

2007

Willard E. Schmidt Papers

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Guide to the Willard E. Schmidt Papers

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Guide to the Willard E. Schmidt Papers

Collection number: MSS-2007-08-01



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Descriptive Summary

Title: Willard E. Schmidt Papers

Dates: 1942-1945

Bulk Dates: 1944

Collection number: MSS-2007-09-01

Creator: Schmidt, Willard

Collection Size: 2 boxes(1 linear foot)

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Willard Schmidt collection, documents some of the administrative duties of Willard Schmidt, the Chief of Internal Security for the War Relocation Authority and the Tule Lake Internment/ Segregation Camp. This collection contains administrative records and photos documenting the Tule Lake Internment/ Segregation center.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Willard Schmidt Papers, MSS-2007-08-01, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Acquisition Information

Donated to the San José State University Library by Maureen H. Schmidt in March of 1992.

Processing History

Collection processed and encoded by Russell Rader in 2007.

Organizational History

Willard Schmidt was the National Chief of Internal Security for the War Relocation Authority. In February of 1944 he was assigned to the Tule Lake Internment Center to act as its Chief of Internal Security and to assist in its transformation from an internment center into a segregation camp. Following executive 9066, the War Relocation Authority constructed 11 internment centers between 1942 and 1946 in order to segregate and house approximately 110,000 Japanese-American men, women and children. In 1943 the War Relocation Authority and Selective Service produced a two question "loyalty questionnaire" for Japanese internees to fill out. The questionnaire identified who might be considered appropriate for the armed services or repatriation outside the centers, and who might be considered a possible threat to national security. The questions proved confusing and those who answered "no" to both were removed from their respective internment centers and sent to the Tule Lake high-security segregation camp.

Internal security for the internment centers was maintained by a special police force composed largely of able-bodied evacuee residents and headed by a non-evacuee chief as well as a few non-evacuee assistants. Larger issues of misdemeanors and other similar offenses were ordinarily handled by the Project Director or by a judicial commission made up of evacuee residents. Tule Lake segregation center housed over 18,000 internees between 1942 and 1946. In addition to a heavily fortified perimeter Tule Lake was further isolated by the inclusion of a full battalion of soldiers accompanied by tanks. Tule Lake experienced a turbulent history including: strikes, protests and an declaration of martial law which lasted from November 14th, 1943 until October 15, 1943. During martial law, over 350 dissidents were sent to the stockade and 1,200 internees were sent to Department of Justice internment camps.

Bibliography and references cited

Shirai, Noboru. *Tule Lake: an Issei memoir*. Translated by Ray Hosoda. Edited by Eucaly Shirai and Valerie Samson. Sacramento: Muteki Press, 2001.

Ng, Wendy L. *Japanese American internment during World War II: a history and reference guide*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2002.

Kitagawa, Daisuke. *Issei and nisei; the internment years*. New York: Seabury Press, 1967

Takei, Barbara and Judy Tachibana. *Tule Lake revisited : a brief history and guide to the Tule Lake Internment Camp Site* Sacramento: T&T Press, 2001.

Weglyn, Michi. *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps*. New York: Morrow, 1976

Related Material

[Flaherty Collection: Japanese Internment Records, 1921-1966, 1942 bulk](#) at San José State University, Archives and Special Collections

[Norman Y. Mineta Papers, 1975-1996](#) at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles

[Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Records, 1930-1974 \(bulk 1942-1946\)](#) at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection documents many aspects of Willard Schmidt's duties as the Chief of Internal Security for the Tule Lake Internment/ Segregation Camp from 1943-1945. It contains "release from stockade" requests, Advisory and Co-coordinating committee meeting minutes, various memoranda and reports, photos of internees and officers as well as copies of interment camp newspapers.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into a single series: Series I. Internal Security

Subject Headings

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration camps -- California -- Tule Lake.

Tule Lake Relocation Center

United States. War Relocation Authority

Series I: **Internal Security 1942-1945 (1944 bulk)**

Physical Description: 13 folders 1 oversized box

Series Scope and Content Summary

The contents of this series contains "release from stockade" requests filed by internees, community leaders and family members, Advisory and Co-coordinating committee meeting minutes relating to the aftermath of the Tule Lake protests, various memoranda and reports, photos of internees and officers as well as copies of the *Manzanar Free Press* (vol.29 - 53) and two copies of *The Newell Star* from 1942. Of note are the cultural analysis reports published by the Community Analysis Section in folder 3.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by format and then alphabetically by bureaucratic division with the exception of newspapers and publications which are housed in box 2.

Box/Folder 1/1 - 1/4	Correspondence 1943 - 1944 (bulk 1944)
Box/Folder 1/1	Advisory Committee February, 1944 - April 1944
Box/Folder 1/2	Departmental 1943 - 1944
Box/Folder 1/3	Internee Requests 1943 - 1944 (bulk 1944)
Box/Folder 1/4	Personal May 9, 1944, April 19, 1944
Box/Folder 1/5	Meeting Minutes January 10, 1944 - April 15, 1944
Box/Folder 1/6	Administrative papers 1943
Box/Folder 1/7	Newspaper Clippings 1943
Box/Folder 1/8	Notes circa 1944
Box/Folder 1/9 - 1/10	Reports 1943-1944
Box/Folder 1/9	Incident and Officer 1943-1944
Box/Folder 1/10	Community Analysis Section 1944
Box/Folder 1/11	Photos circa 1942-1945
Box/Folder 1/12	Transfer Orders January 29, 1944
Box/Folder 1/13	Travel Papers 1943
Box 2	Newspapers and publications 1942-1944 (1942 bulk)