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San Francisco, California

December 5, 1942

Karl R. Bendetsen, Colonel, G. S. C.  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Civil Affairs Division  
Room 447, Whitcomb Hotel  
1231 Market Street  
San Francisco, California

Attention: Captain Lane

Dear Colonel Bendetsen:

In accordance with the request received by this office from Captain Lane on November 28, 1942, I am transmitting herewith a report of the functions performed by the Farm Security Administration for the period, June 1, 1942 to August 8, 1942 in Military Area No. 2.

This report is to be considered as a supplement to the Final Report of Participation of the Farm Security Administration in the Evacuation Program of the Wartime Civil Control Administration which was transmitted to you on June 5, 1942.

Sincerely yours,

William A. Anglim  
Acting Regional Director

Attachment

Supplemental Report  
of the Participation of the  
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

In the Evacuation Program of the  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY

in  
Military Area Number 2

Covering the period  
June 1, 1942 through August 8, 1942

Laurence I. Hewes, Jr.  
Regional Director  
Region IX

30 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California

## I

### INTRODUCTION

Between June 1 and August 8, 1942 the Wartime Civil Control Administration evacuated all persons of Japanese ancestry from that portion of California lying in Military Area No. 2. The Farm Security Administration was responsible for the agricultural phases of this program, performing functions similar to those carried on previously in Military Area No. 1.

This report on the activities of the Farm Security Administration in Military Area 2 supplements the Final Report on Area 1 submitted June 5, 1942. It presents data relating exclusively to Military Area 2, and does not repeat material contained in the Final Report, to which it is a sequel.

## II

### BASIC AUTHORITIES

A confidential memorandum from Colonel Karl R. Bendetsen, Assistant Chief of Staff, Western Defense Command, on May 27, 1942 instructed the Farm Security Administration to prepare to administer the agricultural phases of evacuation in Military Area No. 2 of California. This memorandum is attached as Exhibit 1.

During the activity of the Farm Security Administration in Area 2, all of the directives and authorities by which it had operated in Area 1 continued in effect. These included the authority to make emergency production loans to farm operators taking over evacuated lands and the "freezing power" to prevent unfair transactions.

### III

#### CHARACTERISTICS AND IMPORTANCE OF JAPANESE AGRICULTURE IN MILITARY AREA NO. 2

About three-fourths of the Japanese working population evacuated from the California portion of Military Area No. 2 had been engaged in agriculture.

Japanese farms in Area 2 numbered 647, totalling 24,582 acres. Of these, 93, with 4,092 acres, were located in the Sacramento Valley, 554, with 20,490 acres, in the San Joaquin, and two farms, embracing 320 acres, in the Mohave desert near Yermo, California

Fruit, truck and specialty crops predominated, and, as in Military Area 1, the Japanese share in this type of intensive agriculture was highly important in relation to their numbers and the size of their farms.

The specialization of Japanese farmers in and around Visalia and Ivanhoe was very significant and presented an important problem in preparing this area for evacuation. The main crops grown were of strawberries, tomatoes, nursery stock, peas, beans, fruit and melons. Much acreage was planted and harvested two or more times a year.

In and around Reedley grapes is the main crop and although the relative concentration of Japanese farmers was heavy, they produced only a small percentage of the total grapes grown in this locality.

The same peculiar problems of land tenure affecting Japanese farm operation in Military Area 1 prevailed in Area 2. Transferring the operation of such holdings to substitute operators involved highly complex transactions and required the services of technically trained personnel.

## OUTLINE OF PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The organization which the Farm Security Administration developed within the framework of the Wartime Civil Control Administration for operations in Military Area No. 1 continued to function in Area No. 2. However, the relatively smaller volume of activity permitted the gradual curtailment of staff and the progressive consolidation of functional units. In this process the Farm Security Administration organization was continually refined, as the more experienced and capable members of the staff built up in Area 1 were retained for use in Area 2.

WFA and Evacuation Control Units: Evacuation Control Agents were assigned to work with WFA Field Agents in preparing Military Area No. 2 for evacuation. Thus, in the weeks prior to the issuance of a Civilian Exclusion Order, both types of personnel would cooperate in registering Japanese Farm operators and prospective substitutes and in promoting transfers. When a locality was posted for evacuation, the Evacuation Agents would process the farm operators through Civil Control Stations. Their activities continued in close coordination with those of the WFA field office. In some cases, the same personnel performed both functions consecutively.

Information and Public Relations Unit: The WFA Information and Public Relations Unit was disbanded on June 10, 1942. Its functions were assumed by the Chiefs of the WFA and Evacuation Control Units in cooperation with the Chief of Public Relations, Civil Affairs Division, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army.

Service Sections: The Administrative Services Section was made a part of the regular Farm Security Administration Business Management Division, which accorded special attention to the needs of the Evacuation Program in Military Area 2.

Regional Director: The Regional Director of the Farm Security Administration in Region IX continued actively to direct the entire program.

## PROGRAM OPERATION

WFA Unit

Initiation of Activities: On May 27, 1942, the Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division, sent the Farm Security Administration a memorandum warning that the Army planned to evacuate all persons of Japanese ancestry from the California portion of Military Area No. 2 (See Exhibit 1). This memorandum instructed the Farm Security Administration to assign the necessary field representatives to assist in the intensive and difficult task of preparing Area 2 for evacuation.

On June 5, 1942, Farm Security Administration Field Agents commenced activities in five of the Wartime Civil Control Administration centers set up in United States Employment Service offices in Eastern California. Three of these offices were in the Sacramento Valley and two in the San Joaquin Valley. (See accompanying Table 1.)

Registration of Japanese Farmers: FSA Field Agents began immediately the job of canvassing and registering all Japanese farms subject to relinquishment. This activity continued throughout the period of operation, although 80 percent of the task was accomplished within the first week. (See accompanying Table 2.) This registration procedure, which was established early in the program of evacuation of Military Area No. 1, was a very important factor in promoting the orderly transfer of farm property and in laying indispensable ground work for the various operations performed during the exclusion period.

Registration of Prospective Operators: The second phase of the activities performed by Field Agents was the registration of prospective farm operators qualified to assume management of farms subject to relinquishment, and prospective purchasers of crops, farm machinery and other types of farm assets.

Registration of prospective substitute operators and of operators who had already contracted to assume management of Japanese farms was continued throughout the program in Area 2. Before closing each field office, FSA Field Agents secured virtually a complete record of the farm operators replacing the Japanese, or who purchased crops or equipment from them.

Promotion of Transfer Transactions: The main reason for registering Japanese farm properties and prospective substitute operators was to promote transfers of holdings from the former to the latter. Experience gained in the evacuation of Military Area No. 1 regarding the characteristics of farm operation and tenure as well as of farm finance, enabled the Field Agents to assist both parties in arriving at satisfactory terms, and to

TABLE I

Field Offices in Which FSA Agents Operated During the Evacuation Program  
in Military Area No. 2

<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Date Opened</u>	<u>Date Closed</u>
SACRAMENTO VALLEY		
Chico	June 5	July 9
Marysville	June 5	July 11
Lincoln	June 5	July 12
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY		
Reedley	June 5	August 7
Visalia	June 5	August 7

TABLE II

Progress of FSA Field Agents in Registering Farms  
Subject to Relinquishment, California Portion  
of Military Area No. 2

<u>REPORTING PERIOD</u> <u>ENDING</u>	<u>MILITARY AREA 2</u>		<u>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</u>		<u>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</u>	
	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>
June 9	200	7,729	30	1,489	170	6,240
" 10	348	12,940	73	3,162	275	9,778
" 11	415	15,967	85	4,042	330	11,925
" 12	468	17,636	85	3,739	383	13,897
" 15	543	20,638	83	3,807	460	16,831
" 17	591	22,515	85	3,822	506	18,683
" 19	610	23,140	87	3,887	523	19,253
" 22	616	23,327	87	3,887	529	19,440
" 24	623	23,635	87	3,887	536	19,748
" 26	627	23,733	89	3,955	538	19,778
" 29	627	23,733	89	3,955	538	19,778
July 1	626	23,693	89	3,955	537	19,738
" 13	638	24,243	93	4,092	545	20,151
" 20	640	24,383	93	4,092	547	20,291
" 27	647	24,582	93	4,092	554	20,490

Source of Data: Farm Security Administration Field Reports

handle special problems of negotiations. Field offices proved convenient places in which the Japanese and substitute operator could arrange details of the transfer. FSA Field Agents were directly instrumental in placing approximately 60 percent of the substitute operators on the relinquished farms and were responsible indirectly for many more deals which were closed outside the field offices.

Office files were kept up to date and lists of available farms and equipment were posted on large bulletin boards. These were referred to constantly by large numbers of interested farmers.

In addition to circumstances similar to those which hampered transfers in Military Area 1--scarcity of qualified substitutes, fear of labor shortage, etc.-- progress was handicapped in Area 2 by the presence of many Japanese farmers who had voluntarily evacuated Area 1 and who were developing new farm units which required much additional outlay of labor and capital before they could be brought into profitable production.

However, the relatively longer period of time between initiation of field activities and the date of actual evacuation in this area was used to good advantage by the Field Agents and the Japanese in negotiating sound and equitable agreements with substitute operators. An important instrument was the dissemination through field offices of information to the public and to the Japanese accurately describing the facilities and opportunities available at the Wartime Civil Control Administration service centers. A final report of WFA Field Office registrations and transfers is attached as Exhibit 3.

Providing Credit to Substitute Operators: Only one major change in policy was made in the administration of the program in Military Area 2. The policy with reference to the use of loan funds made available from the President's emergency funds was modified on June 12, 1942 to the effect that loans involving farm properties located in Military Area 2 would not be made to corporations, associations or legal entities unless the members, directors or shareholders of such organizations would assume unlimited personal responsibility for the repayment of such loans. WFA Notice 10 covering instructions to the field on this point is attached as Exhibit 2.

A good deal of public pressure was exerted in the early period of the evacuation of Military Area 2 for modification of this new loan policy to permit corporation or association loans without assumption of personal liability. However, as the evacuation proceeded, satisfactory arrangements were made for substitute operators to take over all Japanese properties and the special Farm Security Administration production loans which were necessary in Military Area 1 to facilitate transfer of farm properties were not once needed in Area 2, not even for individual substitute operators. The more advanced season and the relatively longer period of time for completion of transfers were factors which made the usual channels of credit sufficient to meet the need. However, even though the lending authority was unused in Military Area 2, the knowledge that special loans could be made in

all Field Office and Civil Control Station records concerning individual farm units relinquished and transfers effected were transferred from the FSA Regional Office to the War Relocation Authority on August 5, 1942. This memorandum is reproduced as Exhibit 5.

Several Farm Security Administration representatives who were familiar with the records were assigned to assist the War Relocation Authority in a liaison capacity to interpret and catalogue these records. The memorandum referred to above also relieved the Farm Security Administration of responsibility relating to the protection of evacuee farm property at the completion of the evacuation of Military Area No. 2, and delegated this responsibility to the War Relocation Authority.

## VI

### ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONS AND RESULTS

For most purposes of evaluation, the effects of evacuation on the 93 farms in the Sacramento Valley portion of Military Area No. 2 were very similar to those applying to Area 1.

However, circumstances affecting the 554 farms in the San Joaquin Valley made the work of the Farm Security Administration in this section more difficult. In most instances the substitute operators were financially independent farmers currently operating, or experienced in operating, farm enterprises of the type being vacated by the Japanese. In view of reported agricultural labor shortages, most of them were hesitant to expand their holdings except under very favorable conditions. The Japanese themselves were operating well developed and desirable farm units for which they insisted on securing fair prices. Meeting these conditions and prices required considerable effort but produced relatively permanent results.

From the standpoint of fairness to evacuees and substitute operators, and of assured continuity of agricultural production, the transactions concluded in this part of Area 2 are considered even sounder and more enduring than those effected elsewhere in Military Areas No. 1 and 2, although accomplished with considerable more difficulty.

In not more than two or three instances was it necessary for Farm Security Administration representatives to allude to action which the government might take in order to force equitable settlement. These few cases involved landlords who expected to acquire valuable operating units and growing crops without adequately compensating their Japanese tenants. In each such case the landlord's attorney was able to convince his client that it would be advantageous to compromise rather than have his property blocked.

In no instance was it necessary to mention to a Japanese operator the possible use of the "freezing power" in order to compel him to conclude a deal with a substitute operator so that production would continue uninterrupted. This fact is particularly to be noted in light of heavy agricultural investments recently made in Military Area No. 2 by Japanese who voluntarily moved from Area 1 into Eastern California before evacuation was announced.

Farm machinery which had been used by the Japanese was generally made available to the new operators. This materially furthered the transfer of evacuated property.

## VII

### CONCLUSION

All of the conclusions which were drawn by the Farm Security Administration from its operators in Military Area No. 1 may be equally applied to the California portion of Area 2.

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division

WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
1231 Market Street  
San Francisco, California  
Telephone Klondike 2-2611

May 27, 1942

SUBJECT: Warning Order (CONFIDENTIAL)

MEMORADUM FOR: Farm Security Administration

1. This memo is in the form of a warning order and its contents until further notice must remain confidential.
2. It is planned to evacuate all persons of Japanese ancestry from that portion of California in Military Area No. 2. In connection with this evacuation it is anticipated that the number involved will be approximately 15,000. Approximately 2,500 of these evacuees are north of a line drawn east and west from Tanforan through Merced and will be evacuated to the Tule Lake Relocation Center. These persons are concentrated to a depth of approximately 40 miles along the line of Military Area No. 2 from Marysville southeasterly to the Placer-El Dorado County line. Approximately 12,500 are south of this line and will be evacuated to the Gila Relocation Center at Pima. These persons are concentrated to a depth of approximately 80 miles along the line of Military Area No. 2 extending from the Fresno-Madera County line, southeasterly to a point directly east of Tulare.
3. The Gila Relocation Center will not be ready until approximately July 1st, and although the Tule Lake Center will be prepared in advance of this date, it is desired to start the two movements simultaneously, starting approximately July 1st.
4. Persons to be evacuated in this area understood that no further movement would be required of them. It is believed that they have made substantial investments and that this evacuation will come as a distinct shock. For this reason it is felt that there is a considerably higher responsibility in connection with property protection than heretofore. It is therefore desired that the FSA carefully select from among their

Memorandum for Farm Security Administration

most experienced field representatives the men to handle this particular job.

5. As mentioned in 1. above, this is merely a warning order and further information will be forwarded at a later date.

/s/ KARL R. BENDETSSEN  
Karl R. Bendetsen  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Civil Affairs Division

WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WFA Notice 10  
(Classification 931)

WFA LOANS TO OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS

WFA Loans involving farm properties located in Military Area No. 2 will not be made to corporations, associations or other legal entities, unless the members, directors or shareholders of such organizations can and will assume unlimited personal liability for the re-payment of such loans.

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DISTRIBUTION: ALL WFA Personnel

NOTE: Modifies paragraph IV of WFA Instruction 931.1 and  
WFA Notice 6 (Classification 931).  
(6-12-42)

REPORT OF FSA PARTICAPATION IN WCCA PROGRAM  
CALIFORNIA PORTION OF MILITARY AREA NO. 2 FOR THE PERIOD  
June 1 to August 8, 1942

OFFICE	<u>FARMS SUBJECT TO RELINQUISHMENT</u>			<u>AREA SUBJECT TO RELINQUISHMENT</u>		
	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Transferred</u>		<u>Registered</u>	<u>Transferred</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
TOTAL MILITARY AREA NO. 2	647	647	100	24,582	24,582	100
SACRAMENTO VALLEY	93	93	100	4,092	4,092	100
Chico	24	24	100	643	643	100
Lincoln	52	52	100	2,876	2,876	100
Marysville	17	17	100	573	573	100
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY	554	554	100	20,490	20,490	100
Reedley	373	373	100	13,985	13,985	100
Visalia	181	181	100	6,505	6,505	100

Source of Data: Farm Security Administration Field Report

ACTIVITIES OF THE FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
CIVIL CONTROL UNITS

August 7, 1942

FINAL SUMMARY OF EVACUATION PROJECTS

Control Station	Order No.	Project No.	Closing Date	Total Registration	Cases with Arrangements Complete	Cases with Arrangements Incomplete	Total Acre- age operated by Evacuees	Acreage with Arrangements Complete	Acreage with Arrangements Incomplete
Chico	100	A-1	July 9	23	23	0	606	606	0
Marysville	101	A-2	July 11	35	35	0	2,063	2,063	0
Lincoln	102	A-3	July 12	69	69	0	3,676	3,676	0
Clovis	103	A-4	July 16	75	75	0	2,138	2,138	0
Lindsay	104	A-8	July 16	68	68	0	3,363	3,363	0
Feedles	105	A-9	July 15	2***	1	1	160	144	16
Sanger	106	A-5	Aug. 7	286	286	0	9,943	9,943	0
Reedley	107	A-6	Aug. 7	109	109	0	4,484	4,475	9
Visalia	108	A-7	Aug. 7	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,103</u>	<u>8,103</u>	<u>0</u>
				367*	866	1	34,536**	34,511	25

\* Includes 186 farms located in Military Area No. 1, and registered by Japanese who moved to Military Area No. 2 during period of voluntary evacuation.

\*\* Includes 6,717 acres located in Military Area No. 1.

\*\*\* Isolated land not served by a WPA Field Office.

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division

WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
1231 Market Street  
San Francisco, California  
Telephone Klondike 2-2611

July 6, 1942

Subject: Partial relinquishment of F.S.A. responsibility in Wartime Civil Control Administration

To: Farm Security Administration

1. Upon the completion of evacuation of Areas Nos. 1 and 2, the responsibilities of the Farm Security Administration relating to the protection of evacuees' property will be accepted by the War Relocation Authority, exclusive of cases wherein loans were made to substitute operators.

2. In order to enable War Relocation Authority effectively to service individual problems arising out of transactions effected through you, as an agency of the Wartime Civil Control Administration, it may be necessary for certain data pertinent to these transactions now in your files to be made available for perusal and copying by that Authority. It is desired that appropriate arrangements be made between you and WRA for enabling the Authority to have such access to such pertinent records.

3. In addition, it is suggested that a representative of your administration familiar with the program and who can devote sufficient time to the task, be assigned to assist WRA in a liaison capacity until that Authority is able to carry out fully the responsibilities imposed upon it by reason of the transfer above mentioned.

/s/ KARL R. BENDETSEN  
Karl R. Bendetsen  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Civil Affairs Division