

**FIRST
QUARTERLY REPORT**

**March 18 to June 30
1942**

**WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

A CHRONOLOGY
OF EVACUATION AND RELOCATION

- 1941 -

- December 7 -- The attack on Pearl Harbor
- December 8 -- Declaration of war against Japan.

- 1942 -

- January 29 -- First order issued by Attorney General Biddle establishing prohibited and restricted zones along West Coast and regulating the movement of enemy aliens therein. Subsequent orders were issued by the Attorney General on January 31, February 2, February 4, February 5, and February 7.
- February 13 -- Letter to the President from the Pacific Coast congressional delegation recommending the evacuation from strategic areas of all persons of Japanese ancestry, and others, both aliens and citizens, whose presence might jeopardize or hinder the Nation's war effort.
- February 19 -- Executive order of the President authorizing the Secretary of War or designated military commanders to prescribe military areas from which any or all persons may be excluded, or in which their movements may be restricted. Period of voluntary evacuation begun.
- February 21 -- Hearings of House Committee on National Defense Migration (the Tolson Committee) begun on the Pacific Coast with regard to problems involved in dealing with enemy aliens and other persons living in that area.
- February 23 -- Telegram from the Tolson Committee to the President, cabinet members, and congressional leaders urging establishment of a regional office of the Alien Property Custodian in the Pacific Coast area.
- March 2 -- Proclamation issued by Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, designating military areas in the States of Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona from which certain persons or classes of persons including Japanese, German, or Italian aliens might be excluded. Military Area No. 1 included roughly the western half of the three coastal States and the southern half of Arizona. Military Area No. 2 comprised the remaining portions of all four states.

- March 6 -- Federal Reserve Bank acting as the agent of the Treasury Department designated as a co-operating agency to assist persons to be evacuated in disposing of their property. The Farm Security Administration was later authorized to render similar assistance with respect to agricultural property and to help in placing non-Japanese operators on farms that had been vacated.
- March 14 -- The Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA) established as an agency of the Western Defense Command, under Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, to have direct supervision of the evacuation program.
- March 14 -- Proclamation issued designating the States of Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Utah as military areas No. 3, 4, 5, and 6. respectively.
- March 16 -- Work started on clearing land and erection of housing for evacuee assembly center at Manzanar, California, under direction of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- March 18 -- Executive Order (9102) issued by President Roosevelt creating the War Relocation Authority, a non-military agency, with authority to formulate and carry out a program for a planned and orderly relocation of persons evacuated from military areas. Milton S. Eisenhower appointed director.
- March 19 -- Telegrams sent by Tolson Committee to 15 Western Governors to determine attitude of States toward receiving Japanese evacuees; all but one of the replies unfavorable.
- March 21 -- Enactment of Congressional legislation (HR 6758) providing penalties for persons violating orders as to entering, remaining in, or leaving military areas.
- March 23 -- Movement of first contingent of evacuees of Japanese ancestry-- 1,000 volunteers from Los Angeles--to the assembly center at Manzanar to assist in preparing the new community for the later arrival of 9,000 others.
- March 23 -- Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1 issued by Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt directing all persons of Japanese ancestry both aliens and citizens, to evacuate Bainbridge Island near Seattle, Washington, on or before March 30.
- March 27 -- Effective date of curfew order covering German and Italian aliens and all persons of Japanese ancestry in Military Area No. 1, requiring them to be in their places of residence

- March 29 -- Further voluntary evacuation from Military Area No. 1 by Japanese, aliens or American-born, prohibited after this date by order of Lieut. General DeWitt.
- March 30 -- Three thousand people of Japanese ancestry ordered to evacuate the Terminal Island area in Los Angeles harbor by April 5 and move to the assembly center at Santa Anita.
- April 2 -- Announcement by Director Eisenhower of a five-point program for employment of evacuees and of a meeting to be held at Salt Lake City on April 7 with officials of 10 western States. The employment program, as announced, included: (1) public works such as land development; (2) agricultural production within relocation areas; (3) manufacturing within relocation areas; (4) private employment; and (5) private resettlement.
- April 7 -- Meeting held by WRA at Salt Lake City and attended by 10 western governors or their representatives plus other State and Federal officials. States represented were Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington, Oregon, and Wyoming. As a result of the views expressed by State officials at this conference, the fifth point of the WRA employment program--private resettlement of evacuees-- was temporarily laid aside.
- April 16 -- Construction started on Gila River Relocation Center near Sacaton, Arizona.
- April 17 -- Appointment of E. R. Fryer as Regional Director of the War Relocation Authority at San Francisco announced.
- May 7 -- Organization of National Student Relocation Council, a non-government agency, initiated at suggestion of the War Relocation Authority and with approval of the War Department, to assist in a program by which evacuee students are enabled to continue their education at colleges outside the evacuated area.
- May 8 -- Arrival of first contingent of evacuees at the Colorado River Relocation Center near Parker, Arizona.
- May 8 -- Evacuation of Japanese in Arizona completed.

- May 16 -- Appointment of Thomas W. Holland as Employment Officer of the War Relocation Authority charged with the responsibility of finding employment for evacuees which will most effectively utilize their talents in the national war program.
- May 16 -- Atlantic Coast designated a military area by the Eastern Defense Command.
- May 19 -- Civilian Restriction Order No. 1 issued by the Western Defense Command establishing all assembly centers and relocation centers in the eight far western States as military areas and forbidding evacuee residents to leave these areas without express approval of the Western Defense Command.
- May 21 -- Departure of first group of evacuees from Portland Assembly Center for agricultural work in Malheur County, Oregon, under assurances from Governor and local authorities that law and order would be maintained.
- May 27 -- Opening by War Relocation Authority of Relocation Center at Tule Lake, California, near the Oregon boundary.
- June 1 -- Control of Manzanar, which had been operated as an assembly center by the Wartime Civil Control Administration, transferred to the War Relocation Authority.
- June 2 -- First step in evacuating people of Japanese ancestry from Military Area No. 2 in California (roughly the eastern half of the state) taken by Lieut. General DeWitt with issuance of Proclamation No. 6 forbidding the people of Japanese descent to leave this area.
- June 5 -- Evacuation of 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes in Military Area No. 1 completed.
- June 10 -- Plans announced to establish field offices of the War Relocation Authority at Denver and Little Rock in addition to the one at San Francisco.
- June 17 -- Dillen S. Myer appointed national director of the War Relocation Authority succeeding M. S. Eisenhower.
- June 20 -- Appointment of Joseph H. Smart as regional director at Denver announced.
- June 26 -- Opening of trial at San Francisco on suit brought by the Native Sons of the Golden West to bar Japanese-Americans from voting.

- June 29 -- Announcement that a total of 1,600 evacuee workers had been recruited from assembly and relocation centers to help relieve an acute labor shortage in sugar-beet areas in eastern Oregon, Utah, Idaho, and Montana.