

Members of the United States Supreme Court
and Chief Justice Rehnquist,
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Testimony showing That
U.S. had to Intern 120,000 Japanese
on the West Coast in 1942.

During the spring of 1942, a few months following Pearl Harbor, U.S. Navy Captain, Joseph J. Rochefort, cracked the Japanese Code and this more than any other factor led to victory in the Pacific. We were engaged in War on two fronts and our Pacific Commanders had to fight for everything they got, feeling they were second all the time in priorities. Knowing what your enemy was up to spelled the difference between victory and defeat, especially against a fanatical enemy imbued with its "Bushido" cult---it was great to die for the Emperor Hirohito.

Due to Rochefort's great work, U.S. Fleet headquarters in Hawaii knew that Admiral Yamamoto (who was to the Japanese what Robert E. Lee was to the Confederacy) planned to attack and destroy Midway, the important island outpost in the Pacific, and gave them time to meet and completely cripple Nippon's Navy by sinking three of four biggest carriers in the battle of Midway, June 3-6, 1942. The U.S. had a big carrier task force at Midway and on receiving the word of the invasion, sent the carriers back a safe distance so that the attacking Jap fleet thought they had been returned to Pearl Harbor. Heroic efforts by the Army Air Force damaged the Jap fleet and when the Rising Sun planes returned to their carriers to refuel the Navy fliers off the hidden carriers struck and sunk ^{three} ^{of} four carriers and destroyed a huge number of planes caught on the carriers' decks. That was Japan's last big effort to destroy bases that protected mainland U.S.A..

The Japanese never caught on about the code and their spies in Hawaii and the Pacific Coast never did either. During the entire war the code breaking gave us a big edge because the Japanese never changed it. It led to the death of Yamamoto when he radioed (a year or so later) that he and his staff were flying down "the slot" toward Bougainville to see why the Japanese were stalled there. Right on schedule as told in his radioed message, Yamamoto hit the "slot" right on time and a big fleet of U.S. planes hit and destroyed Yamamoto's retinue.

Only a few top U.S. Officials knew of the code breaking and that is why Roosevelt and all those in on the secret knew they had to pick up all of the 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific Coast. If they had not the Japanese would have wondered why only its spies were grabbed and changed their code. Breaking that code at the right time made victory possible and saved maybe a million lives in the allied forces, which included these from Australia and New Zealand. Not one act of sabotage happened on the Pacific Coast where oil wells, ship building and shipping, factories turning out planes and food and fuel dumps were never touched.

The nearest thing to breaking the code happened way back in 1862 when General R.E. Lee's famous General Order 191, a copy of which was wrapped around three cigars and dropped by Daniel Harvey Hill, Confederate Division Commander and brother-in-law of "Stonewall" Jackson, at his abandoned campsite were found by Union soldiers. Thus the timid John B. McClellan knew exactly what Lee planned and was able to nearly destroy the Confederates at Antietam, saving the North for a time.

Only President Roosevelt, General Joseph "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell, Lt. Gen. John L. Dewitt and California State Attorney General Earl Warren, plus Pac Headquarters Commander, Hawaii, were in on the code breaking and that plus the desire to shield Pacific Coast people of Japanese ancestry from physical harm after the dastardly and unprovoked attack of Dec. 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor made feelings run high.

In 1943 and 1944 a great many of the detainees, who were known to be neutral were given full freedom to go anywhere in the central or eastern U.S., not to return to the Pacific Coast until after the war. I saw a good sized group of my Sacramento High Japanese schoolmates on Chicago's State Street (I was stationed there with a Navy unit—we all said we were crew members of the U.S.S. "Neversall"---). I asked them how they were being treated---they all said fine and all had good jobs. One a dentist said "I never had it so good."

No property that I know of was seized and some sold their property even though they were told by banks that they didn't need to. Mortgage payments were ~~on~~ "held" for the duration, just like the deal given GI's and so were the interest payments. Banks offered to collect rent monies on property left behind at little or no cost.

Many Japanese-American men who were of draftable age in World War II are alive today because they were not drafted. That alone should have been worth a lot to all detainees. The 442nd Combat Team from Hawaii was all volunteer and some Pacific Coast Japanese Americans were allowed to join them. They fought well in Italy and the unit suffered huge casualties. Senator Inouye of Hawaii was one of those badly hurt in the fighting.

The Japanese military shamed the German SS outfits---they were the most cruel since Attila the Hun rampaged centuries ago. After the surrender in Tokyo Bay aboard the Missouri, General Douglas MacArthur dispatched a coterie of escort carriers, stripped of their war gear and fitted out as hospital ships, along with mine sweepers and the light cruiser Montpelier to the small town adjacent to the big Jap Naval Base at Kobe on Japan's inland sea. They were to evacuate 20,000 U.S. prisoners-of-war who were held in a Jap prison camp about 20 miles inland from the port.

The day the prisoners were to arrive came and none reported. The second day about 3,000 arrived---half of them skin and bones and demented---the other 17,000 having been starved or tortured to death by the same army that raped Nanking, China and surrounded and shot up to 100,000 Chinese males and so enraged Chinese living on the Pacific Coast that they hated the sight of any Japanese for many years. What happened to the unfortunates held near Kobe was repeated all during the war by the Japs---so you can see how important it was to keep the breaking of the Jap code secret.

Nobody sent the Japanese subjects (even those born in the U.S. were said to have dual citizenship and owe allegiance to Hirohito as Emperor and God) an engraved invitation to come to the West Coast. They came to the "land of milk and honey" and all that I know did very well. There were so many people in the Asian countries, due to lack of birth control, and most were farmers, that the Asian Exclusion Act was passed, ~~because~~ after the thousands of Chinese Coolies imported to build the Central Pacific east during the Civil War and after would have filled every nook and cranny of land in California, Oregon and Washington. White men had homesteaded the land and built the West---the majority of the entire country wanted to keep it that way---just as the whites in South Africa don't want to be ousted from their hard won land by the herds of semi-savage black tribesmen now inundating them.

All Americans owe this nation a lot---so the Japanese-Americans who were inconvenienced during World War II have no more right to \$30,000 apiece than the millions of survivors of American white and black dead who "gave their lives that the nation might live" in all the wars and skirmishes that have taken place since World War I. All they got was a place taking up six feet of ground where they might view that last resting place.

Regards Henry Harrison