

May 10, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL BRYAN:

Subject: State Department Report on Shooting
of James Wakasa.

1. The attached report relates to the fatal shooting on April 11, 1943 of James H. Wakasa, a Japanese evacuee residing in the Central Utah Relocation Center, Delta, Utah, by Pfc. Gerald B. Philpott, a member of the 336th Military Police Escort Guard Company. Private Philpott has since been tried by military court martial and acquitted.

2. Apparently, the agreement entered into in July, 1942 by Mr. Fryer on the part of the War Relocation Authority and Colonel Bendetsen on the part of the Western Defense Command (Paragraph 7 g) does not cover the situation where there are sentry towers, and perhaps some new agreement should be drawn up in order that there may be no confusion. This is probably a matter for decision in Washington after consultation with the service commands, as it would seem desirable to have uniform provisions for all relocation centers.

3. You will note that according to Lieutenant Miller, in command of the Escort Guard Company, Wakasa was challenged at a distance of some 240 yards, at which distance an oral challenge appeared to be barely perceptible.

(SIGNED)

JOHN M. HALL
Captain, F.A.
Assistant Executive

Enc.

Report of investigation by Whitney Young,
Report by Lieutenant Miller,
Agreement between WDC and WRA, July, 1942,
Cir. No. 19, Sept. 17, 1942, WDC.

Brig. Gen. B.M. Bryan
Room 1068, Munitions Bldg.

OASW:JMH:MG