

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

February 28, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best
Project Director

FROM: Willard E. Schmidt, Chief
Administrative Police

SUBJECT: Arming of Administrative Police Section with pro
and con of the 45 automatic vs. shotgun.

At the initial request for arming the the Administrative Police, it was thought that the manning of the towers on the divisional center line fence would be a function of the W. R. A. and therefore the need for heavy calibre rifles was apparent. Since the Army has been assigned this function I concur in the thought that there is no need for the heavy calibre rifle in our setup.

For arming the Administrative Police the shotgun has many points in its favor over the 45 automatic pistol that has the official approval from the Washington office.

I am taking the liberty to list for your information a few of the advantages of the sawed off shotgun over the 45 calibre automatic for our specific need and specialized problem:

1. The 45 shoots a ball, full jacketed missile which will skip and ricochet about for many hundreds of yards and is dangerous to persons other than those in the trouble and immediate area. The shotgun is more or less dispelled at the first point of impact and is not dangerous beyond that point.

2. The missile from the 45 can kill one and more persons at a distance of 1000 yards, and under certain conditions at even a greater distance. The kinetic energy stored within a 45 automatic is tremendous and is not as easily dispensed as that of the shotgun. The shotgun range is not over 100 yards. (With size seven chilled shot)

3. A hit with a 45 calibre automatic results in at least a severe casualty case and in the majority of cases, a death. Beyond approximately 50 yards a shotgun hit (size seven chilled shot) would only result in a slight casualty case and in only a few exceptional cases will death be the result.

4. A controlled shot for disabling, warning, etc., can more effectively be achieved with a shoulder gun (of which a shotgun is a type) than with a .45 calibre automatic pistol. Greater accuracy and fire control is achieved more in the use of a shoulder arm over a hand arm especially in the hands of an inexperienced person.

5. Psychologically, the shotgun has a greater effect than the .45 calibre automatic.

6. In the event that a gun was taken away the shotgun would be the hardest to obtain, the hardest to conceal and in the event that evacuees were to try to use it in a retaliation the person using same would most readily be discerned and subject to apprehension if not prevented in the use of same.

7. The manipulations and operations necessary to make ready for firing a shotgun are much longer than with the .45 calibre automatic and much thought can pass through the minds of the adversary and protector that would assist in preventing any overt acts on the part of both.

8. The .45 calibre would be used only as a reserve arm as is the function even in the Army.

I believe it is essential that some discussion be given to the present situation and conditions at this center. At the present time we have a divided camp (anti and pro, status quo) and has resulted in a group solidarity where an internal upheaval may result. Previously many thoughts were expressed and argued upon and no one was hurt. However, the divided camp has resulted in strengthening of each and which the colonists are aware of. A scheming, smart individual could pull the two factions together on a platform that, in the last analysis, the Administration is solely responsible for the cleavage and thus write the opposing groups into one common cause that would result in another incident of a greater consequence than the last.

The present Coordinating Committee, while they were in favor of lifting the curfew, wanted to be assured that the Army would not be withdrawn and that the Army's patrol of the area would continue. They wanted to be sure that the existence of control which could be put into effect on a moments notice and that "present ability" was existant at all times. For the good of the center, the colonists themselves want an existent present ability to control possible recalcitrants or those that are incident minded.

Also a necessary "make ready" for the Army to relinquish all function in the center will be in the uniforming of the Administrative Police Department. Psychologically it will be a tremendous advantage on part of the Colonists as well as the Administrative Police. We merely have to think of our own attitude in being stopped and questioned by a civilian dressed policeman in contrast to one in uniform.

Willard E. Schmidt, Chief
Administrative Police

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