

"that they not be driven into the segregee living quarters area".

These changes are suggested because the paragraphs as written in the mimeographed copy of the Standard Operating Procedure create the impression that all motor vehicles now assigned to the War Relocation Authority have been transferred to the Military Police Command, which is not the case. The purpose of the suggested changes is to correct this impression.

The changes in the Standard Procedure suggested in this letter are not proposed in order to restrict the Military Police in the discharge of their duties, but are suggested rather for the purpose of keeping well defined the line of demarcation between the responsibilities of the Military Commander and the Center Director.

Your early consideration of the above recommended changes will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

D. S. Myer
Director

Enclosure