



Sunday, April 29, 1945

Nisei Are Still Targets For Terror in California

16 Shooting Incidents Marked Up Since Jan. 2

By CHARLES A. MICHIE
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Apr. 28.—The flash of terrorist guns, aimed at Americans of Japanese extraction, is accompaniment to the action of a California jury which acquitted three persons accused of using rifles and dynamite to discourage return of Nisei to their farm homes.

During the last week a jury of seven men and five women found three men not guilty of planting a dynamite bomb on the farm of Sumio Doi, who returned a few months ago from a relocation camp to his farm in Placer County, Cal. Counsel defending the alleged dynamiters focussed his plea for acquittal on the slogan "This is a white man's country. Let's keep it so."

Fear Terrorism

Law enforcement officials of California and WRA (War Relocation Authority) officials are fearful of a reign of terror against Nisei farmers returning to their land from relocation camps in the inter-mountain area. The Army has ruled that it is permissible for Nisei who have been given a clean bill of health to return to their farms. In Oregon and Washington terroristic activities are aimed at prevention of Nisei returning to their fertile farms—whose acres are coveted by white inhabitants.

There isn't much that WRA officials can do about it. After all, they can't quarrel with the verdict of an American jury, no matter what the verdict is.

Meanwhile, it is reported by WRA that between Jan. 2 and Apr. 22 there have been 16 shooting incidents in California. Nobody was hit. It is clearly terroristic activity aimed at frightening Nisei who have the temerity to come home and try to earn a living from their farms again.

The WRA has a complete file of case histories of the shootings. The only arrests that have been made by law enforcement officials are those in the Doi case—and the man got off scot free.

OldMagazineArticles.com

16 Shootings

Veteran Shot At

For instance, in Madeira, Cal., near Fresno, Minoru Ohashi, an honorably discharged Army veteran, started to work his farm again. One night a black car whisked by his small house and five rifle bullets plunked into the walls. One missed his head by six inches. His brother-in-law, who has seen more than four years' service in the Army, was with him and narrowly escaped being hit.

Of this incident, Secretary of War Henry Stimson said "it was an inexcusable and dastardly outrage."

Just 100 miles from where the San Francisco Security Conference is in progress, Chiyeko Kishi was sitting in his home in Livingston, Merced County, Cal. It was last Sunday. A car went past the house at a swift pace and four rifle shots plowed into the house. Kishi has two sons at Ft. Snelling, Minn., where men are trained for the Pacific intelligence service.

Just 20 minutes later in Livingston one shot was fired into the house of Bob Morimoto, a discharged veteran. He jumped in his car and gave chase to the hoodlums, but they got away. The bullets were of the same caliber and presumably came from the same firearm.

The same terrorist marksmen missed S. J. Kakutani in Parlier, Cal., with six shotgun blasts. Six rifle shots also missed John Shirokari at Lancaster in Los Angeles County, Cal., a few days later. On two successive nights Sam Uyeno, Oroshi, Cal., ducked bullets Feb. 26 and 27. There were 11 evacuees in his house as guests at the time of the assault.

These shootings get moderate publicity in the West Coast papers, but wire services apparently consider them too unimportant for transmission to the East as legitimate news. Not a line has appeared in Eastern papers on any of the terrorist activities on the Pacific Coast except what trickles through from other sources.

PM