

James Jago M. M. M.

SEARCHED INDEXED IN FILE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER

REGION 3



MILITARY RECORDS BRANCH

James Seigo Miwa
ISN-HJ-291 -CI

1.

RECORD OF THE HEARINGS OF A BOARD OF
OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS CONVENED PURSUANT
TO PARAGRAPH 33, SPECIAL ORDERS NO. 320,
HEADQUARTERS, HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT, DATED
AT FORT SHAFTER, T. H., 19 DECEMBER 1941,

IN THE CASE OF

JAMES SEIGO MIWA
alias SEIGO MIWA
alias J. S. MIWA

ORIGINAL

ISN-HJ-291 -CI

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD OF OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS

Proceedings of a Board of Officers and Civilians which convened at Honolulu, T.H., pursuant to paragraph 33 of Special Orders, No. 320, Headquarters, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, T.H., 19 December, 1941, as amended by paragraph 6 of Special Orders, No. 326, Headquarters, Hawaiian Department, 25 December, 1941, as amended by paragraph 26 of Special Orders, No. 332, Headquarters, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, T.H., 31 December, 1941, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibits A, A-1 and A-2.

The Board met pursuant to the foregoing order at 10:12 a.m. o'clock at Honolulu, T.H., on 17 December, 1942.

Members present: Mr. Edward N. Sylva, President
Mr. David Y.K. Akana
Mr. Mark A. Robinson
First Lieutenant Blaine E. Anderson, (O-381281), 145th, F.A.
Executive and Recorder.

The Board Recorder and Reporter were sworn; the Board was sworn.

PURPOSE: The hearing of evidence and making recommendations as to internment of enemy aliens, dual citizens and citizens.

JAMES SEIGO MIWA, internee, appeared before the Board without counsel.

The order appointing the Board and the substance of the regulations under which it was convened were read aloud by the Recorder.

Warrant of Arrest was received and read in evidence, and is hereunto appended by Exhibit B.

Except when Government witnesses were being heard, the internee, JAMES SEIGO MIWA was present during all open sessions of the Board, was afforded full opportunity to present evidence in his own behalf, have counsel, to testify in person or submit a written statement and to submit a brief.

RECORDER: This is the case of JAMES SEIGO MIWA. The Board is ready to hear the Government's testimony.

JOHN HAROLD HUGHES, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Q (By Recorder) State your full name, official capacity and from what department of Government you are submitting this testimony?

A John Harold Hughes, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

Q Is your evidence being given from official records of that Bureau?

A Yes.

Q Will you give a brief summary of what they contain?

A JAMES SEIGO MIWA was born June 25, 1897 in Hiroshima, Japan. He first arrived in the Territory on April 14, 1914. His father and mother had preceded him. He attended school at the Mid-Pacific Institute at Honolulu, completing his education there in 1919. He has been employed since in the operation of grocery stores in Honolulu. His Mother is presently residing in Japan. His father is deceased. the subject's wife is a Japanese alien. She returned to Japan in 1934 and has remained there since. The subject's three children, also presently residing in Japan, the oldest being a daughter 18 years of age. Subject has made six trips to Japan, the first about 1928, another in 1932 and one in 1934, remaining in Japan from 1935 to 1938. His last trip, he left Honolulu April 1, 1941, and returned October 23, 1941.

One store is operated in Japan which was started by his father. There is one in San Francisco, California and two in Honolulu. Net income for 1941 to December, 1941, about \$15,000.

Search of his residence and two stores in Honolulu failed to develop anything of significance other than the location of five \$1000 Imperial Japanese Government Bonds, purchased by subject on May 1, 1935, through the Yokohama Specie Bank, and which were on deposit with the Bishop National Bank in Honolulu.

At the present time he resides with a widow at 1771 B Lusitana Street. In elaboration of the foregoing facts I will review the file. At the time of his last arrival in the Territory on October 23, 1941, on the Tatuta Maru he was admitted for a period of six months. He stated he was a merchant and manager of the J.S. Miwa Shoten of Hiroshima Ken, Japan, and was also connected with the same firm in Honolulu. This firm is also reported to have a branch in San Francisco. On checking the records here in Honolulu it was determined that Miwa had made a number of trips between the Islands and Japan and also a trip to Mexico and Canada. This trip to Canada was made in 1927 and the trip to Mexico in 1929. He gave his reasons for coming to the Islands as being to inspect the books of the Company. At the present time he lives at the residence of a widow, Hisae Marubayashi also known as Isae Mitamura. On checking his residence it was determined that the two were living together.

The store in Hiroshima Ken, Japan, was originally established by his father is not now in operation due to the fact of the present war. The store in San Francisco, known as the J.S. Miwa Shokai at 210 California Street, is in operation, as well as the two stores located in Honolulu. As previously stated, he advised that his net income for the operation of these stores from January 1, 1941 to December 20, 1941, was about \$15,000. He states that he prefers to live here and has no desires to return to Japan notwithstanding the fact that all of his relatives and his wife now live there.

As of February, 1942, he was a member of a Board which met at Iolani Palace for the discussion of food problems. He was reported as a person who should not be placed in that position because of his connections with Japan.

We have no further information regarding him.

RECORDER: Thank you.

(Witness excused.)

RECORDER: This case will be recessed.

(The case was recessed at 10:19 a.m. o'clock on 17th March, 1942.)

.....

(18th March, 1942, 10:46 a.m. o'clock. All members of the Board being present, the Recorder and Reporter being present; the Board, Recorder and Reporter having been previously duly sworn, the following proceedings were had:)

RECORDER: This is a continuation of the hearing in the matter of JAMES SEIGO MIWA. I wish to remind you Gentlemen that you are all still under oath.

JAMES SEIGO MIWA, internee, appeared before the Board.

RECORDER: What is your name?

INTERNEE: SEIGO MIWA.

RECORDER: Are you also known as JAMES SEIGO MIWA?

INTERNEE: I usually sign it J.S. MIWA.

RECORDER: Will you spell your name?

INTERNEE: I beg your pardon?

RECORDER: Will you spell your name?

INTERNEE: J-A-M-E-S S-E-I-G-O M-I-W-A.

RECORDER: Were you served with this Warrant of Arrest? On the 13 day of February, 1942? (Showing internee Warrant of Arrest)

INTERNEE: I have not read it.

RECORDER: This was never shown to you?

INTERNEE: No.

RECORDER: Let the records show that the officer's return indicates that this Warrant of Arrest was served on JAMES SEIGO MIWA on the 13th day of February, 1942.

RECORDER: This is a military hearing.

INTERNEE: Yes.

RECORDER: And is accorded you as a matter of justice. You may testify for yourself under oath; or, you may testify without being placed under oath; or, if you would rather not testify directly, you may answer in a written statement or brief as to your feelings and actions.

INTERNEE: I want to answer now.

RECORDER: Under oath or without being placed under oath?

INTERNEE: Under oath.

JAMES SEIGO MIWA, internee, was here duly sworn and testified as follows:

Q Your character is not at issue here but if you desire, you may call witnesses to testify as to your feelings and actions. Do you want any witnesses?

A I don't think so.

Q Do you want an attorney at your own expense?

A No.

Q Where do you live?

A 1771 B. Lusitana Street, Honolulu.

Q What is your occupation?

A Merchant.

Q Do you own your own store?

A Well, practically. I own 99% of the stock of the J.S.Miwa Company.

Q Where is your store located?

A 1132 - 40 North King Street, Honolulu.

Q What is your citizenship?

A Japan. Japanese.

Q Are you married?

A Yes.

Q Do you have any children?

A Yes.

Q How many?

A Three.

Q Are the children here or in Japan?

A No, in Japan.

Q Were your children born here?

A Yes.

Q Are they registered with the Japanese Consul?

A Yes.

Q Then they are dual citizens?

A Yes.

Q The fact that you registered them with the Japanese Consul indicates that you wanted them to be Japanese rather than Ameridans.

A That part I don't know. That depends on the children when they grow up, and decide what to do.

Q The President of the Board has some questions he would like to ask you.

Q (By Board) Have you any friends or relatives now serving in the Japanese armed forces?

A No.

Q Have you ever occupied any official or semi-official position with the Japanese government?

A No.

Q Did you make any trips to Japan in the last five or six years?

A Yes, I did.

Q How many?

A Let's see. I don't know. Three or four times, I don't quite remember.

Q Did you visit the battlefields of China?

A Never.

Q Were these trips back to Japan to see your family or of a business nature or a combination of both?

A Combination. See family and also business.

Q You have a branch store in Japan?

A We had it, yes.

Q Also one in Shanghai?

A No.

Q You have one in San Francisco?

A Yes.

Q Have you ever given imonbukuro. You know what imonbukuro is?

A No.

Q Comfort kits?

A No, I have not.

Q You have never given any?

A No.

Q Have you ever made any money contributions towards the Japanese cause?

A No.

Q Are you Buddhist, Shinto or Christian?

A Christian.

Q Christian?

A Yes.

Q Have you a picture of the Japanese Emperor or Empress in your home? Or, in your store?

A No.

Q Did you ever have a Japanese flag in your home or store?

A No.

Q Have you ever purchased Japanese war bonds or emergency bonds?
A I did. Let's see. When was that. Something around eight or nine years ago I bought war bonds.

Q Japanese war bonds?
A Yes.

Q You bought these bonds through a local bank?
A Yes.

Q Yokohama Specie?
A Three I bought from Yokohama and one from the Sumitomo Bank.

Q What do you think of the new doctrine of the new order in Greater East Asia?
A I don't know. I can't say anything. I am not a politician.

Q You have never taken much stock in it. You have never studied it or given it much thought?
A No, I have not.

Q What do you think of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931?
A Well, I have no idea at all.

Q Would you say that was a good thing for the people of the Pacific or a bad thing?
A I can't say yes or no.

Q How about the Japanese invasion of Indo-China last year. Do you believe that the Japanese went into Indo-China with the permission of the French government or under pressure?
A I don't know nothing about whether they had permission or not.

Q Well, Japan is now at war with the United States. It is Japan, Germany and Italy and other nations on one side and against the United States, China, Great Britain and other nations on the other side. I would like to find out from you -- which side you would like to see win this war or which side you would like to see lose this war or you have no views in the matter?
A I can't say. It is pretty hard to say. I have been raised here, you see, most of the time my life has been here.

Q You find it very hard to say?
A I can't say.

Q You can't say?
A No.

Q You cannot tell us whether you would like to see America or Japan win?
A I can't tell you which side will win unless I am God.

Q I am not asking you that. Which side would you like to see win this war?
A I can't say.

Q Why is that?
A It put me in a hard position. I have been here a long time and I know so many people here and I don't have many friends in Japan. Lots of friends here but still I am a subject of Japan. I can't say only unless you force me then I got to say, unless I commit hará kari.

Q Well, if you would rather not answer the question --
A No, I don't want to answer.

Q You would rather not answer the question?
A Yes.

Q Would you bear arms against Japan?
A I beg your pardon?

Q Would you bear arms against Japan, say in defense of the Territory of Hawaii?

A No, I don't think so.

Q Would you bear arms against the United States?

A No.

Q Even if the Japanese attacked Hawaii, you would not bear arms against Japan?

A No, I don't think so.

Q Is there any statement that you would like to make to this Board, any further statements?

A No, I don't think so.

Q Mr. Miwa, have you purchased any United States defense bonds?

A Yes, I have. In November.

Q Before the war?

A Yes.

Q Have you bought any since December 7th?

A No, I have not.

Q Is there any reason why you did not buy any after that?

A They usually lend us credit on buying stuff in San Francisco. They usually give us 30 days credit but since war started they don't give any more credit so I have to dig up my own money for business.

Q You did not mind buying bonds as long as the United States was not at war but since war was declared you no longer desire to buy bonds.

A I never thought of that. The only reason I have not got sufficient money to buy.

Q What was the purpose of your visit to Mexico and Canada?

A Mexico and Canada?

Q Yes.

A To see friends. In Canada strictly on flower business.

Q Strictly business?

A Yes.

Q What do you think of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor? How would you characterize that attack?

A Well, I have not summarized that yet.

Q What do you think about it?

A Well,

Q Do you think it was an honest, honorable or dis-honorable deed on the part of Japan to attack Pearl Harbor in the manner she did?

A Pretty hard to say.

Q You don't want to answer the question?

A No.

Q You know it is a fact that they attacked us without having declared war?

A Well, I don't know nothing about how they did it.

Q Well, that is the general information around that they attacked without any declaration of war. Doesn't that seem to you a dis-honorable thing to do while negotiations were still going on for peace?

A Well, I don't know about international law. I can't say.

Q Well, just common sense ought to tell you that. Is it not a dis-honorable thing to

come up from behind someone's back and attack them while they are not looking. Do you agree with that or you have no views on the matter.

A I have no views on the matter.

Q But you know that is a fact that they came in here not having declared war and attacked us. Don't you think that is a dis-honorable act?

A Pretty hard to say.

Q You are in the Territory under a Merchant's permit?

A I was. I came in first as a helper to my old father but after that I changed my status as international trader.

Q But on that status you can remain here as long as you want?

A The last passport I have is just temporary passport which was given by Cordell Hull, signed by him.

Q So that you could remain?

A Just only six months.

Q And then you could renew it from time to time?

A Yes, I think I can, yes.

Q Where was your branch office? In San Francisco?

A In Japan.

Q In San Francisco?

A In Japan. We had it in Osaka.

Q When did you discontinue that office?

A That was about two years ago.

Q About two years ago?

A Yes.

Q Where you made your money was here in the Territory and San Francisco. You did not make any money in Japan, did you?

A No, mostly I make money here and what I have more in Japan is from my grandfathers.

Q In other words, the paying part of your business was located here and in San Francisco?

A Yes, yes.

Q That has always been true?

A Yes.

Q Your firm incorporated under the laws of the Territory?

A Yes.

Q And you own 99% of the stock?

A Yes sir.

Q Who owns the other 1%?

A Several boys own that. Several other men own that stock, about four or five.

Q And they are all directors?

A Yes.

Q And it has been a good paying business in the past years, has it not?

A Yes.

Q I have nothing further.

RECORDER: The internee is excused. Thank you.

(Witness excused.)

FINDINGS:

The Board, having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds:

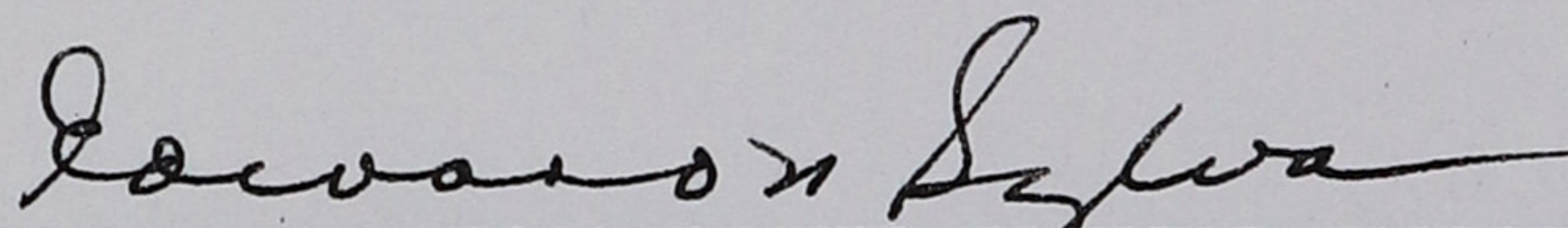
1. That the internee, JAMES SEIGO MIWA, is a subject of the Empire of Japan.
2. That he is loyal to Japan and dis-loyal to the United States.
3. That he is not engaged in any subversive activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

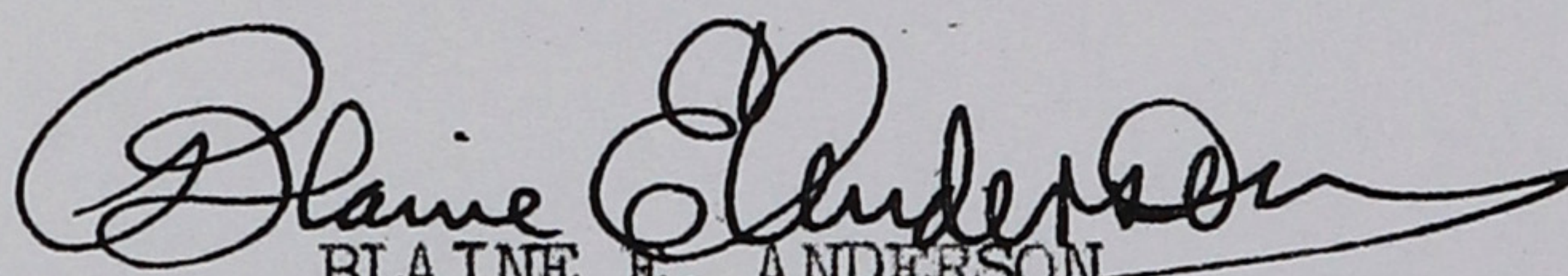
In view of the above findings, the Board recommends that the internee:

JAMES SEIGO MIWA be interned for the duration of the war.

(The Board adjourned at 11:05 a.m. o'clock on 18th March, 1942.)

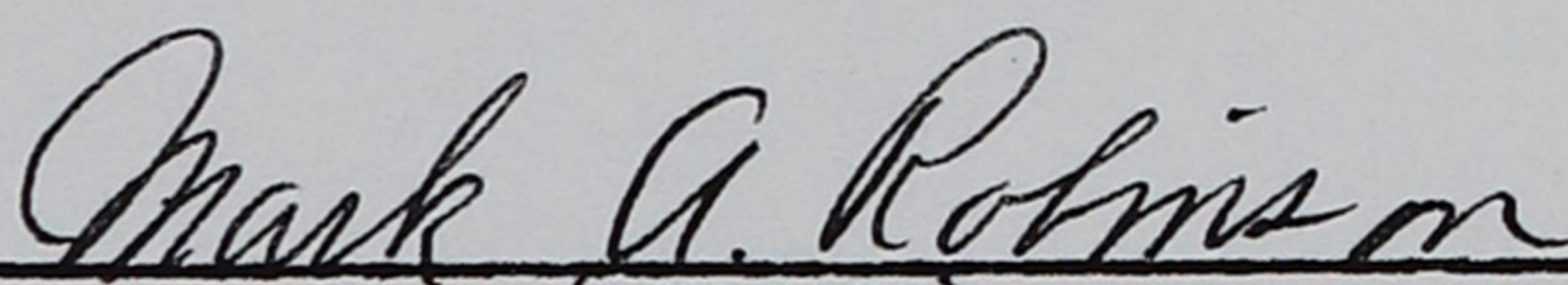


(PRESIDENT)

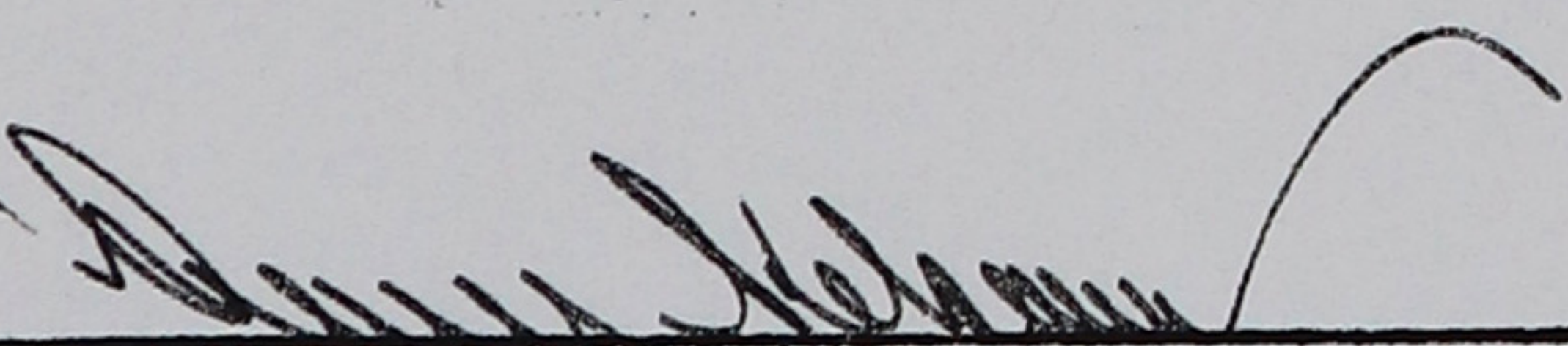


BLAINE E. ANDERSON

FIRST LIEUTENANT, 145th F.A. U.S.ARMY
(RECORDER)



(MEMBER)



(MEMBER)

ACTION BY CONVENING AUTHORITY:

Headquarters Hawaiian Department,
Office of the Assistant Chief of
Staff for Military Intelligence,
Contact Office, Dillingham
Building, Honolulu, T.H.

23 March 1942

IN THE FOREGOING CASE OF:

JAMES SEIGO MIWA
alias SEIGO MIWA
alias J. S. MIWA

We, the undersigned representatives of our respective Intelligence Bureaus,
concur in the recommendations of the Board.

Contact Office of the Assistant
Chief of Staff for Military
Intelligence, Hawaiian Department.

George W. Bicknell

District Intelligence Office,
14th Naval District.

J. H. Mayfield

Federal Bureau of Investigation.

R. L. Shuman

1st Ind.

Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for
Military Intelligence, Contact Office, Dillingham Building, Honolulu, T.H.

23 March 1942 To: Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, T.H.

1. Forwarded.

George W. Bicknell
GEORGE W. BICKNELL,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.,
Asst. A.C. of S.,
G-2 Contact Officer.

ACTION BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY:

Territory of Hawaii,
Office of the Military Governor,
Iolani Palace, Honolulu, T.H.
24 March 1942

In the foregoing case of JAMES SEIGO MIWA alias SEIGO MIWA alias J. S. MIWA,
are approved, and, it appearing necessary, it is ordered that JAMES SEIGO MIWA alias
SEIGO MIWA alias J. S. MIWA be interned.

By Command of Lieutenant General EMMONS:

Thomas H. Green
THOMAS H. GREEN,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.,
Executive.

ISN-HJ- 291 -CI

Special Orders)
No. 320)

HEADQUARTERS HAWAIIAN
DEPARTMENT
Fort Shafter, T. H., 19 December 1941

E X T R A C T

* * * * *

33. Under the provisions of Presidential Proclamations, 7 and 8 December 1941, and pursuant to instructions contained in radiogram, The Adjutant General's Office, 10 December 1941, each of the following Boards of Officers and civilian citizens is appointed to meet on the Island of Oahu, in the Hawaiian Department, at the call of the President of Board, when, as and where directed by the Department Commander, for the purpose of hearing evidence and making recommendations as to internment of enemy aliens designated by this Headquarters:

BOARD NO. 1.

Mr. EDWARD N. SYLVA, PRESIDENT.
Mr. DAVID Y. K. AKANA.
Mr. MARK A. ROBINSON.
Captain CLIFFORD D. AVERY (O-214634), Inf., Executive & Recorder.

BOARD NO. 2.

Lieutenant Colonel EDWARD K. MASSEE, U.S. Army, Retired (Inactive status) PRESIDENT.
Mr. JOSEPH J. KELLEY
Mr. FRANK THOMPSON, JR.
1st Lt. ROBERT I. FREUND (O-319644), CAC., Executive & Recorder.

BOARD NO. 3.

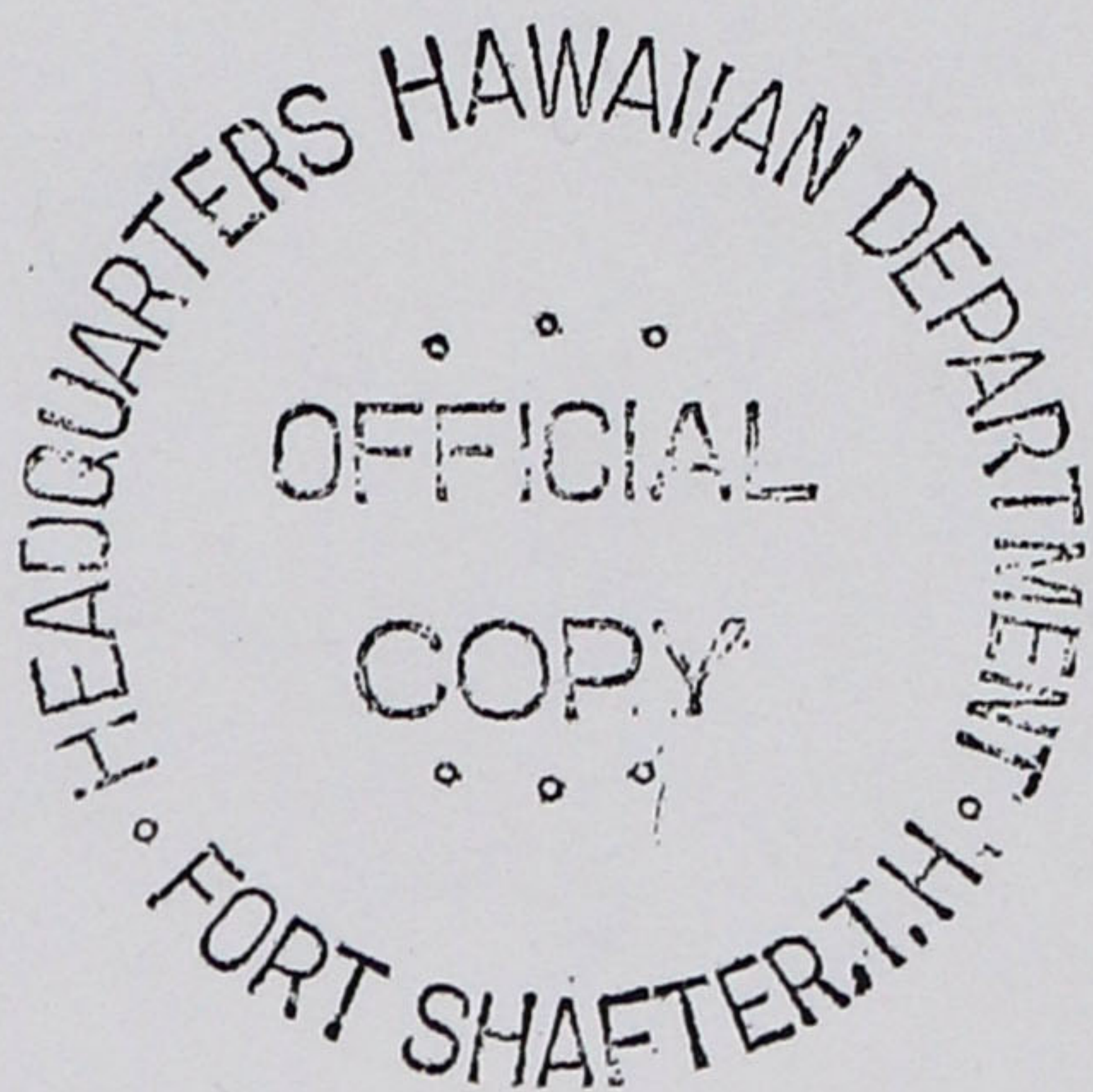
Mr. R. M. YATES, PRESIDENT.
Mr. P. K. McLEAN.
Dr. ARTHUR L. DEAN.
1st Lt. FRED A. THOMPSON (O-291104), CAC, Executive & Recorder.

The Executive and Recorder of each board will prepare proceedings of the the board for each individual hearing and submit same to this headquarters in quintuplicate without delay.

34. The Boards of Officers appointed by paragraph 1, Special Orders 315, this Headquarters, cs, are dissolved, effective upon completion of cases previously referred to them, new boards bearing the same numbers having been appointed as shown in paragraph 33 of these special orders.

* * * * *

By command of Lieutenant General EMMONS:



J. LAWTON COLLINS,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff

EXHIBIT "A"

OFFICIAL:

ROBERT H. DUNLOP,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

Special Orders)

No. 326)

HEADQUARTERS HAWAIIAN
DEPARTMENT

Fort Shafter, T. H., 25 December 1941

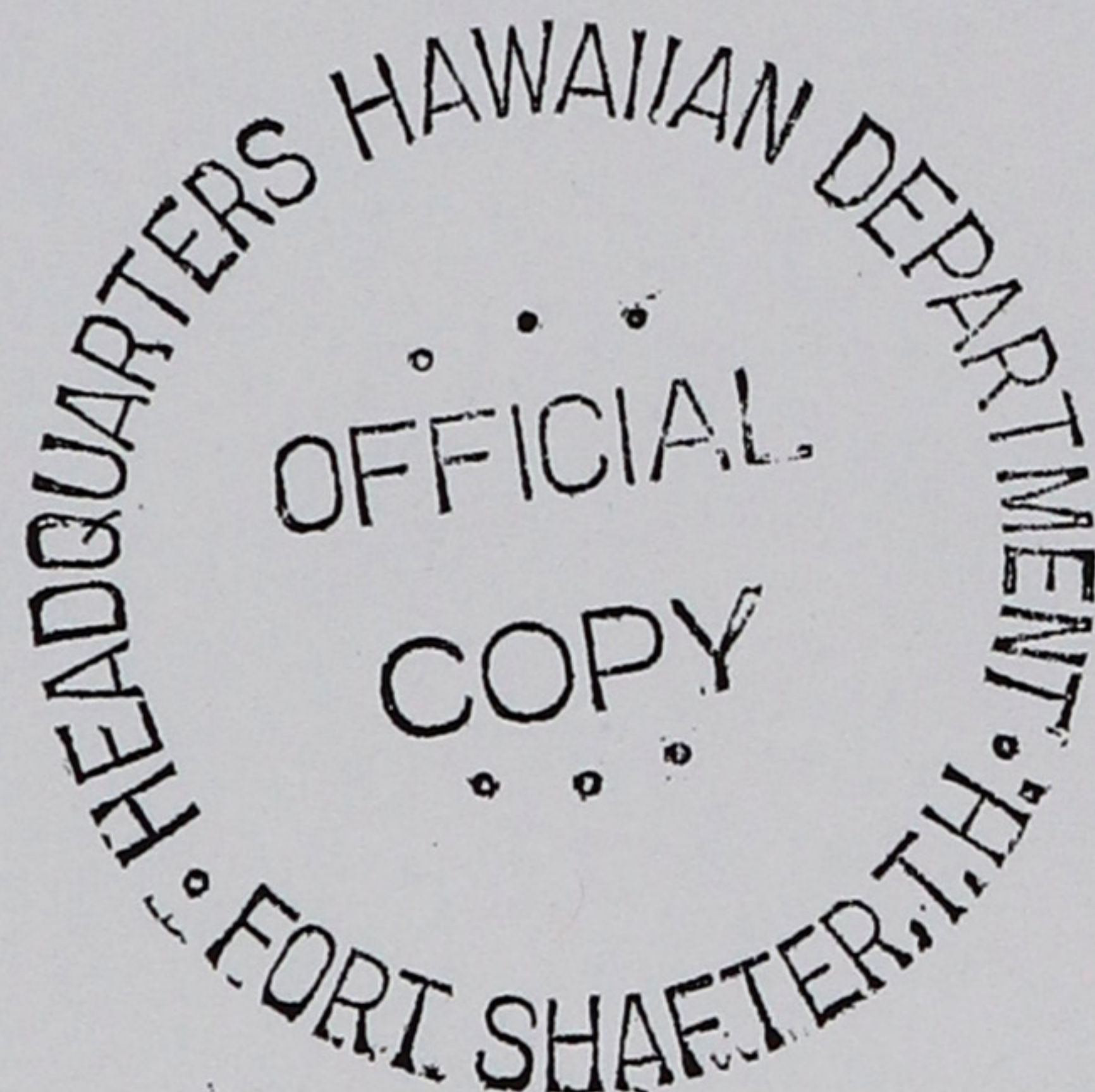
* * * * * EXTRACT * * * * *

5. Paragraph 1, Special Orders 315, this headquarters, cs, which appoints boards of officers and civilian citizens for the purpose of hearing evidence and making recommendations as to internment of enemy aliens designated by this headquarters, is amended to include citizens and dual citizens. (AG 014.31)

6. Paragraph 33, Special Orders 320, this headquarters, cs, which appoints boards of officers and civilian citizens for the purpose of hearing evidence and making recommendations as to internment of enemy aliens designated by this headquarters, is amended to include citizens and dual citizens. (AG 014.31)

* * * * *

By command of Lieutenant General EMMONS:



J. LAWTON COLLINS,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

ROBERT H. DUNLOP,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

EXHIBIT "A" - 1

named therein, this 13 th. day of February 19 42

Ernest V. Hook, M. D. R.

EXHIBIT "B"

Special Orders)
No. 332)

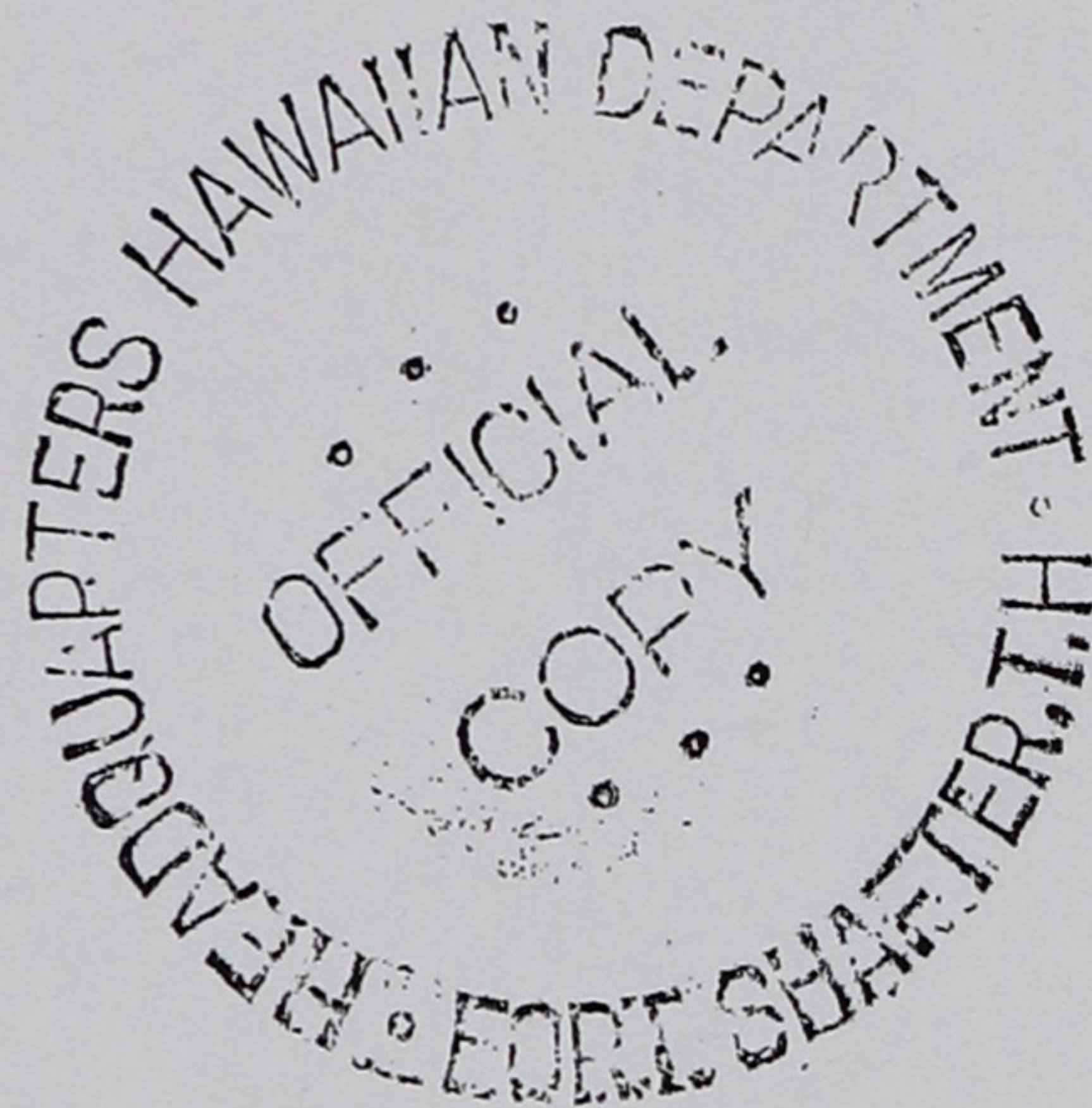
HEADQUARTERS HAWAIIAN
DEPARTMENT
Fort Shafter, T. H., 31 December 1941

* * * E X T R A C T * *

26. First Lieutenant BLAINE E. ANDERSON (O-381281), 145th Field Artillery is detailed as Executive and Recorder of alien internment Board No. 1, appointed by paragraph 33, Special Orders 320, this headquarters, cs, vice Captain CLIFFORD D. AVERY (O-214634), Infantry, relieved.

* * * * *

By command of Lieutenant General EMMONS:



J. LAWTON COLLINS,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

ROBERT H. DUNLOP,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

EXHIBIT "A" - 2

named therein, this 13 th. day of February 19 42

Ernest U. Hook, M. D. D.

EXHIBIT "B"

HEADQUARTERS HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT
Fort Shafter, T. H.

WARRANT OF ARREST

To any Sheriff; or to any Sheriff's Deputy; any Police Officer within the Territory of Hawaii; or any Member of the Military Police; or any Member of the Corps of Intelligence Police; or any officer of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; or to any Member of the Navy Shore Patrol;

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to take the body of

JAMES SEIGO MIWA

on suspicion of being a person inimical to the interests of the United States Government, and to detain said person pending final action by the Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, United States Army.

This Warrant of Arrest is issued under the authority of the Secretary of War of the United States by his delegated agent this 12th day of February 1942.

(SEAL)

Georges R. Bicknell
Lt Colonel, U. S. A.
Asst. A. C. or S., G-2.
Contact Officers.

OFFICER'S RETURN

EXECUTED the within Warrant of Arrest on the body of _____
JAMES SEIGO MIWA
named therein, this 13 th. day of February 19 42

Ernest W. Hook, M. D. D.

EXHIBIT "B"