

Japanese American Incarceration Through Primary Sources: The Diary of Stanley Hayami

Objective

Students will gain historical reasoning skills by studying primary sources and comparing them to secondary sources. They will become more familiar with the conditions in Japanese American concentration camps through the personal writings of Stanley Hayami, a high school student who was incarcerated in the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming.

Common Core Anchor Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9

Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Common Core Standards for History/Social Studies

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

Background

During World War II the United States government forcibly removed over 120,000 Japanese Americans from the Pacific Coast. These individuals, two-thirds of them U.S. citizens, were sent to ten camps built throughout the western interior of the United

States. Many would spend the next three years living under armed guard, behind barbed wire.

Stanley Hayami (1925-1945) was a student from Los Angeles who attended high school at the Heart Mountain Concentration Camp in Wyoming. Hayami left Heart Mountain in June 1944 to join the U.S. Army and was killed in combat in Northern Italy on April 23, 1945, while trying to help a fellow soldier. He was nineteen years old. His diary is preserved among the collections of the Japanese American National Museum. The diary is digitized and available online through the [Online Archives of California](#). For additional information on Hayami's life, see the annotated version of his diary, [Stanley Hayami: Nisei Son](#) [<http://janmstore.com/products/stanley-hayami-nisei-son-his-diary-letters-and-story-from-american-concentration-camp-to-battlefield-1942-1945>] and the film [A Flicker in Eternity](#) [<http://flickerinetrernity.com/>]. Excerpts of the diary are printed with permission from the Hirasaki National Resource Center at the Japanese American National Museum.

For more information on Heart Mountain Concentration Camp, visit the website for [Heart Mountain Historic Site](#) [www.heartmountain.org]. For information on terminology related to this period, including the use of the term concentration camp, please see [this statement](#) [<http://media.janm.org/projects/ec/pdf/EC-Terminology.pdf>] from the Japanese American National Museum.

Introduction

Discuss the importance of primary sources in conducting historical research. As a class, determine examples of primary sources and secondary sources. See the [Healey Library website](#) [<http://umb.libguides.com/c.php?g=351019&p=2367357>] for clear definitions and examples.

Activity

Introduce Stanley Hayami by showing the short video [A Soldier's Diary](#) [<https://vimeo.com/119509771>]. Show the location of Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming using [this map](#) [<http://media.janm.org/projects/ec/pdf/EC-Confinement-Sites-Map.pdf>]. Then, divide the students into groups of four to five and assign each group at

least two entries of the diary, including the entry, "My View of the Evacuation," along with the following guiding questions:

1. What are some questions you would want to ask Stanley about his experience?
2. How was reading diary excerpts different than reading an article about Japanese American incarceration?
3. In what ways does Stanley's diary juxtapose individual experiences to international events during World War II?

Give students 10-15 minutes to read through the transcriptions and take notes on their impressions. The entire diary can be viewed here at the [Online Archives of California](http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf687004zq/?&brand=oac4) [<http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf687004zq/?&brand=oac4>]. Note: the transcriptions included here maintain Hayami's spelling and punctuation.

After studying portions of the transcription, have students share their thoughts and impressions of Stanley's experience at the concentration camp in Heart Mountain within their groups. Then, come together as a whole class and discuss. Next, give the students 5-10 minutes to write down their thoughts about studying Japanese American incarceration through Stanley Hayami's diary.

Then, select one of the following activities to continue the students' exploration of sources.

Ten Day Diary Challenge

Give students the assignment of keeping a diary for ten days (or another designated length of time). Explain that they can be creative with their entries. Students can use their diary to keep a record of their day-to-day activities, important experiences in their lives, reflections on current national and international events, to record personal goals or plans for the future, or they can use the journal as a space to draw and sketch. They should not be required to share their entries. After ten days, have the students read through their own entries and imagine what others might learn by reading their diary. What is included in the diary entries? What is not included? What other sources might be helpful in providing greater context and understanding to the diary entries? Have the

students write a two to three-page reflection paper about how their own experience of keeping a diary can help inform their engagement with historical primary sources.

Compare and Contrast Primary and Secondary Sources

Have the students read [this brief history of Heart Mountain](http://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/brief-history-heart-mountain-relocation-center) [<http://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/brief-history-heart-mountain-relocation-center>]. As a class discuss how this article contributes to an understanding of Stanley's experience in the Heart Mountain camp. In what ways was reading a scholarly article different from studying the diary as a primary source? What are the relative merits and strengths of each source? Have students write an essay about the ways in which primary and secondary sources can be used together to provide insight into historical events.

Articulate Your Viewpoint

Have students study Stanley's diary entry titled "My Viewpoint of the Evacuation" written on June 26, 1943. Ask them to summarize the points that he makes regarding Japanese American internment. Next, consider current issues today such as cases of racial profiling, anti-Muslim sentiment, the refugee crisis and proliferation of international migrant camps, and United States immigration policies. Select an issue to analyze and consider it from different viewpoints and perspectives. Then have students write a two to three-page journal reflection in which they articulate their thoughts and position on the issue.



November 29, 1942

Today I am writing my first entry in this journal. It is no special day, but I have to start someplace.

Right now Walt is listening to Gene Krupa so I don't feel much like writing. Sack is talking with Ma + Pa about leaving camp and going to college & if so what school.

Today I went to Sunday school and then saw a football game. It was really cold out there watching that game - there was snow on the ground & it was snowing slightly.

Well Ol' be damned they've finally decided to let Sack go to college; it's to be Washington U. In St. Louis. Mo. Shee majoring in dress design.

Frank isn't home right now like he always isn't. He's probably playing for the dance tonite. I don't understand Frank very well, in his few stops at our house (a room room) which he's supposed to be living in, he managed to get mad at me sometime last week & I guess he's still mad.

Well that's about all for now I guess. Gotta get up early tomorrow & get braced for the great bad news ~ Report cards.



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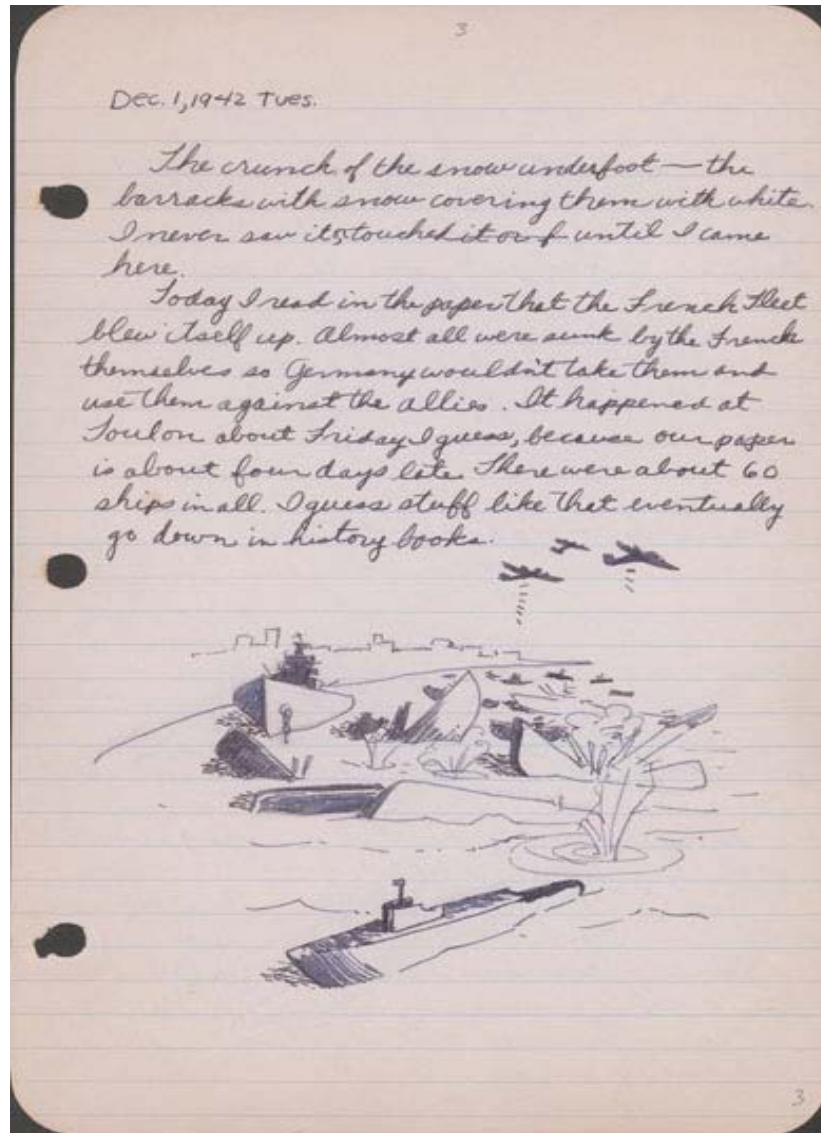
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Dec. 1, 1942 Tues.

The crunch of the snow underfoot- the barracks with snow covering them with white. I never saw it, or touched until I came here.

Today I read in the paper that the French Fleet blew itself up. Almost all were sunk by the French themselves so Germany wouldn't take them and use them against the Allies. It happened at Toulon about Friday I guess, because our paper is about four days late. There were about 60 ships in all. I guess stuff like that eventually go down in history books.



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Dec. 7, 1942

Today was the day last year in which this whole mess started. Last year it was Sunday.

I was busy outside that morning so I didn't hear about it when it happened. However in the afternoon business slowed down to a stand still, not a customer came for about an hour so I went back to the house and turned on the radio. The announcer kept butting in "Attention to all men in service, Report at once to your station. All leaves cancelled" Then turning in on a news broadcast I heard the stunning news. "Pearl Harbor bombed!!" "about fifty planes came over the harbor at etc" I turned off the radio and rushed out front and told pa & ma.

That night we all felt as if we were in still having a night more. Obasan called and told about what was happening in L.A. That night we all went to sleep wondering what was going to happen to us. Little did I know then that one year from then I would be in Heart Mt Wyo. in a evacuation camp.



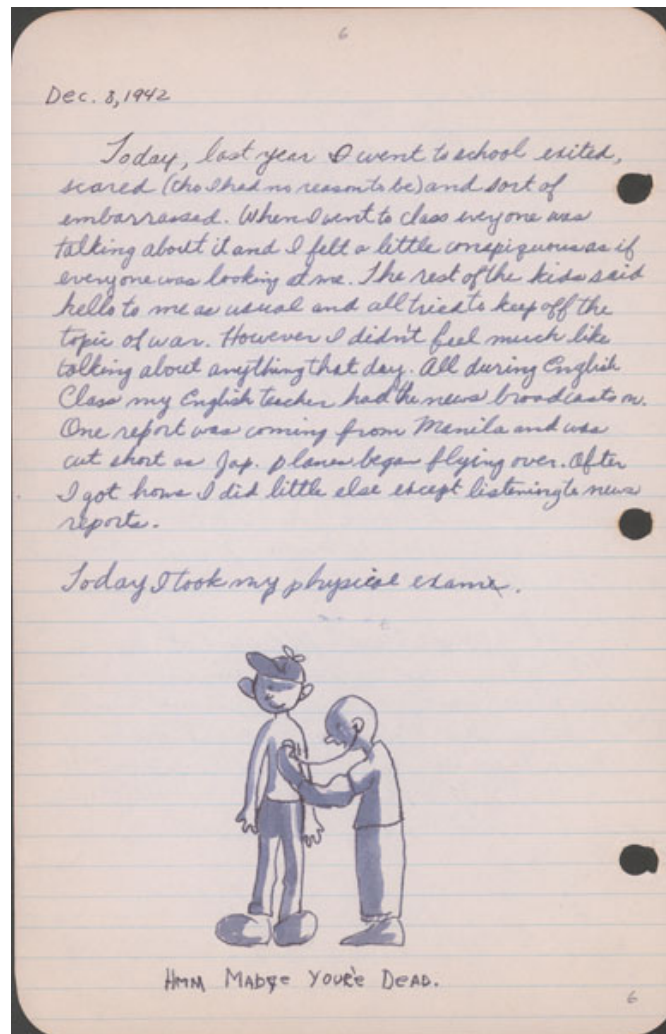
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Dec. 8, 1942

Today, last year I went to school excited, scared (tho I had no reason to be) and sort of embarrassed. When I went to class everyone was talking about it and I felt a little conspicuous as it everyone was looking at me. The rest of the kids said hello to me as usual and all tried to keep off the topic of war. However I didn't feel much like talking about anything that day. All during English Class my English teacher had the news broadcasts on. One report was coming from Manila and was cut short as Jap. planes began flying over. After I got home I did little else except listening to news reports.

Today I took my physical exam.



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM



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Dec. 12, 1942

Sorry I did not write the last night or so, it is because I was studying for my chemistry test

Tomorrow at Los Angeles U.C.L.A. plays U.S.C. to determine who goes to the Rose Bowl. Gosh I wish I were home so I could see that game. Oh well its going to be some game anyway. Bill Stern is going to broadcast that game. I hope UCLA wins. If they win and if they go to the Rose Bowl it'll be the first time they will go.

Dec. 13, 1942

Well UCLA finally ~~was~~ beat USC. Score was 14-7 and was it exciting! Had me gasping for breath on every play.



JAPANESE AMERICAN
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Dec. 12, 1942

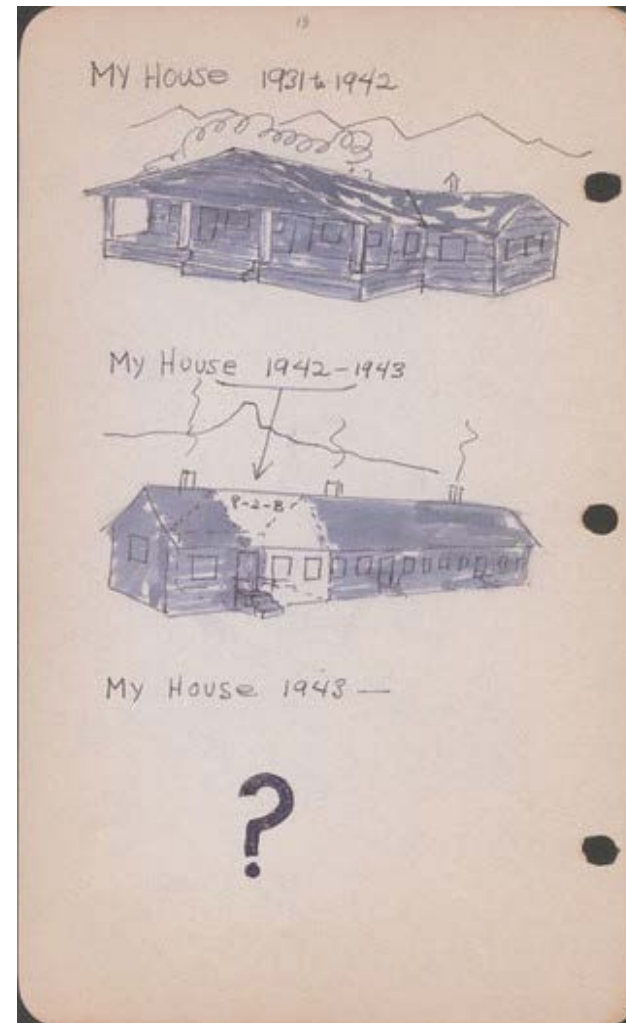
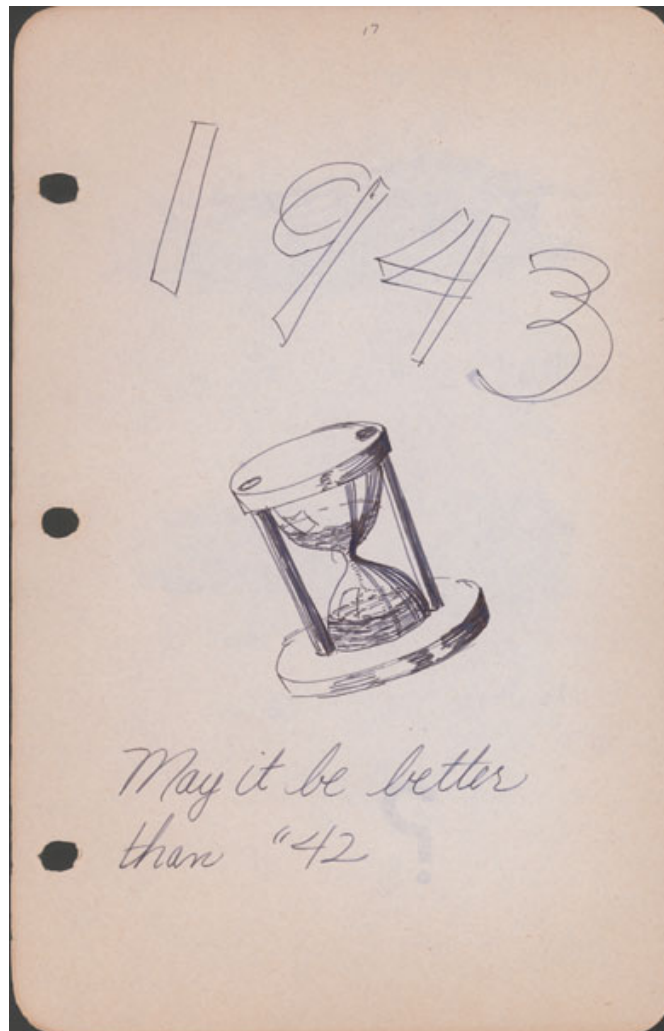
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JANUARY 1, 1943

Well today is the first day of the year nineteen hundred and forty-three. I wonder what it has in store for me?

Wonder what it has in store for everybody?

Wonder where I'll be next year?

Wonder when the war will end?

Last year today, I said I hoped that the war would end in a year. Well it didn't but this year I say again "I hope the war ends this year, but definitely."

Another thing is, I hope I'm out of here and a free man by '44.

Here's a few new years resolutions I hope I can live up to:

1. I resolve to be more tolerant.

Not only with family members but with everyone.

2. I resolve to be more understanding of others and more appreciative.

This goes hand + hand with no. 1. Great men are great because they understand people better. They are great because they are not narrow minded. One of the things a person wants ^{most} is appreciation — So I want to give everyone as much appreciation as possible.

3. I resolve to study as hard as I can and learn as much as I can.

So that when am a man, I won't be a dumbbell.



January 1, 1943

Well today is the first day of the year nineteen hundred and forty-~~two~~ three. I wonder what it has in store for me?

Wonder what it has in store for everybody?

Wonder where I'll be next year?

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Prediction: WAR WILL END BETWEEN 1945-1949 ABOUT 1½ YEARS MORE.

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4. I resolve to help Ma & Pa more.
5. I resolve not to ~~ad~~ abandon any high ambitions.

Today in the morning I played cards, and in the afternoon I listened to football games. Well the rose bowl game came out as I expected but not as I hoped. Most people said that Georgia would smother U.C.L.A. but I said it would be pretty close. U.C.L.A. held Georgia scoreless for three quarters, but Georgia poured it on in the last and won 9-0. I hoped U.C.L.A. would win, which they didn't however.

Last year at this time, I was at home in San Gabriel, Calif. And today I'm far away in a evacuation camp here in Heart Mt., Wyo. Gosh a lot happened last year. In the spring we had to work hard to sell out our stock. At Easter we quit, handed over the nursery to Mr. Dailey. We moved to Los Angeles for a month until evacuation to Pomona A. Center. After Pomona we boarded a train and after about 3½ days of traveling thru Nevada, Utah & Colorado we reached this camp in Wyoming. And here I am today hoping that next year at this time, I'll be home or someplace else outside of camp.



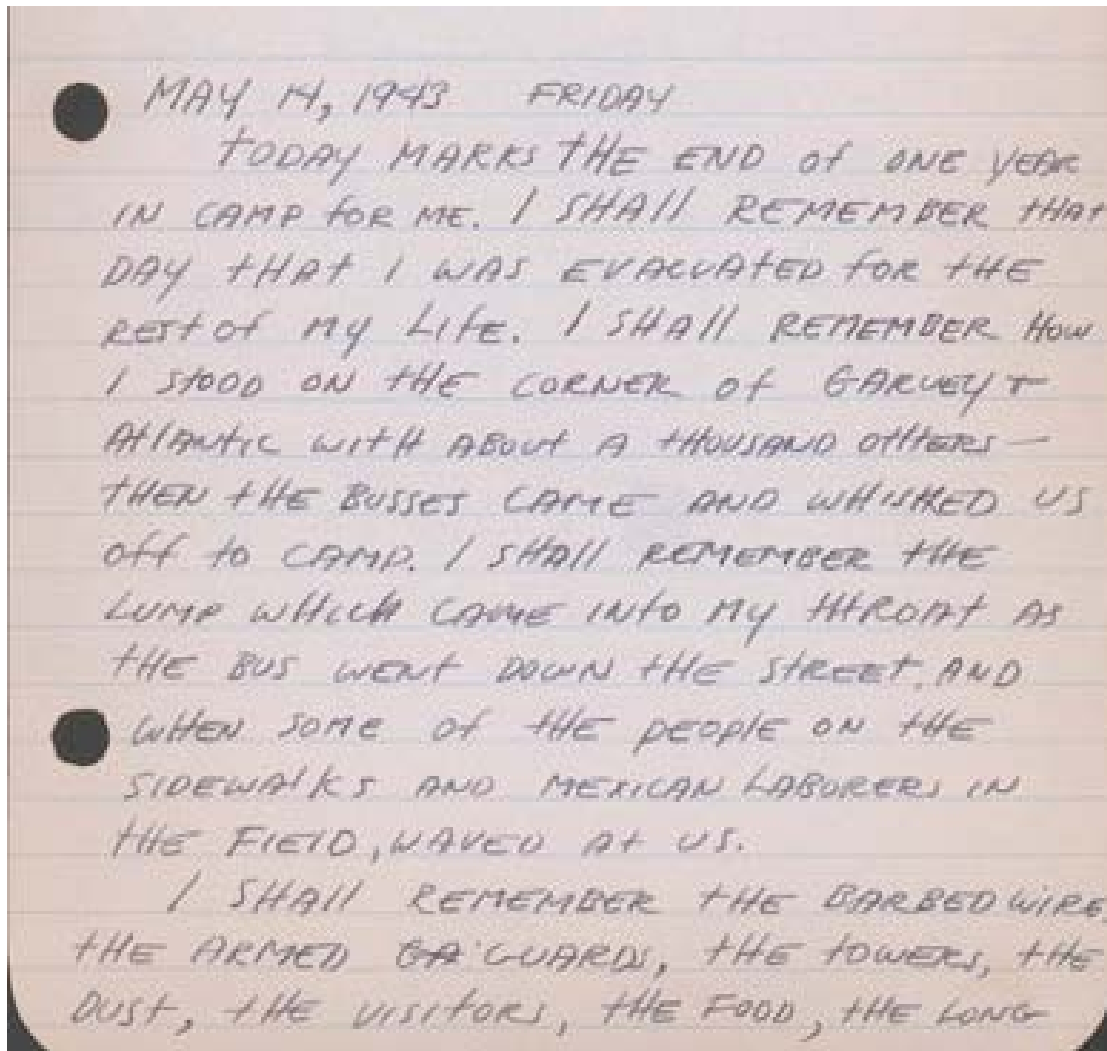
January 1, 1943, cont.

Prediction: WAR WILL END BETWEEN 1943-1944 ABOUT 1 ½ YEARS MORE.

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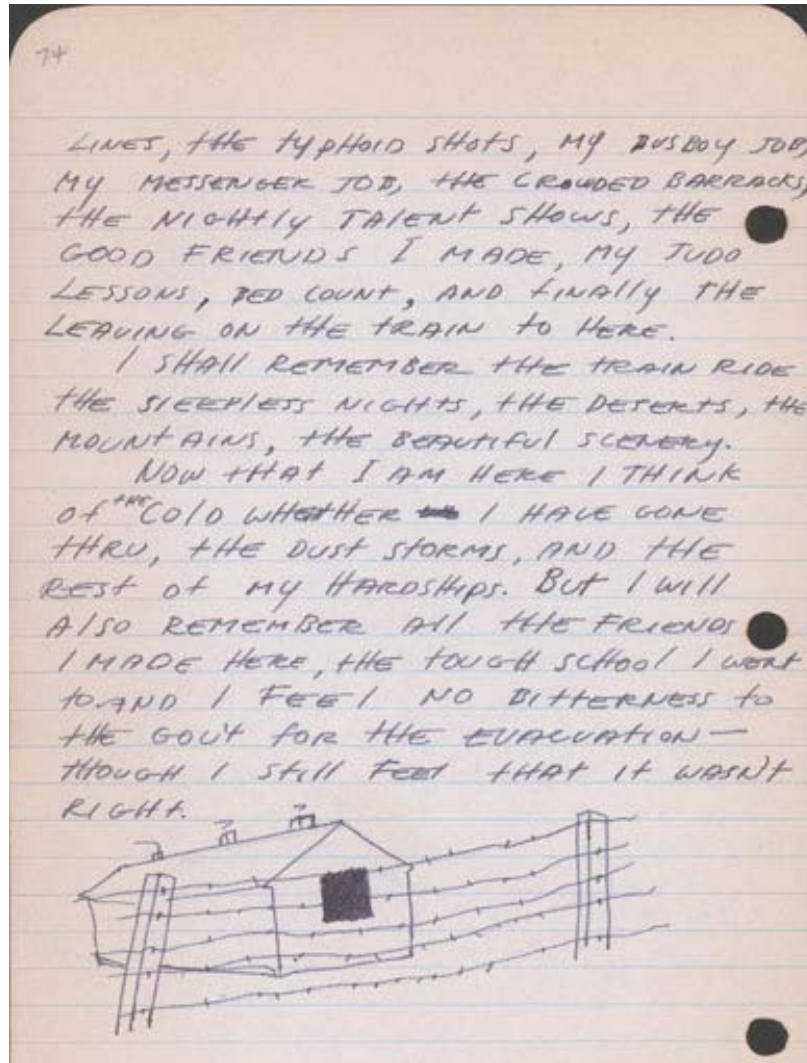
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May 14, 1943 Friday

Today marks the end of one year in camp for me. I shall remember that day that I was evacuated for the rest of my life. I shall remember how I stood on the corner of Garvey & Atlantic with about a thousand others- then the busses came and whisked us off to camp. I shall remember the lump which came into my throat as the bus went down the street and when some of the people on the sidewalks and Mexican laborers in the field, waved at us.

I shall remember the barbed wire, the armed guards, the towers, the dust, the visitors, the food, the long...

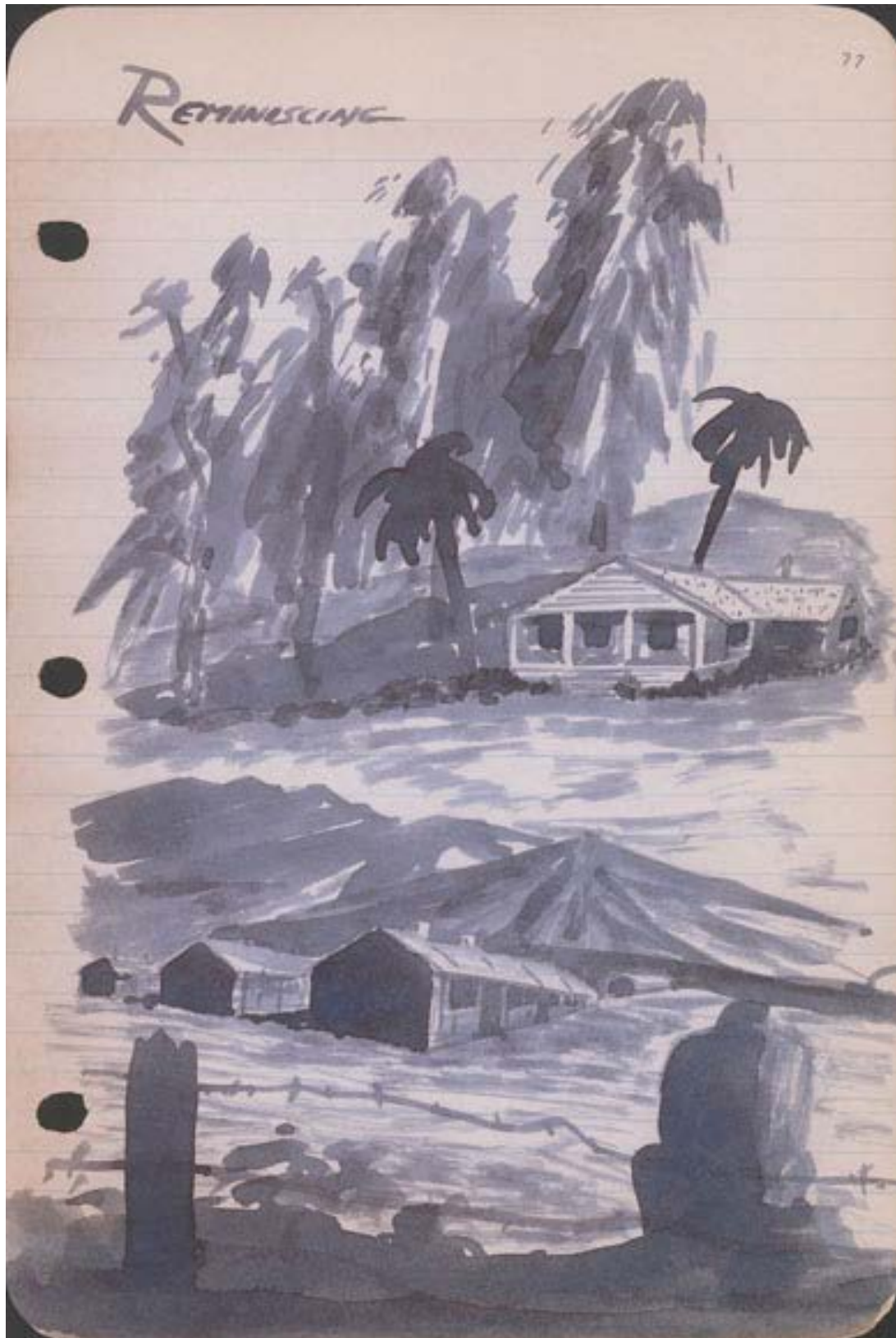


May 14, 1943, cont.

...lines, the typhoid shots, my busboy job, my messenger job, the crowded barracks, the nightly talent shows, the good friends I made, my judo lessons, bed count, and finally the leaving on the train to here.

I shall remember the train ride the sleepless nights, the deserts, the mountains, the beautiful scenery.

Now that I am here I think of the Colo whether I have gone thru, the dust storms, and the rest of my hardships. But I will also remember all the friends I made here, the tough school I went to and I feel no bitterness to the Gov't for the evacuation- though I still feel that it wasn't right.



JUNE 26

SAT. MORNING

YESTERDAY MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR, OHASHI, DIED. HE HAD BEEN SICK FOR A LONG TIME. HE LEFT HIS WIDOW, THREE DAUGHTERS, AND ~~A~~^{TWO} SONS. HIS YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, EMIKO, GRADUATED THIS SEMESTER AS THIRD HIGHEST IN THE CLASS.

AT THE POSTER SHOP YESTERDAY I HAD TO DO A POSTER. - I SEE WHERE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO A LOT OF PRACTICING IN LETTERING. THE POSTER SHOP IS JUST LIKE SCHOOL - I LEARN WHILE I GET PAID. THE COMMERCIAL ARTISTS THERE ARE ALL NICE TO ME AND ARE WILLING TO TEACH ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I ALSO HAVE TO DESIGN A POSTER.

A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, IT WAS JIMMIE YADA'S BIRTHDAY. (JUNE 24) HE IS NOW 17 YRS. WE (TSUNEO HIYAKE, JIMMIE, KEI BESHU, AND I) GABBED UNTIL ONE O'CLOCK ~~PM~~ AM..

THURSDAY I SIGNED UP FOR SUMMER SCHOOL. I HAVE TO ~~ST~~ FINISH UP MY PLANE GEOM. I'M TAKING IT IN THE AFTERNOON FROM 2:30 - 4:30.



June 26 [1943]

Sat. Morning

Yesterday my next door neighbor Ohashi died. He had been sick for a long time. He left his widow, three daughters, and two sons. His youngest daughter, Emiko, graduated this semester as third highest in the class.

At the poster shop yesterday I had to do a poster.- I see where I'm going to have to do a lot of practicing in lettering. The poster shop is just like school- I learn while I get paid. The commercial artists there are all nice to me and are willing to teach me anything about it. I also have to design a poster.

A couple days ago, it was Jimmie Yada's birthday. (June 24) He is now 17 yrs. We (Tsuneo Hiyake, Jimmie, Kei Bessho, and I) gabbed until one o'clock A.M.

Thursday I signed up for summer school. I have to finish up by Blane Gedm. [?] I'm taking it in the afternoon from 2:30-4:30.



MY VIEWPOINT OF THE EVACUATION

MANY PEOPLE HAVE WRITTEN OF THE EVACUATION — HAVE DEBATED ABOUT IT IN HEATED DISCUSSIONS — AND HAVE WONDERED ~~WHAT~~ HOW WE FEEL.

WELL, SINCE I AM ONE OF THOSE EVACUATED, ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT BE ~~THE~~ TYPICAL, BUT THEN WHO IS?, I WILL TRY TO SET DOWN IN WRITING — WHAT I THINK ABOUT IT?

FIRST OF ALL, DO I THINK THAT IT WAS CONSTITUTIONAL? NO I DO NOT. WE DID NOT GO THRU THE DUE PROCECESS OF LAW. THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE. (IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SABOTAGE DONE BY THE JAPANESE IN HAWAII OR ~~ANY~~ THE WEST COAST PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE EVACUATION) HOWEVER, IT COULD HAVE BEEN LEGAL, SINCE THE MILITARY DOESN'T HAVE TO GO BY THE CONSTITUTION IN TIME OF WAR.

DO I THINK RACIAL ~~PREDD~~ PREJUDICE WAS INVOLVED? YES I DO. IF IT WERE NOT, HOW DOES ONE ACCOUNT FOR THE FACT THAT GERMAN AND ITALIAN ALIENS WERE NOT EVACUATED WHILE JAP. AMERICAN CITIZENS AS



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 THE MORE DANGEROUS. GERMANS
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 CAN.

DO I THINK THAT IT WAS WORTH-
 WHILE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE
 GOV'T. THIS IS A VERY TOUGH QUESTION
 AS I DON'T ~~KNOW~~ KNOW ALL THE
 FACTS AND WHAT I SAY WOULD
 BE MY OPINION ALONE. MY
 ANSWER IS THAT I DON'T BELIEVE
 THAT IT WAS WORTH WHILE TO THE
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 JAPANESE EVACUATED I DOUBT
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86
 CONCENTRATION OF JAPANESE
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WELL NOW THAT I HAVE GONE
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 FAITH IN AMERICA, ^{AND} LOOK FORWARD
 TO RELOCATION AND THE FUTURE.

DONT BE AFRAID OF OPPOSITION, REMEMBER
 A KITE RISES AGAINST, NOT WITH THE WIND — HAMILTON
 W. MARRIS



My Veiwpoint of the Evacuation.

Many people have written of the evacuation- have debated about it in heated discussions- and have wondered how we feel.

Well, since I am one of those evacuation, although I may not be typical, but then who is?, I will try to set down in writing- what I think about it?

First of all, do I think that it was Constitutional? No I do not. We did not go thru the due processes of law. They didn't have any evidence. (It has been proven that there has been no sabotage done by the Japanese in Hawaii or the West Coast prior to or after the evacuation). However, it could have been legal, since the military doesn't have to go by the Constitution in time of war.

Do I think racial prejudice was involved? Yes I do. If it were not, how does one account for the fact that German and Italian aliens were not evacuated while Jap. American citizens as well as Japanese aliens were evacuated. Don't tell me we were the more dangerous. Germans & Italians can get closer to defense plans than a Japanese can.

Do I think that it was worthwhile from the standpoint of the Gov't. This is a very tough question as I don't know all the facts and what I say would be my opinion alone. My answer is that I don't believe that it was worthwhile to the Gov't. Out of the 115,000 Japanese evacuated I doubt if there were any really dangerous ones. Instead of evacuating all of us- they should have kept an eye on us and just evacuated the worst of us. The evacuation also cost the Gov't a tremendous amount of money and is continuing to do so. California faced a serious labor and food shortage due to the evacuation. [The following text inserted in smaller handwriting above:] Also many Nisei lost faith in America.

Do I think the evacuation did or will do some good? Yes- for one thing it broke up the heavy concentration of Japanese on the Pacific coast, and eventually all of them will be spread out over the whole US without looking conspicuous. However once we start forming those cliques (such as Little Tokio) and start isolating ourselves people will begin to misunderstand us, grow suspicious of us, and prejudice will form against us again.

Well now that I have gone over the whole goddam situation what do I think in the final annalysis.

I think that the whole mess what unnecessary and a lot of trouble could have been avoided. However it did some good- that of breaking up the cliques. I personally will proceed to forget this whole mess, will try to become a greater man from having gone thru such experiences, keep my faith in America, and look forward to relocation and the future.

Dont be afraid of opposition, remember a kite rises against, not with the wind
-Hamilton W. Mabie

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January 24, 1944

Well, I haven't done any writing in here for such a long time now that I'd have to do a lot of writing say everything and to cover everything about what I am thinking — and I have done a lot of thinking. I read books like Anthony Adverse and The Complete Life by Crskine.

But today I'll just write of the more immediate things that are worrying me. Selective Service was just opened up recently to niseis again. And recently I turned 18, draft age. Well, last week on Thursday or so, I received my questionnaire. And being very busy and hard pressed I didn't get around to looking at that thing until tonight. Well, I read the instructions and it said "to be returned by the 25th or you are punishable by fine and imprisonment." Well tomorrow is the 25th !!! And even if I mail it tomorrow it'll never get to California by about the 29th. So maybe I'll go to jail! I won't mind the jail so much, but it'll be mighty humiliating! I've ^{never} been in jail before. Maybe they'll excuse me



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Aug. 20, 1944

Today is a beautiful morning. Up and down our barrack I can hear kids playing, doors opening and closing. Radio speaking in the barrack across from me. A Japanese record playing in back of me. Pop's over at the shogi room I guess — he's supposed to work out this morning with the dumbbells he received ~~last~~ 2 weeks ago from York. Walt's still in bed sleeping, he went to our block social last nite. Gee I sure wish I could dance — I guess it's like anything else — you ~~gotta~~ got to drive yourself and learn — no use sitting and wishing. Mom is probably washing clothes. I wonder how Grace is over in New York — haven't seen her now for a year, she's taking ~~the~~ psychology & math at Hunter College. Her birthday is next week — good thing I sent her a present already. I guess Frank's at that picnic over at Shelby today. Well the reason I'm writing again after such a long lapse is because around next Tuesday I'm going to go to active duty. Probably this shall be the last time I will write in this book in a long time.



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151
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Perhaps I should also go over some of the news that has happened in the past 3 months. Well France has been invaded and the allies are now close to Paris. Guadalcanal in the South Pacific has been taken with the result that Premier Tojo and his entire staff was forced to quit. Hitler has been almost killed. In Italy the Japanese-Americans are doing a wonderful job. The 100th is the most decorated outfit in the Army. Willie wrote from someplace in Italy. Hasn't seen action yet. Two of last year's volunteers ~~has~~ from our camp have already met their death.

Hart Mt. has been a dead place, a wonderfully live place too. Dust has blown through it and snow storms too. Someday, from a foreign battlefield I shall remember it with homesickness. Mother, Father, Brother, sister, friends, mess hall, movie theatre, ice skating, swimming, school, weightlifting — all shall try to well up in my throat at once. Aloha Tanager



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Aloha Stanley Hayami

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Aug. 21, 1944

Tonight is my last night here in camp. I'm leaving for the Army tomorrow morning. I'm leaving on approximately the same day that I got here some two years ago, Aug. 2, 1944.

I remember that day very well — it was hot and dusty ~~too~~ when the train pulled in next to the warehouses (we thought they were to be our barracks.) We looked outside, and there were a stock of Pomona kids, kids I know, helping to take care of our baggage. It sure felt funny seeing people you knew after traveling some thousand miles.

They do. looked us over and then we were loaded on trucks and drive to our assigned barracks. On the way, people lining the street yelled at us to greet us.

I remember seeing George Azuma sitting under a telephone pole.

Well all this is past and memories now — I met a lot of good friends here in camp —



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There's Tsuneo, Tadao, George,
Tomo, Paul Mayetara, Hiroshi Komatsu,
Kenji Yamamoto, Sab. Nakano,
Jimmy Yoda & Nakada

It'll be fun to see all
these people again after years have
gone by. I wonder how much Tsuneo,
Tadao & George will have improved
in their ~~physical~~ physics and
in their strength. George already
presses 125 and only weighs 125.
I wonder what sort of future
scientists and artists they'll make.

Well only time will tell
right now I've gotta get
some shut eye — gotta get
up early tomorrow.
Hope Mom & Pat & Walt & Sacha
& Hank all stay in some health
and are happy always

Aloha til I ~~next~~ write
again — It may be a year
it may be sooner (Aloha) or maybe
ten years (groan).



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

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The docs. looked us over and then we were loaded on trucks and driven to our assigned barrack. On the way, people lining the street yelled at us to greet us. I remember seeing George Asens [?] sitting under a telephone pole.

Well all this is past and memories now- I met a lot of good friends here in camp- There's Tsuneo, Tadao, George, Tomo, Paul Mayekawa, Hirosh Komatsu, Kunio Yamamoto, Sab. Naguno, Jimmy Yada & Nakada

It'll be fun to see all these people again after years have gone by. I wonder how much Tsuneo, Tadao, & George will have improved in their physics and in their strength. George already presses 125 and only weighs 129. I wonder what sort of future scientists and artists they'll make.

Well only time will tell right now I've gotta get some shut eye- gotta get up early tomorrow. Hope Ma & Pa & Walt & Sach & Frank all stay in sound health and are happy always

Aloha til I [letters crossed out] write again- It may be a year it may be sooner- (I hope) or maybe ten years (groan).