
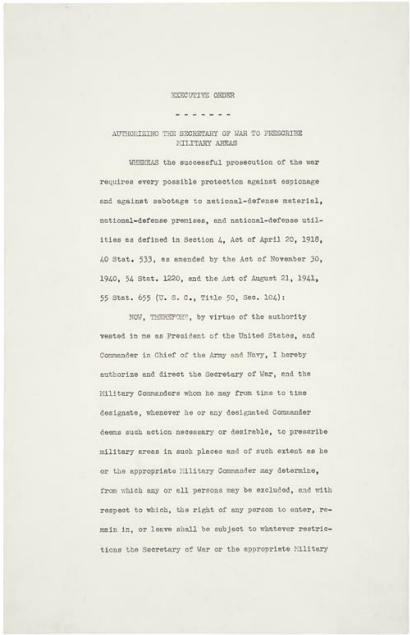


Timeline of WWII Events Leading to Incarceration of Nikkei in Washington

Dec. 7, 1941-- Japan’s military attacks a U.S. military base in Pearl Harbor in the territory of Hawaii and the U.S. declares war on Japan.





CURFEW LAW COURT DECISION

WASHINGTON, May 11--Defending military regulations imposing West coast curfew on all persons of Japanese ancestry and excluding them from designated areas, Solicitor General Charles E. Fahy told the Supreme court that it was "imperative that those charged with the defense of our shores take adequate protective measures against a possible invasion."

"The exigencies of war may demand the imposition of restraints that would be unwarranted in times of peace," said Fahy. "Indeed, an individual may be required to give up his freedom and lay down his life. The curfew and the exclusion measures are certainly less drastic than compulsory military service."


Prosecuting Attorney E. F. Bernard of Portland asserted that "the curfew law was the first assault on the constitutional rights of American citizens of Japanese ancestry, but it was the initial one which led to the disastrous situation where American citizens are staring through barbed-wire barricades on this land of freedom."

Justice Jackson and Black asked questions as to whether the court could set aside the decisions of military leaders as to what constitutes military necessity.

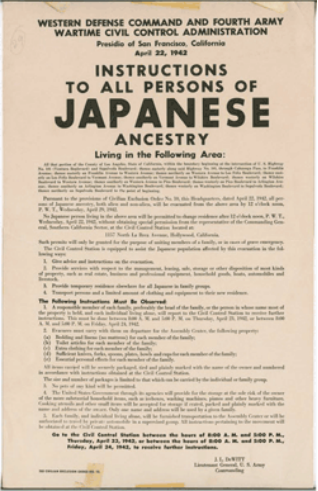
Asked Jackson: "...Is it beyond the military leader's power to reach a judgment...and to exclude these people?"

Co-attorney A. L. Wirin of Los Angeles replied "that exclusion would be warranted" only under the most extreme circumstances, and those circumstances did not exist on the Pacific coast.


"The orders were carried out only against persons of Japanese descent," added Wirin.




March 30, 1942 Nikkei from Bainbridge Island are the first group to be removed from their homes.



April 21, 1942 "Evacuation" notices go up in Nikkei neighborhoods in Seattle.



March & May 1942 In separate incidences, Attorney Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi test constitutionality of the curfew orders; while Fred Korematsu is arrested for violating detention orders.



April 28, 30 & May 1, 1942 Nikkei from Seattle neighborhoods are removed and sent to "Camp Harmony," an assembly center housed in the Western Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup, Washington.

Dec. 1941 The FBI begins to arrest hundreds of Issei community leaders, who are held for several months to several years in government detention centers (also Issei bank accounts are frozen and Issei business licenses are revoked).

Feb. 19, 1942 Executive Order 9066 is signed into law by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and authorizes the military to prescribe zones from which persons may be removed.

Mid-March, 1942 A curfew is imposed on Japanese Americans to be home by 8pm at night and to not leave their homes in the mornings until 6am.

By the spring of 1942 between 110,000 -120,000 Nikkei from the major west coast U.S. cities are removed to assembly centers, to be taken to more permanent “camps” that are being built in the U.S. interior.