

WORLD WAR II ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL PROGRAM CURRICULUM GUIDE AND LESSON PLANS

LESSON PLAN SEVEN: *“The Arrest, Deportation, Internment, and Repatriation of German, Italian, and Japanese Latin Americans During World War II”*

APPROPRIATE GRADES/COURSES: 8-14, U.S. History; Civics, American Government, Political Science

TOPIC BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The United States implemented three programs to identify and imprison civilians considered a threat to the country during the war years. In all three, both legal resident aliens and naturalized citizens whose ethnicity was suspect were targeted, as were their families.

The first program, run by the Department of Justice, focused on enemy aliens--German, Italian, and Japanese nationals--residing in the U.S. after the start of the war. The second program, run by the War Relocation Authority, focused on the Japanese and Japanese American community.

A third, little-known program was run by the Special War Problems Division of the State Department. Persons of German, Japanese, and Italian ancestry living in Latin-American countries were indiscriminately swept into local detention centers. The arrests and illegal deportations were so secret that the public knows little about it to this day. Some of the arrestees were sent by the United States directly to Germany, Japan, or Italy. Meanwhile, 4,058 Germans, 2,264 Japanese, and 287 Italians were forcibly brought to the United States and interned in camps run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Many of prisoners and their families were citizens of the Latin American countries from which they had been taken. Although they were civilians, the internees and their families were treated with the standards used for prisoners of war, in the hope that Axis countries holding U.S. prisoners would reciprocate.

The prime motive for these measures in Latin America was to ensure hemispheric security, but commercial concerns were also incentives. Germans in particular had built up large businesses in Latin America. Destroying the businesses through blacklists and removing the German owners allowed U.S. firms to establish themselves. As arrests and deportations continued, a third motive emerged when U.S. officials recognized that those interned could be exchanged for U.S. civilians imprisoned in Germany or Japan.

ESTIMATED TIME OF COMPLETION:

Flexible: four periods with an optional one day extension

STUDENT OBJECTIVES:

Learn about the secret Special War Problems Division (SWPD) program in Latin America during WWII.

Examine the consequences of deportation, internment, and repatriation on Latin American civilians.

Understand the impact on families of the SWPD program.

Compare/contrast the SWPD program of civilian internment program with current U.S. policies against presumed terrorists.

MATERIALS AND TEACHER PREPARATION:

Make copies of **Online/Media Resources** for use with the lesson (see below)

Make copies of **Topic Background Summary** (see above)

Make copies of **Key Terms/Concepts** (see Lesson Plan One)

Make copies of **Your Father Has Been Arrested** scenario (see below)

Make copies of **“The Deportation and Internment of Germans, Japanese, and Italians from Latin America during World War II,”** by Max Paul Friedman, PhD (used with author’s permission) (see below as **Max Friedman Article**)

Make copies of **Bannerman to Fitch Memo--“Arrival at New Orleans of 540 German and Japanese Internees”** (see below)

Make copies of **Isle of Pines, Cuba--Latin American Detention Facilities** (see www.gaic.info/camp_latinamerica.htm)

Make copies of **newspaper articles: “U.S. wartime prison network becomes legal vacuum for thousands of detainees” “Judge releases Kurdish dissident from INS custody”** (see below)

Make copies of **Quotes: In Times of War, Who is the Enemy?** (see below)

PERIOD ONE--CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

For the teacher

Distribute **Topic Background Summary, Key Terms/Concepts, Online/Media Resources, Your Father Has Been Arrested, “The Deportation and Internment of Germans, Japanese, and Italians from Latin America during World War II”** by Max Paul Friedman.

For the students

Read the **Topic Background Summary**

For the teacher/students

Briefly discuss the distinguishing features of the three civilian detention program used during World War II.

Suggested discussion questions:

How well-known are these programs?

Why is the SWPD program not well-known?

What similarities, if any, do you see between the SWPD program and WRA program calling for the relocation in the United States of “all persons of Japanese ancestry”?

Student homework

Read handouts, particularly “**The Deportation and Internment of Germans, Japanese, and Italians from Latin America during World War II**” by Max Paul Friedman, PhD

Read: “Real People--Latin American Resident Internees” at:

http://www.gaic.info/real_people.html=latin

Write a one-to-two page paper based on the information below (available to the students in **Your Father Has Been Arrested** handout below).

Your father has been arrested and held in the local jail for over three months. Your mother has been able to see him about once a week, while you stay home and take care of your sisters, two-year old twins. Now your mother tells you that the family is going to be sent out of the country—deported--to a camp in the United States. You have less than a week to get ready. You don't know when or if you'll ever be allowed to return home.

Since you don't know if your father will be coming with you, your Mom wants your help to take all the stuff your sisters need. You'll only be able to take what you can carry.

Make a list of what you want to take, and why. Who would you ask to care for pets and possessions left behind? How will you spend the few days you have left before you are taken away?

PERIOD TWO--CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

For the teacher/students:

Discuss what students have found online and in the handouts.

Divide students into groups of five to seven students. Have the group select a moderator/recorder. Have each student read his/her homework paper to the group.

Questions from group moderator for each student:

How difficult was it to decide what to take? Did you have to leave behind something or someone you love? How did it feel to be going away from your home? What if your father wasn't allowed to travel with you? Who did you trust to care for the things left behind? Why? How would you feel to be considered an enemy and not know why? What could you do if this was happening to a friend or neighbor?

For the teacher

Distribute: **Bannerman to Fitch Memo--“Arrival at New Orleans of 540 German and Japanese Internees”**

Student homework

Read handouts and information about deportation on:

http://www.gaic.info/latin_american_history.html

Be prepared to discuss your findings.

PERIOD THREE--CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Teacher

Additional Topic Background material for the teacher:

Many Latin American internees were physically and emotionally exhausted by poor treatment in their own countries. Men had spent many months in Latin American prisons, where conditions were often primitive and brutal. Women, in turn, had been coping without husbands and without funds. Many of the children had not seen their fathers for months. Some were haunted by memories of strangers invading their homes and taking their fathers away by force. None of the internees were told why they were considered enemies.

Ships bringing prisoners to the U.S. for internment were seriously overcrowded and unsanitary. Passengers may have been on board for three to six weeks. Few arrangements had been made for women and children. While this ship apparently did not have many seriously ill passengers, diarrhea, “pink eye,” impetigo, lice, scabies, and colds would have been prevalent, particularly in the children.

Teacher and students

Discuss the arrival of the USAT *Cuba* (as detailed in the **Bannerman to Fitch Memo**) from different perspectives, as a passenger or as a government official.

Suggested discussion questions:

What was it like for the men? The women? The children?

Discuss your reactions to the disinfection procedure--being stripped naked in groups, “extremely hot” showers, being sprayed with disinfectant, spending time in a drying room without clothing.

Which languages were used for making announcements? What if you spoke only Japanese? Issuing tags for prisoners to wear, marked with name and destination, eased officials’ work, but how would it have made prisoners feel?

“Kidnapped” is the word some people use to describe the forcible deportation and internment of Latin American resident aliens. Is it an appropriate term to use here?

Define what is meant by the practice today of “extreme rendition.” Do you see any similarities between the SWPD program in WWII, and the practice today of “extreme or extraordinary rendition”?

Teacher

Additional Topic Background material for the teacher:

Read aloud to the students the following text:

While hemispheric security concerns first caused the United States to begin the Special War Problems Division, the possibility of trading Latin American civilians for Americans being held behind enemy lines was soon advanced. An unknown number of Latin Americans were repatriated directly from their places of residence, with or without their consent. Others were sent to the United States, where they were placed in internment camps. Some of these prisoners accepted repatriation for various reasons.

Define *repatriation* for the students, making clear that some of the Latin American prisoners and many of their family members who were “repatriated” were actually born in Latin America.

Suggested discussion question: Does this meet the definition of “repatriation”? If not, why not?

Homework:

Direct students to return to the following online resources:

http://www.gaic.info/internment_camp.html, especially the temporary facility at Algiers where many Latin Americans entered the U.S.

http://www.gaic.info/latin_american_history.html

<http://www.campaignforjusticejla.org/history/index.html>

http://www.gaic.info/real_people.html

As students explore the online resources, have them list reasons people being held in internment camps might choose to go to a war-torn country and be prepared to discuss those reasons

PERIOD FOUR--CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Teacher and students

Discuss reasons internees from Latin America might have accepted repatriation to war-torn countries.

Can it be said that these repatriations were truly voluntary?

Compare and contrast the SWPD with current U.S. government activities against presumed terrorists.

For the teacher:

Distribute copies of:

Isle of Pines, Cuba--Latin American Detention Facilities

Newspaper articles: “U.S. wartime prison network becomes legal vacuum for thousands of detainees” “Judge releases Kurdish dissident from INS custody”

Student homework:

Read handouts and look online, and in newspapers and magazines, for reasons the U.S. is using to lock up suspected terrorists today. Answer the following questions:

What are the charges on which the prisoners are being held?

Where are the prisoners being held?
What evidence against the prisoners were you able to discover?

PERIOD FIVE--CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

For the teacher

Distribute handout: **In Times of War, Who is the Enemy?**

For the teacher and students

Read the quotes in: **In Times of War, Who is the Enemy?** and have students discuss their validity. Compare and contrast the WWII Special War Problems Division with current U.S. government activities against presumed terrorists.

Suggested discussion questions:

What charges for jailing people are being used by the U.S.?

Are prisoners being allowed to know why they are being held? Are they being given a chance to prove their innocence?

Where are they being held? Many face indefinite detention. Are these methods acceptable given the dangers our country faces? Were they acceptable during WWII? Is it ever appropriate to use generalities to label groups of people "enemies"?

KEY TERMS/CONCEPTS:

(See Lesson Plan One for **Key Terms/Concepts**)

SELECTED ONLINE SOURCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

German American Internee Coalition: This organization and its Web site present information and case histories on the German, German American, and German Latin American chapter of the Enemy Alien Control Program.

www.gaic.info

http://www.gaic.info/latin_american_history.html

http://www.gaic.info/real_people.html

http://www.gaic.info/internment_camp.html

Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project:

www.campaignforjusticejla.org/AWRIC/awric

<http://www.campaignforjusticejla.org/history/index.html>

This organization provides an informational Web site on the internment of Japanese Latin Americans during World War II.

YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN INTERNED:

Your father has been arrested and held in the local jail for over three months. Your mother has been able to see him about once a week, while you stay home and take care of your sisters, two-year old twins. Now your mother tells you that the family is going to be sent out of the country--deported--to a camp in the United States. You have less than a week to get ready. You don't know when or if you'll ever be allowed to return home. Since you don't know if your father will be coming with you, your Mom wants your help to take all the stuff your sisters need. You'll only be able to take what you can carry. Make a list of what you want to take, and why. Who would you ask to care for pets and possessions left behind? How will you spend the few days you have left before you are taken away.

MAX FRIEDMAN ARTICLE:

THE DEPORTATION AND INTERNMENT OF GERMANS, JAPANESE, AND ITALIANS FROM LATIN AMERICA DURING WORLD WAR II

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WHO WAS DEPORTED?

4058 Germans, 2264 Japanese, and 288 Italians were deported from Latin America to the United States from December 1941 through December 1945.

These totals include a wide range of individuals. Several hundred in the German category, and an unknown number in the Japanese and Italian category, were returning diplomats and their families, so-called "officials" who traveled quite willingly when their diplomatic missions were terminated by the war. Some of the non-officials were "volunteers," but that term must be treated with caution. It includes an unknowable number who were eager to rejoin their homelands to help in the war effort, as well as those whose "voluntary" departure was encouraged by threats of arrest or other consequences by local authorities. The majority, however, were involuntary deportees, expelled from their countries of residence by local authorities acting at the behest of the US government.

WHY WERE THEY DEPORTED?

From 1938 onward, US officials were concerned that the communities of Axis nationals living in Latin America would engage in subversive activities (espionage, sabotage, and pro-Axis propaganda). US diplomats and intelligence agents prepared lists of "dangerous enemy aliens" residing in Latin America. When the United States entered the war after Pearl Harbor, the State Department urged its missions to pressure Latin American governments to restrict their resident Axis citizens. Because US officials believed that Latin American governments were vulnerable to overthrow or to corruption, they began to appeal to have the individuals on the "dangerous" lists sent to the United States for internment. Various forms of diplomatic pressure, ranging from enticements to economic coercion, were used to obtain Latin American cooperation.

WERE THESE PEOPLE A THREAT TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY?

The short answer is no. There were German and Japanese spies at work in various Latin American countries, but when US and Latin American officials could identify individuals actually involved in espionage, they were arrested, tried, and jailed. Among the 4058 Germans deported to the United States, the FBI believed that no more than eight were connected to espionage activities. Latin America was virtually free of sabotage during the war, and only one deportee was accused of sabotage.

Propaganda activities were more common. Although US intelligence officials included casual private utterances supporting Germany or Japan—hardly a national security issue—under the category of spreading propaganda, some of the deportees had gone well beyond voicing their opinions to publishing and distributing pro-Axis materials. This problem was partly addressed within Latin American countries whose governments prohibited the spreading of political publications tied to foreign powers and shut down Axis diplomatic missions that were the centers of propaganda activities.

Among the Germans, between 10 and 15 percent of the deportees were overseas members of the Nazi Party. Whether or not their membership indicates a willingness to take action in support of the German war effort is open to question, and the evidence suggests this was rare. However, the number of Nazis among the deportees, and the nationalism of much of the rest of the group, does suggest that we need a nuanced understanding of who they were, rather than thinking strictly in terms of “innocent victims.” This phrase would certainly seem to apply to the 81 Jewish refugees among the internees from Latin America, whose presence in the camps designed for dangerous Nazis (where they were sometimes threatened and beaten by their fellow inmates) confirms the heterogeneity of these supposedly “dangerous enemy aliens.”

The lack of evidence or even of accusations against the majority of deportees led Justice Department officials to conclude that many had been wrongly seized and interned. One of the most knowledgeable US officials, who investigated the program’s operation in 18 countries, concluded that that it had made no contribution to US security and that it was “understandable, but not justifiable.”

HOW WERE THE DEPORTEES SELECTED?

US diplomats in Latin America worked with FBI, MID, and ONI agents and sometimes collaborated with Latin American security officials to produce lists of “dangerous enemy aliens.” Sometimes these aliens were selected because of their public leadership roles, i.e. teachers in the Nazified German schools, officials in the overseas Nazi Party, etc. But throughout the region, intelligence agents who often spoke neither Spanish nor German (and never Japanese) relied on anonymous denunciations or the statements of paid informants, which they usually accepted at face value. This resulted in many cases of mistaken identity or slander, uncovered only at the end of the war when the Justice Department held a thorough review of the internees.

WHICH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WERE INVOLVED?

The deportation-internment program was coordinated by the Special Division of the Department of State (later renamed the Special War Problems Division). Cooperating agencies included the Department of Justice (FBI, Border Patrol, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Alien Enemy Control Unit), War Department (Military Intelligence Division [Army G-2], Office of Naval Intelligence, Caribbean Defense Command), and other units at the State Department including the Division of American Republic Affairs and the Visa Division.

WERE ECONOMIC INTERESTS BEHIND THE DEPORTATIONS?

Internal correspondence by US officials in charge of the deportation-internment program clearly shows that the primary motive behind the seizure of Axis nationals in Latin America was a desire to protect US national security. However, some of the deportees were expelled by corrupt Latin American governments (especially the dictatorships ruling most of Central America and the Caribbean) so that their property could more easily be seized. From 1943 until the end of the war, when the threat to the Western Hemisphere had clearly receded, US policy shifted from an urgent need to ensure against subversion to a methodical series of measures designed to destroy the long-term commercial presence of Germans in Latin America. In several cases, individual deportees were clearly targeted because of their important economic role in their countries of residence, even where there was no evidence that they had assisted the Axis. In the

1930s, Germany had been the second most important competitor with the United States in the region after Great Britain, but its market share in Latin America was ruined by the war.

WHICH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED?

Country	Germans	Japanese	Italians
Bolivia	221	57	27
British Honduras	12		
Chile	5		
Colombia	646	12	23
Costa Rica	379	27	13
Cuba	13	5	5
Dominican Rep.	68	1	7
Ecuador	463	11	24
El Salvador	96	6	29
Guatemala	479		10
Haiti	77		4
Honduras	144	1	4
Mexico	266	84	8
Nicaragua	177	6	16
Panama	251	247	52
Paraguay	17		
Peru	702	1799	49
Venezuela	42	8	16
TOTALS	4058	2264	287

Source: White to Lafoon, 30 Jan 1946, in folder "Statistics," Subject Files 1939-54, Box 70, Special War Problems Division, RG 59, National Archives.

WHAT WAS THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THIS ACTION?

The expulsion and internment of Axis nationals violated customary international law and United States national law. These violations included the detention of individuals for reasons not related to their own actions; the deportation without charge of civilian noncombatants from a nonbelligerent to a belligerent country; the indefinite internment of civilians without serious inquiry or hearings; and the use of civilians for forced labor. (The last applies to those Japanese and German civilians who were forced to clear tropical jungle and construct their own internment camp in the Canal Zone, where they were held en route to the United States.)

The Alien Enemy Act of 1798 does permit "summary apprehension" of nationals of an enemy power in wartime, and many nations engaged in this practice. It was under this law that Germans, Italians, and some Japanese residents of the United States were interned. But the law does not extend to the seizure of aliens outside the boundaries of the United States. Instead, to create a spurious legal basis for the program, the State Department instructed its consuls and embassies not to issue entry visas for the deportees from Latin America. Upon arrival in the United States, they were asked for their entry visas. Since they had none, they were informed that their presence on American soil was illegal and they were subject to internment or deportation. This scheme did not even persuade its authors, and US courts and Justice Department officials acknowledged the dubious legal basis of the program by war's end.

For more information see Max Paul Friedman, *Nazis and Good Neighbors: The United States Campaign against the Germans of Latin America in World War II* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), winner of the 2004 Herbert Hoover Book Award and the 2004 A.B. Thomas Book Award.

QUOTES: IN TIMES OF WAR, WHO IS THE ENEMY?

World War II:

“Virtually all the Reichsdeutschen [Germans born in Germany] in Latin America are sincere supporters of the Nazi regime” and “virtually every non-Jewish German citizen belongs to some branch of the Nazi hierarchy.” (The Pattern of Nazi Organization and Their Activities in the Other American Republics, a State Department document written February 1941 by Adolf Berle, Assistant Secretary of State)

“All German nationals without exception, all Japanese nationals, a small proportion of Italian nationals, and more individuals than might be expected among the political and racial refugees from Central Europe are all dangerous.” (Memorandum regarding the Activities of the United States Government in Removing from the Other American Republics Dangerous Subversive Aliens, November 1942)

War on terror:

“In 2002 Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld described those held at Guantánamo as ‘among the most dangerous, best trained, vicious killers on the face of the earth.’” (The New York Times, “Reflections on War, Detention and Rights” by Adam Liptak, published July 13, 2006)

“But let me clear: these men are dangerous terrorists who remain a threat to the safety and wellbeing of every American. They are militant extremists whose goal in life is to kill Americans and destroy our freedom and security.” (Bill Frist, Senate Republican Chairman, Speech, 9/12/06)

“There are currently about 500 detainees there, [Guantánamo] including highly dangerous people – terrorist trainers, bomb makers, terrorist financiers, body guards for Osama bin Laden, and potential suicide bombers. The U.S. military has designed specific processes to ensure that we continue to detain only those who are dangerous enemy combatants.” (Alberto Gonzales, US Attorney General, speech 3/7/06)

Who, really, are the prisoners?

“...in meticulously documented studies, both the nonpartisan National Journal and Seton Hall School of Law discovered - based entirely on analyses of Department of Defense data on detainees it designates as "enemy combatants" - the actual nondangerous nature of most of the detainees.

“Reported the National Journal: Only eight percent of the Guantanamo prisoners have been connected to al Qaeda. And the Seton Hall Law School study reported that ‘55 percent of the detainees are not determined to have committed any hostile acts against the United States or coalition allies.’ Significantly, the Seton Hall investigation emphasized that the detainees as a whole ‘have been afforded no meaningful opportunities to test the government’s evidence against them.’” (Nat Hentoff, 3/20/05 *Washington Times*)

Learning from the past:

“The haunting resemblance and consequences of security measures following Pearl Harbor to those succeeding al-Qaida’s act of war are there for all to judge: spying on aliens and citizens, secret arrests, detentions and internments of indeterminate length, even for those no longer considered “dangerous,” suspension of due process, moving suspects to avoid habeas corpus, inducements to foreign governments to arrest and detain suspects in secret locations without charges, erosion of judicial oversight of government operations, military tribunals, and, in general, the creation of what the A.C.L.U. [American Civil Liberties Union] now calls a “surveillance society.” (Steven Fox *Fear Itself*, xiv.)

“The ... history of the enemy alien program in Latin America suggests that using national or ethnic markers to determine who is a threat to national security will not only lead to injustice but is likely to be ineffective as well.... If governments were to base their security measures on evidence of *suspicious activity*, rather than on perceived *suspicious identity* ... they might well be able to learn something from the past, instead of being condemned to repeat it.” (Max Paul Friedman, *Nazis and Good Neighbors*, 233-234.)

(Hamm) SWPD
only file
173-34
Plan of procedure
from Hamm
AG 59

Original
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
May
SWP
3-31-44
22323
(*)

March 28, 1944.

SUBJECT: Arrival at New Orleans of 540 German and Japanese Internees.

Hamm

Dear Mr. Fitch:

In connection with the arrival of the USAT Cuba at New Orleans with 540 German and Japanese internees from South America, I arrived at New Orleans on March 17 accompanied by Special Agents Osborne, Briggs and O'Hanley. Special Agent Widdifield joined us at New Orleans. On March 18 we attended a conference at the Poland Street Army Base which was presided over by Col. B.R. Patton, New Orleans Port Security Officer, for a discussion of details concerning the arrival.

Mr. Lafoon of SWP arrived in the evening of March 18 and joined our group.

The USAT Cuba was scheduled to arrive on March 21 and all preliminary arrangements with Customs, Immigration, Border Patrol, the Port Military Authorities and the railroads were completed by March 20th.

On Monday, March 20, at 6 p.m. our entire party reported to the Poland Street Army Base where we joined a group consisting of 15 Customs Inspectors, Public Health doctors and military authorities and proceeded by automobile to Venice, La., which lies 80 miles below New Orleans. We arrived at Venice at 10 p.m. and boarded a Coast Guard Cutter and proceeded down the Mississippi River to the Pilot Landing. The Cuba was late in arriving and we remained at the Pilot Landing until 2 a.m. At 2:30 a.m. we boarded the USAT Cuba, as she was proceeding up the river. The prearranged ship clearance formalities immediately went into operation. There were 540 German and Japanese aliens of whom a large group consisted of small children between the ages of 5 and 14 years. All male adults were quartered in the two holds of the ship in bunks with the women and children occupying cabins on the upper decks.

Customs

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Customs examination began immediately with the male adults quartered in the hold. This continued all night and was then extended to the women and children on the upper decks and was completed by the time the ship docked at 10 a.m. The passengers had somewhat more baggage than the originally scheduled 100 lbs of baggage per person. However, the amount of baggage was not excessive.

Prior to Customs operations, an announcement in English, German and Spanish was distributed among the passengers, indicating the procedure for clearance of the ship that was to be followed by the Government officers. In this manner all the passengers were fully prepared for the system of clearance. Attached are copies of this announcement.

The State Department organized a checking desk through which all passengers had to pass. The name of each passenger was checked, the amount of baggage of each passenger was recorded, baggage tags, according to the destination of each passenger, were given out and an identification card, which was attached to the lapel of every alien was then distributed as the passenger checked through our Control Desk. This lapel identification tag gave the name of the alien, his destination, his train number and his pullman accommodation on that train. By so doing, we eliminated a great deal of confusion on subsequent checks, as each alien was clearly identified by this tag. After passing the State Department Control Desk, the alien tagged his baggage and then reported to the Public Health doctor. Each alien was then checked to determine whether or not he was suffering from any communicable disease. A State Department Agent assisted the doctor in this check and maintained a record of his findings. In general, the aliens were in excellent health and only one family was found to be ill. There were no stretcher cases and all the aliens were able to proceed through the examinations without assistance.

The Cuba docked at Chalmette Slip at 10 a.m. March 21st. As the aliens came from a typhus infected area, all persons who were on the ship necessarily had to submit to the typhus disinfection process.

The

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The disinfection process consisted of persons when entering the Plant, disrobing and placing all of their clothes in a large mesh bag. They then proceeded to a Central Room where they bathed and showered under extremely hot showers. Following this the ~~medical~~ ^{medical} sprayed each individual with a disinfectant spray. The party then proceeded to a Drying Room and following this received their clothes and valuables and were then ready to leave the Disinfecting Plant. The clothes of the party, meanwhile, were placed in Gas Chambers where they were kept for 45 minutes. Following this, the clothes were then placed on racks and under strong air pressure all the gas was blown out of the clothes. The system was extremely complete and thorough.

The Disinfection Plant was located just off the pier where the ship was docked, with the passage to the plant marked off by ropes and well guarded by Military Police. Every person who was on board the USAT CUBA had to pass through this process before they could come in contact with any person on the pier. This rule was rigidly enforced. The aliens were brought off the ship in groups of 75 persons. The first groups consisted of men and boys over eight years of age. Thirty men were left on the ship to unload baggage and to clean up the ship. Following the men were groups of women, girls and male children under 5 years of age. This process continued until 7:00 PM when all persons were cleared. The men cleared through the plant in regular order and without delay. The women and children required much more time as it was reported that the children were particularly difficult to handle as they were hard to control and the undressing and dressing of the children was a major task in itself.

On the pier, during this process, all the baggage was being sprayed or was being gassed in a similar process. It was found that the Gas Chambers were inadequate for the amount of baggage and accordingly the remainder of the baggage had to be sprayed with a disinfectant powder. Two special trains were parked adjacent to the pier and as the aliens cleared from the Disinfection Plant, they were directed to their train and car as was indicated by their lapel identification tag. This procedure continued

all

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all day and was completed by 7 PM. The cleansing of the baggage was slow but was finished by 7:15 PM and the trains were ready to depart. The first train, destined for Crystal City, consisted of 12 pullmans and 2 baggage cars and the second train consisted of 5 pullmans and 1 baggage car. The two trains were combined and departed at 7:30 PM. We arrived at Avondale, La. at 8:30 PM where 2 Diners were added to the first train and one Diner to the second train. From Avondale on, the two trains proceeded separately with the Kenedy train following the Crystal City train by 15 minutes. The train trip was without incident and the meals and all other facilities were adequate for the party. Public Health doctor, Terrance Billings, accompanied train No. 1, assisted by Immigration Matrons, Mrs. Courtney and Mrs. Pistorius while Public Health Doctor J.D. Zaugg accompanied train No. 2. The doctors were busy through their trip attending all the ailments that usually occur in a group this size. The aliens were highly satisfied with the treatment they received and had no complaints whatsoever. The Swiss and Spanish Consuls at New Orleans were present on the pier during landing operations and had an opportunity to talk to the German and Japanese group leaders. All persons concerned with the landing operation rendered excellent cooperation and service and the entire movement was handled according to arrangements and without delay. On arrival at Crystal City of train No. 1 at 10:45 PM it was found that it was too late to transfer the aliens to the Camp and accordingly they were held on the train overnight. Unloading operations began March 23 at 7:30 PM and were completed by 10:00 AM. Lt. Miguel Soto-Puig, Military Security Officer in charge of the ship, handled his duty extremely well and was commended by all those who had business with him. He turned over to me the following funds of the aliens which consisted of \$6,471 in cash; \$27,312 in negotiable checks and drafts; 17,755 Peruvian Soles; 39,595 Ecuadorian Sucre; 3,144.85 Japanese yen and 10 German Marks. There is attached a list of these funds showing the amount to each alien concerned. This money was delivered to Henry Rascoe, Financial Officer at the Crystal City Internment Camp, and a receipt obtained. There is also attached a list of the aliens on the vessel as receipted for by me to Lt. Soto-Puig. I also turned over to the Crystal City Internment Camp the various identification forms and medical certificates.

Prior

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Prior to the departure of the train from New Orleans, the Jitsuo Dodobara family was removed to the Marine Hospital at New Orleans as it was found that the son, Hiroshi, was suffering from a very high temperature and it was impossible to determine at that time the cause of his ailment. Rather than risk exposure from a possible communicable disease, the entire family was sent to the hospital for observation.

All Special Agents and Mr. Lafoon rendered excellent service at all times and worked long hours without sleep and without complaint.

Respectfully,

R L Bannerman

R.L. Bannerman,
SPECIAL AGENT.

CSA:RLB:ETV

U.S. overseas detention system by the numbers

A look at the U.S. overseas detention system that has developed since 2001:

NUMBERS OF DETAINEES

Iraq (Camp Bucca, Camp Cropper, Fort Suse): 13,390

Afghanistan (Bagram air base): Estimated 500

Guantanamo Bay: 455

NATIONALITIES

Iraq: U.S. command last year counted 325 'foreign fighters' but overwhelming majority Iraqi.

Afghanistan: Afghans, Arabs, central Asians, possibly others.

Guantanamo Bay: 48 nationalities (past and present), vast majority from Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Pakistan, Algeria, China, Morocco, Kuwait, Tajikistan and Tunisia.

CONSTRUCTION

Iraq: U.S. Army opened \$60 million detention center in August at Camp Cropper, near Baghdad's airport.

Guantanamo Bay: This fall U.S. Navy plans to open new \$30 million maximum-security wing.

DETAINEE ABUSE

Allegations: About 800 probes of alleged mistreatment in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Punished: More than 250 service personnel punished, many via loss of rank or pay, or discharge from service.

Courts-Martial: At least 103

Convictions: 89 service members convicted; 19 sentences of one year or more.

DETAINEE DEATHS

Total Deaths: At least 98 in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo, as of February.

Homicides: At least 34.

Unknown/Undetermined Causes: At least 48.

Prosecution: Punishment in 14 death cases.

— The Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL Monday, September 18, 2006

U.S. wartime prison network becomes legal vacuum for thousands of detainees

By PATRICK QUINN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I lived with the Americans for one year and eight months as if I was living in hell.'

AMJAD QASSIM
AL-ALIYAWI,
BAGHDAD
SHOPKEEPER
RELEASED FROM
GUANTANAMO
WITHOUT CHARGE

beds at midnight, grabbed off streets as suspected insurgents, tens of thousands now have passed through U.S. detention, the vast majority in Iraq. Many say they were often interrogated around the clock, then released months or years later without apology, compensation or any word on why they were taken.

Defenders of the system say it's an unfortunate necessity in the battles to pacify Iraq and Afghanistan, and to keep suspected terrorists out of action.

Every U.S. detainee in Iraq "is detained because he poses a security threat to the government of Iraq, the people of Iraq or coalition forces," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Keir-Kevin Curry, a spokesman for U.S.-led military detainee operations in Iraq.

But dozens of ex-detainees, government ministers and lawmakers, human rights activists, lawyers and scholars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the United States

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In the few short years since the first shackled Afghan shuffled off to Guantanamo, the U.S. military has created a global network of overseas prisons, its islands of high security keeping 14,000 detainees beyond the reach of established law.

Disclosures of torture and long-term arbitrary detentions have won rebuke from leading voices including the U.N. secretary-general and the U.S. Supreme Court. But the bitterest words come from inside the system, the size of several major U.S. penitentiaries.

"It was hard to believe I'd get out," Baghdad shopkeeper Amjad Qassim al-Aliyawi told The Associated Press after his release — without charge — last month. "I lived with the Americans for one year and eight months as if I was living in hell."

Captured on battlefields, pulled from

See PRISONS on PAGE A12

Prisons

Continued from Page A1

interviewed by The Associated Press said the detention system often is unjust and hurts the war on terror by inflaming anti-Americanism in Iraq and elsewhere.

Reports of extreme physical and mental abuse, symbolized by the notorious Abu Ghraib prison photos of 2004, have abated as the Pentagon has rejected torture-like treatment of the inmates. Most recently, on Sept. 6, the Pentagon issued a new interrogation manual banning forced nakedness, hooding, stress positions and other abusive techniques.

The same day, President Bush said the CIA's secret outposts in the prison network had been emptied.

Whatever the progress, small or significant, grim realities persist.

Human rights groups count dozens of detainee deaths for which no one has been punished or that were never explained. The secret prisons—unknown in number and location—remain available for future detainees. The new manual banning torture doesn't cover CIA interrogators. And thousands of people still languish in a limbo, deprived of one of common law's oldest rights, habeas corpus, the right to know why you are imprisoned.

"If you, God forbid, are an innocent Afghan who gets sold down the river by some warlord rival, you can end up at (Bagram prison, Afghanistan) and you have absolutely no way of clearing your name," said John Sifton of Human Rights Watch in New York.

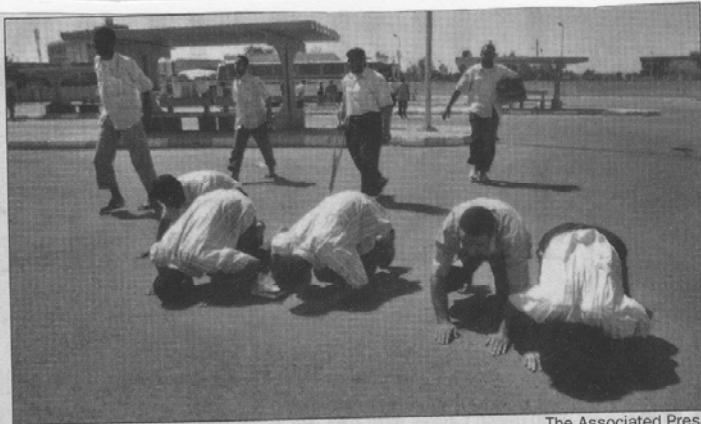
The U.S. government has contended it can hold detainees until the "war on terror" ends—as it determines. "When we get up to 'forever,' I think it will be tested" in court, said retired admiral John D. Hutson, former top lawyer for the Navy.

In Iraq, the Army oversees about 13,000 prisoners at Camp Cropper near Baghdad airport, Camp Bucca in the southern desert, and Fort Suse in the Kurdish north.

Neither prisoners of war nor criminal defendants, they are just "security detainees" held "for imperative reasons of security," said command spokesman Curry, using language from an annex to a U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing the U.S. presence here.

Others say there's no need to hold these thousands outside of the rules for prisoners of war established by the Geneva Conventions.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan declared last March that the extent of arbitrary detention here is "not consistent with provisions of international law governing internment on imperative reasons of security."



The Associated Press

Freed Iraqi prisoners kiss the ground after being released by authorities at a bus station in Baghdad last month. The cases of U.S.-detained Iraqis are reviewed by a committee of U.S. military and Iraqi government officials. The panel recommends criminal charges against some, release for others.

Meanwhile, officials of Nouri al-Maliki's 4-month-old Iraqi government say the U.S. detention system violates Iraq's national rights.

At the Justice Ministry, Deputy Minister Busho Ibrahim told the AP it has been "a daily request" that the detainees be brought under Iraqi authority.

The cases of U.S.-detained Iraqis are reviewed by a committee of U.S. military and Iraqi government officials. The panel recommends criminal charges against some, release for others. Almost 18,700 have been released since June 2004, the U.S. command says, not including many more who were held and then freed by local military units and never shipped to major prisons.

Some who were released, no longer considered a threat, later joined or rejoined the insurgency.

The review process is too slow, say U.N. officials. Until they are released, often families don't know where they are or even whether they're in American hands.

Released prisoner Waleed Abdul Karim, 26, recounted how his guards would wield their absolute authority.

"Tell us about the ones who attack Americans in your neighborhood," he quoted an interrogator as saying, "or I will keep you in prison for another 50 years."

As with others, Karim's confinement may have strengthened support for the anti-U.S. resistance. "I will hate Americans for the rest of my life," he said.

As bleak and hidden as the Iraq lock-ups are, the Afghan situation is even less known. Accounts of abuse and deaths emerged in 2002-2004, but Abu Ghraib-

like photos from Bagram exist, none have leaked out. The U.S. military is believed holding about 500 detainees—most Afghans, but also apparently Arabs, Pakistanis and Central Asians.

Guantanamo received its first prisoners from Afghanistan—chained, wearing blacked-out goggles—in January 2002. A total of 770 detainees were sent there. Its population today of Afghans, Arabs and others, stands at 455.

Described as the most dangerous of America's "war on terror" prisoners, only 10 of the Guantanamo inmates have been charged with crimes. Charges are expected against 14 other al-Qaida suspects flown in to Guantanamo from secret prisons on Sept. 4.

Plans for their trials are on hold, however, because of a Supreme Court ruling in June against the Bush administration's plan for military tribunals.

The court held the tribunals were not authorized by the U.S. Congress and violated the Geneva Conventions by abrogating prisoners' rights. In a sometimes contentious debate, the White House and Congress are trying to agree on a new, acceptable trial plan.

Since the court decision, and after four years of confusing claims that terrorist suspects were so-called "unlawful combatants" unprotected by international law, the Bush administration has taken steps recognizing that the Geneva Conventions' legal and human rights do extend to imprisoned al-Qaida members. At the same time, however, the new White House proposal on tribunals retains such controversial features as denying defendants access to some evidence against them.

Judge releases Kurdish dissident from INS custody

'Freedom fighter' held four years on secret evidence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — A Kurdish doctor jailed for four years based on secret government evidence that alleged he was a spy for Iraq and Iran was freed by a judge who said U.S. espionage accusations were ill-founded.

Dr. Ali Yasin Mohammed Karim walked out of the Immigration and Naturalization Detention Center in San Pedro shortly after Friday's decision by U.S. Immigration Judge D.D. Sitgraves.

The judge reversed her earlier conclusion that Karim was a threat to national security.

Karim "has sufficiently demonstrated that the government's claims were ill-founded and has rebutted the presumption that he constitutes a risk to the security of the United States," Sitgraves said.

Accompanied by his lawyer, the 30-year-old Karim said, "I was kept for four years by the INS for things I never heard about. I am innocent, but I have paid a high price."

Karim, who plans to stay in the Unit-

ed States, is a former member of the Iraqi National Congress, a large political and military organization that fought against dictator Saddam Hussein.

Karim was among six dissidents evacuated from Iraq by the United States in March 1997 only to be jailed by the INS and threatened with deportation back to their homeland. The case against them was based on classified evidence kept secret from defense attorneys during immigration hearings in 1997 and 1998. "These were freedom fighters," Karim's attorney, Niels W. Frenzen, said.

Their plight attracted national attention when former CIA Director R. James Wooley, now a Washington lawyer, joined Karim's defense team and led the effort to declassify the government's evidence. The evidence contained little more than rumor, defense attorneys said.

Sitgraves wrote in her 123-page opinion that the FBI screening process to determine if Karim was a potential security threat was insufficient and conducted by agents who had limited knowledge of Iraq and its people.

INS attorneys contended there is a reasonable belief Karim is a danger to national security, arguing one of his cousins is a suspected Iranian intelligence agent.