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HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIAPUBLIC PROCLAMATION NO. 1.
March 2, 1942

To: The people within the States of Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington, and the Public Generally.

WHEREAS, by virtue of orders issued by the War Department on December 11, 1941, that portion of the United States lying within the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Arizona and the Territory of Alaska has been established as the Western Defense Command and designated as a theatre of operations under my command; and

WHEREAS, By Executive Order No. 9066, dated February 19, 1942, the President of the United States authorized and directed the Secretary of War and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any such designated commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate military commander may impose in his discretion; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of War on February 20, 1942, designated the undersigned as the Military Commander to carry out the duties and responsibilities imposed by said Executive Order for that portion of the United States embraced in the Western Defense Command; and

WHEREAS, The Western Defense Command embraces the entire Pacific Coast of the United States which by its geographical location is particularly subject to attack, to attempted invasion by the armed forces of nations with which the United States is now at war, and, in connection therewith, is subject to espionage and acts of sabotage, thereby requiring the adoption of military measures necessary to establish safeguards against such enemy operations:

NOW THEREFORE, I, J. L. DeWitt, Lieutenant General, U. S. Army, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the President of the United States and by the Secretary of War and my powers and prerogatives as Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, do hereby declare that:

1. The present situation requires as a matter of military necessity the establishment in the territory embraced by the Western Defense Command of Military Areas and zones thereof as defined in Exhibit 1, hereto attached, and as generally shown on the map attached hereto and marked Exhibit 2.

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2. Military Areas Nos. 1 and 2, as particularly described and generally shown hereinafter and in Exhibits 1 and 2 hereto, are hereby designated and established.

3. Within Military Areas Nos. 1 and 2 there are established Zone A-1, lying wholly within Military Area No. 1; Zones A-2 to A-99, inclusive, some of which are in Military Area No. 1, and the others in Military Area No. 2; and Zone B, comprising all that part of Military Area No. 1 not included within Zones A-1 to A-99 inclusive; all as more particularly described and defined and generally shown hereinafter and in exhibits 1 and 2.

Military Area No. 2 comprises all that part of the States of Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona which is not included within Military Area No. 1, and is shown on the map (Exhibit 2) as an unshaded area.

4. Such persons or classes of persons as the situation may require will by subsequent proclamation be excluded from all of Military Area No. 1 and also from such of those zones herein described as Zones A-2 to A-99, inclusive, as are within Military Area No. 2.

Certain persons or classes of persons who are by subsequent proclamation excluded from the zones last above mentioned may be permitted, under certain regulations and restrictions to be hereafter prescribed, to enter upon or remain within Zone B.

The designation of Military Area No. 2 as such does not contemplate any prohibition or regulation or restriction except with respect to the zones established therein.

5. Any Japanese, German, or Italian Alien, or any person of Japanese ancestry now resident in Military Area No. 1 who changes his place of habitual residence is hereby required to obtain and execute a "Change of Residence Notice" at any United States Post Office within the States of Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona. Such notice must be executed at any such Post Office not more than five days or less than one day prior to effecting any such change of residence. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to affect the existing regulations of the U. S. Attorney General which require aliens of enemy nationalities to obtain travel permits from U. S. Attorneys and to notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Commissioner of Immigration of any change in permanent address.

6. The designation of prohibited and restricted areas within the Western Defense Command by the Attorney General of the United States under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941, and the instructions, rules and regulations prescribed by him with respect to such prohibited and restricted areas, are hereby adopted and continued in full force and effect.

The duty and responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with respect to the investigation of alleged acts of espionage and sabotage are not altered by this proclamation.

J. L. DeWitt
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

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PRESS RELEASE:

Cracking down on unfounded rumors and so-called "official statements" regarding Pacific Coast evacuation, Lieutenant General J. L. Dewitt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, declared today that the decision as to who will be evacuated, from where, and when is a military decision based on military necessity.

"Military necessity," said General Dewitt, "is the sole yardstick by which the Army has selected the military areas announced. Public clamor for evacuation from non-strategic areas and the insistence of local organizations and officials that evacuees not be moved into their communities cannot and will not be considered. No one has been authorized to speak for me in connection with my authority under the Executive Order, and all statements and predictions coming from other sources should be disregarded."

The Commanding General declared that for two weeks the staff of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army has made additional and final studies of the areas involved. Proclamation No. 1, issued today, includes approximately the west half of Washington, Oregon and California, and the south half of Arizona, in military area No. 1.

The proclamation also imposes restrictions on the movement of persons within the military areas announced. Any Japanese, German or Italian alien or person of Japanese lineage changing his place of habitual residence either from one place to another within the military area, or by leaving the area, is required to register the change. Post Offices have been designated as the places where this registration will be made. The Commanding General said arrangements were being made to have registration forms issued these offices as rapidly as available facilities permit.

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In speaking of his proclamation, the Commanding General indicated that future proclamations forthcoming shortly will affect five classes of people. These are: Class 1, all persons who are suspected of espionage, sabotage, fifth-column or other subversive activity; Class 2, Japanese aliens; Class 3, American-born persons of Japanese lineage; Class 4, German aliens; Class 5, Italian aliens.

Persons falling in Class 1 are being apprehended daily by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence services. Evacuation from military areas will be a continuing process, the General declared. He explained that persons in Classes 2 and 3 will be required by future orders to leave certain critical points within the military areas first, and that these areas will be defined and announced shortly. After exclusion has been completed from around the most strategic areas, a gradual program of exclusion from the balance of military area No. 1 will be developed.

The General stated that German and Italian aliens will be next on the list for evacuation, but they probably would not be affected until after the Japanese had been removed. He said that German and Italian aliens of 70 years of age or over would not be required to move, except when individually suspected, and that the parents, wives and children of Germans and Italians in the armed forces would not be moved unless for some special reason.

Specifically directing his comments toward predictions of immediate mass evacuation from Pacific Coastal areas, General DeWitt said: "Immediate compulsory mass evacuation of all Japanese and other aliens from the Pacific Coast is impracticable. Eventually, orders will be issued requiring all Japanese,

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including those who are American born, to vacate all of military area No. 1. Those Japanese and other aliens who move into the interior out of this area now will gain considerable advantage, and in all probability will not again be disturbed. The appropriate agencies of the Federal Government are engaged in far-reaching preparations to deal with the problem and a study is in progress by these agencies regarding the protection of property, the resettlement and relocation of those who are affected. The completed preparations will include measures designed to safeguard as far as possible property and property rights, to avoid the depressing effect of forced sales, and generally to minimize resulting economic dislocations. As soon as these studies are concluded, definite designation of territories and definite designation of persons to be affected will be made."

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