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**Community Analysis Reports
and Community Analysis
Trend Reports of the
War Relocation Authority**



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Records of the War Relocation Authority

Record Group 210

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS REPORTS
AND COMMUNITY ANALYSIS
TREND REPORTS OF THE
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

On the 29 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the Community Analysis Reports and the Community Analysis Trend Reports of the Washington, DC, headquarters Community Analysis Section and the relocation centers of the War Relocation Authority.

The War Relocation Authority, generally known as WRA, was established within the Office for Emergency Management by Executive Order 9102 of March 18, 1942, to assist persons of Japanese ancestry who had been evacuated from the west coast by military order in the interests of national security. The evacuation had been authorized previously by Executive Order 9066, issued February 19, 1942, which empowered the Secretary of War to designate military areas from which any or all persons could be excluded. On March 2, 1942, Lt. Gen. John L. De Witt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, issued Public Proclamation No. 1, which designated as Military Area No. 1 the western halves of the States of Washington, Oregon, and California and southern part of Arizona. In a statement to the press, General De Witt advised all persons of Japanese descent to evacuate voluntarily and relocate outside the military zone on their own initiative. During the ensuing voluntary phase of the evacuation, approximately 9,000 Japanese-Americans moved inland from the prescribed areas.

The attitude of the inland States, however, was hostile, and on March 27, 1942, by Public Proclamation No. 4, all people of Japanese ancestry were ordered to remain within Military Area No. 1 until plans were completed for their controlled evacuation. Thereafter, the removal was undertaken by a series of civilian exclusion orders issued by the Army in accordance with a systematic plan. The Wartime Civil Control Administration, a civilian agency created by the Western Defense Command on March 11, 1942, to take charge of the evacuation, established 15 assembly centers, usually at race tracks or fairgrounds, to provide temporary gathering places for the evacuees.

While the Army was responsible for the physical evacuation of the Japanese people, their resettlement was considered more properly the function of a civilian agency. Discussions were held among representatives of the Department of Justice, the War Department, and the Bureau of the Budget, and it was decided to create a special war agency to handle the relocation of the evacuated population.

On March 18, 1942, the War Relocation Authority was established with specific authority to formulate and effectuate a

program for the removal, relocation, maintenance, and supervision of the persons excluded from the military areas. These people were principally Japanese aliens or United States citizens of Japanese descent, although German and Italian aliens were also affected. The Authority's responsibility for the Germans and Italians was limited to providing financial aid for their transportation and relocation; the Authority did not house them in relocation centers. Once the initial adjustment was made, the responsibility for their welfare rested upon the Bureau of Public Assistance of the Federal Security Agency.

While the evacuation was moving forward the Authority enlisted the cooperation of a number of Federal and State agencies in selecting sites for relocation centers to house the evacuees. The movement of the population into the centers began in March and continued through November 1942, with the Wartime Civil Control Administration in charge of the physical details of the transfer. All but one of the centers were under WRA control from their inception. The Manzanar Center was transferred from the Army to the WRA on May 31, 1942. The centers, 10 in number, and their locations were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Post Office</u>
Central Utah	Topaz, UT	Jerome	Denson, AR
Colorado River	Poston, AZ	Manzanar	Manzanar, CA
Gila River	Rivers, AZ	Minidoka	Hunt, ID
Granada	Anache, CO	Rohwer	McGehee, AR
Heart Mountain	Heart Mountain, WY	Tule Lake	Newell, CA

In September 1943, Tule Lake became a segregation center to which were transferred evacuees who had expressed a desire for repatriation to Japan, those who had answered negatively to a loyalty question at registration, and the immediate family members of the segregants who chose to remain with them.

In the first few months of its existence WRA set forth relocation, that is, resettlement of the evacuees in communities in nonrestricted areas, as its main objective. In accordance with this policy, citizen evacuees were permitted to leave the relocation centers as early as July 1942. During 1942, however, the relocation program was largely one of processing individual applications for leave, chiefly for seasonal employment. The actual movement of residents out of the centers to take up residence in normal communities outside the restricted areas began on a large scale in 1943.

The WRA was transferred to the Department of the Interior by Executive Order 9423 of February 16, 1944, without change of program or personnel.

On December 17, 1944, the Western Defense Command revoked the west coast general exclusion order, effective January 2, 1945. Concomitant with the lifting of the order, the Authority announced plans for its own liquidation. Closing dates were scheduled for all relocation centers, falling within a period of 6 months to 1 year after the revocation date. Nearly every center closed before the scheduled time. In accordance with an Executive order of June 25, 1946, the Authority terminated its work on June 30, 1946. The War Agency Liquidation Unit was established on June 26, 1946, within the Department of the Interior to liquidate the affairs of the WRA and other war emergency units in the Department.

The organizational structure of WRA remained very much the same during its lifetime, with only minor changes of administrative nomenclature and functions. Headquarters in Washington consisted of the Offices of the Director and the Solicitor, and the Administrative Management, Reports, Relocation Planning, Relocation, Operations, Community Management, and War Refugee Divisions. The Director was responsible for the administration of the war relocation program in accordance with the Executive order establishing the Authority, consulted with the Secretary of War on the coordination of evacuation and relocation activities and with the War Manpower Commission and other agencies on the employment of evacuees, and cooperated with the Alien Property Custodian in formulating policies to govern the custody and management of property belonging to evacuated foreign nationals. The first Director, Milton S. Eisenhower, was appointed at the time of the agency's creation and served from March to June 1942. He was succeeded by Dillon S. Myer, who served as Director until the Authority was terminated in June 1946.

Records Description

WRA records of continuing value were accessioned by the National Archives from the Department of the Interior as Record Group 210, Records of the War Relocation Authority. They consist of approximately 2,970 cubic feet of textual records, 78 rolls of microfilm, 12,600 still pictures, 4 motion pictures, and 28 sound recordings. The Community Analysis Reports and Community Analysis Trend Reports, which are reproduced on this microfilm publication, are Nos. 61.300 to 61.319A of the Subject-Classified General File maintained by the Washington, DC, headquarters of WRA. They document an effort by the WRA to obtain an understanding of the social background of the evacuees and their reactions to conditions in the relocation centers. As early as June 1942, a Sociological Research Project Office was set up at the Colorado River Relocation Center, and in the spring of 1943, it was decided to set up a Community Analysis Section in each center in order to provide sociological information to assist in administering the centers.

A professionally trained sociologist, psychologist, or anthropologist was named as the community analyst to head the section in each relocation center. They served for varying periods, 1943-46, with staffs consisting mainly of evacuees who assisted in gathering the desired data and writing the reports.

The community analysts made at least monthly reports to the Washington headquarters of WRA on specific problems or concerns of their respective centers and made general studies of center populations. These were accompanied in many instances by reports, interviews, questionnaires, and other writings by evacuees. Beginning in September 1944 and continuing until the closing of the centers, community analysts regularly submitted reports on trends in their centers to the Community Analysis Section at Washington, DC, headquarters. Usually referred to as Community Analysis Trend reports and sometimes as "Weekly, Reports," most were prepared weekly, some monthly. There are none for Jerome, which closed before the reports were begun, or for Manzanar, which had no community analyst for the months in which the reports were scheduled.

Both types of reports were sent to the Community Analysis Section, headed by John Embree, at Washington, DC, headquarters. This Section drew on the reports from the relocation centers and on studies by outside consultants to compile their own reports on the overall working of the WRA program and the social conditions faced by the evacuees.

In this microfilm publication, the reports prepared by the Community Analysis Section at Washington, DC, headquarters precede the reports prepared in individual relocation centers. The latter are arranged by center, and thereunder in numerical order, which usually corresponds to their chronological order. A numerical list of the reports for both Washington, DC, headquarters and the relocation centers appears on the microfilm for Washington, DC, headquarters under the title "Annotated Bibliography of the Community Analysis Section, Community Analysis Reports #14-19."

Related Records

The final report of the Community Analysis Section, February 16, 1946, prepared by Edward H. Spicer, is found among the records under No. 24.051 of WRA headquarters Subject-Classified General Files. Related material is also found among other WRA records, and in General Records of the Department of Justice, RG 60; Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, RG 85; and Records of U.S. Army Commands, 1942- , RG 338.

These records were prepared for microfilming by Jeanne Young, assisted by William E. Ross and George T. Briscoe. The introduction was prepared by Jeanne Young and incorporates material written by Estelle Rebec and Martin Rogin for Preliminary Inventory 77.

Background notes on individual relocation centers were prepared by docent volunteer Merna P. Roche.

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