

Text of Army Order Lifting Ban on Japanese on Coast

By Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The text of the War Department announcement of the rescinding of the Japanese exclusion order:

Favorable progress of the war in the Pacific, as well as other developments, has resulted in a determination by the commanding general of the Western Defense Command, with the approval of the department, that the continued mass exclusion from the West Coast of persons of Japanese ancestry is no longer a matter of military necessity.

For this reason, mass exclusion orders under which persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the Pacific Coast area in 1942, were revoked today through the issuance of Maj. Gen. Henry C. Pratt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command, of public proclamation No. 21.

The revocation order provides any person of Japanese ancestry, about whom information is available indicating a pro-Japanese attitude, will continue to be excluded on an individual basis. Those persons of Japanese ancestry whose records have stood the tests of Army scrutiny during the past two years will be permitted the same freedom of movement throughout the United States as other loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens.

The decision to revoke the exclusion orders, first applied on March 24, 1942, was prompted by military considerations. Since the evacuation, our armed forces steadily have pushed the enemy in the Pacific farther from our shores and closer to the Japanese home islands. Although hard fighting is ahead in the Pacific, it no longer can be said, as it could be said in 1942, that an enemy invasion of the West Coast on a large scale is a substantial possibility.

In 1942, it was impossible to make an immediate determination of which persons of Japanese ancestry were loyal and which were not. Mass treatment of all Jap-

anese-Americans, therefore was a necessary military precaution. Since that time, persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the coastal area have been thoroughly investigated from the standpoint of loyalty, probably more thoroughly than any other segment of our population.

As a result of these investigations, it has been possible to make progress in separating those who may be dangerous from those who are loyal to the United States. One of the first steps in this direction was taken by the Army itself in selecting those persons of military age among the persons of Japanese ancestry who were acceptable for the Army, initially as volunteers and later under Selective Service.

Many of these men were recruited from relocation centers and many of them have families in the centers. The outstanding record which these men have made fighting for the United States in Italy, in France, and in the Pacific has shown conclusively it is possible to make sound judgments as to their loyalty.

The War Department is aware the rescission of mass exclusion will create certain adjustment problems beyond military considerations. It believes, however, that adequate solutions for these problems exist. The Department of the Interior has informed the War Department that it intends to put into effect a program based on a gradual and orderly return to the West Coast and a vigorous continuation of its efforts to relocate persons of Japanese descent throughout the United States.

The War Department believes the people of the Pacific Coast area will accord returning persons of Japanese ancestry all the considerations to which they are entitled as loyal citizens and law-abiding residents.

Gen. Pratt



REVOKES EXCLUSION ORDER

—With the approval of the War Department, Maj. Gen. Henry C. Pratt (above), chief of the Western Defense Command, yesterday in San Francisco issued the revocation order which excluded persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.—A. P. wirephoto.

Evacuees

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1942, and it was estimated that there are now approximately 119,000 under jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority.

Spokesmen for the Western Defense Command said that lifting of the ban will not mean a sudden return of population, adding further strain to war-taxed housing conditions. The Defense Command said it expects the War Relocation Authority to see that the process is