Dear Mrs. Thomas,

I'm sorry I ran off without seeing you once more as I had promised. I was so busy that the WCCA office was about ready to close when I got there. Incidentally, you might be interested to know some of the confusion that was going on that day, besides that little matter of the time. I spoke to Miss Christie of the WCCA, and she said that her instructions read 12 midnight. She had been telling people that until someone read the proclamation which stated the noon before evacuation registration. Then they verified with the Army, and they came through and said, "Of course, it's 12 noon." I don't know where they got the eight o'clock.

You remember that Shiro came into your office and said that you had to have a letter from Dr. Deutsch and go to S.F. in order to go home. The next morning (Friday) I went to the Dean's office to have them write these letters for me. The secretary had a pile of letters to do and said that she might not have them ready until late afternoon. As I left the Administration Bldg I met someone who said that he had gotten his permit without any letter and at the Berkeley WCCA office. I went back to the Dean's office and mentioned the fact to them, and someone mentioned that you didn't have to go to S.F. anymore. I asked if it were necessary to have the letters, but all the clerk did was to ask the person in charge who declared that it was Dr. Deutsch's orders. No one seemed to want to verify with the WCCA office. Several Japanese students told me a little later that we didn't have to go to Frisco. Someone said that you don't have to go to S.F. if you lived in Zone I. George Tajima and Mary Ogi, who verified with the WCCA office, seemed to have the most accurate information. This was later confirmed by Miss Christie when I spoke to her. If you were travelling in Zone I during curfew hours all you had to do was to go to the WCCA office in Berkeley, because they had instructions to issue traveling permits. Three exceptions were mentioned by Miss Christie for which letters from Dr. Deutsch was necessary and also a trip to S.F. They were: travel outside of zone I, travel after curfew hours, and joining families already evacuated. Two fellows got back too late from S.F. and called up the WCCA office before it closed up. Miss Christie left signed traveling permits for them, but she forgot to sign one of them and the poor fellow
had to look up her home to get her signature. (From one of the fellows the next day on the train). I hope no one was stranded in Berkeley.

I hope you received the questionnaires gathered at Pasadena Jr. College which I sent through Warren. I was going to throw them away, but there are some interesting information in them if it is properly tabulated. You may use it at your own discretion, but parts of it is better buried for the present.

I have bought several books to get myself started in my study. I got Middletown, Guilford's Psychometric methods, Kimball Young's Personality and Adjustment, Katz and Shanck, and one of Lewin's books. As a source book Young's book seems to be very good. It has a discussion of the use of interview and other methods. I hope you'll send me something on methods because I'd like to be prepared when the fireworks begin.

There are three families living here in one house, and we are now just waiting for evacuation. They were thoughtful enough to get me a job on a farm the second day I was here, and yesterday I went out with my brother and Pete (I'll introduce them all more fully later) and hoes weeds in the onion path all day long. As a result I'm stiff all over and can hardly move. The weed was thick because the farmer had let it go because he had expected evacuation. After all, there wouldn't have been much sense in hiring expensive labor to take care of something there was little chance of harvesting. Even the Army made it plain that everybody was going soon.

Today I went to the WCCA office in Pasadena to see if their offer of financial assistance to the needy was an actuality. I took along my sister because she was out of school and not working. At the Pasadena office a new fellow had been transferred from someplace and didn't know what to do. He called up someplace to find out and finally sent me to the Welfare Office of the City. Here I learned that Sierra Madre came under the jurisdiction of the Alhambra, but the lady was kind enough to make all connections with the office, and arranged to have them phone me up. They were very efficient about it and a few hours later the Alhambra office called up and said that I was to go to L.A. and they'd take care of me there. Now I'm wondering whether it's worth the trouble to go out there or not.

An incident that happened the night before I left might interest you. I was in a home where a gardener was staying. He was having his daughter call up some of the places where he worked. He wanted to come after the pay Friday morning, because he couldn't go out of Berkeley after noon. The first place answered that they didn't have the money on hand. Then would he send
the money early next week? I think he said that he would, but didn't seem to be so sure. Well, could he send a check. No he couldn't write any check. Well, if he'd send it the first of next week, because they might have to leave anytime between Tuesday and Friday.

The address is...The man said that she didn't have to bother about the address. This was wartime. Remember Pearl Harbor...The man's name was Smith, 1726 E. 23rd St, Oakland. I told her to call up the WCCA office to find out what she could have done. She didn't seem to be getting much results from other customers, either.

So much for today. I'm keeping a diary from which I'll probably write out my weekly report or something of the sort, until further instructions. When evacuation orders come out I'll be leaving when Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Alhambra and that vicinity is evacuated.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]
308 N. Adams Avenue  
Sierra Madre, California  
May 11, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas,

I was very glad to hear from you. Thanks an awful lot for forwarding me a matter from Utah.

I'm glad to hear that you have some financial support to get started on. Money is always a problem, whether you have it or not. For the last two weeks I've been cutting rhubarbs and packing them in a box for 10 cents a box. At first I could barely do 3½ an hour, but now I can do six an hour. I'm still working, and will for the last time tomorrow, because I want to get into camp with a dollar or two to buy soda pop now and then at the canteen. If Tulare is as hot as they say and the food they feed as bad as reported, the few dollars that I am earning will stand me in good stead.

However, I have not been able to put in as much time into the study as I would have liked to. I still have some books to read, and I should get around more to round up more information. So far, I have only been keeping a journal, into which I jot down all of the more significant items that I remember for the day. I am drawing no conclusions or even making guesses of any sort yet, but am just chronicling things as I hear and observe them.

Concerning our evacuation, the day we registered we were told that we were to go Pomona. All of us in the family were glad because we had someone living in Monrovia (relatives) who were going to Pomona also. But around ten or eleven that same morning a different order came through, saying that we were bound for Tulare. That's the Pasadena area, of course. Today we had our physical, which would not have been necessary had we gone to Pomona, and my brother and I got to the office at 4.30, too late to be examined, for the doctors had gone home already. They said that we could see the doctor on the day we left. I heard from the official in charge that 300 of the Pasadena group were to be sent to Santa Anita, and that they were taking sign-ups for it. All along no one seemed to know anything, except at the last moment, and even that they seem to change at least once. I'm pretty sure that I'm going to Tulare, but who knows; I may end up in Alaska.

I was thinking of paying special attention to the Sierra Madre and Pasadena group, especially the former. It is a small group, the past history of which I can find out from my sister-in-law, Yaye. It would give me a basis
from which to observe developments and changes. Individuals in the family and close friends, of course, will remain under scrutiny.

At present I have no further information on the antisemitism sentiment. I'll try to find out more about it when I get into camp.

I'll be looking forward to seeing you when you come down south.

Very sincerely yours,

James Sakoda
May 13, 1942

AIR MAIL

Mr. James Sakoda
308 N. Adams Avenue
Sierra Madre, California

Dear Mr. Sakoda:

I am writing today in great haste but wanted to send you a copy of a memorandum I have just written. If I get clearance on this project through Mr. Eischner, I assure you that I shall want to have you on my pay roll however small the pay may be.

With cordial regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy S. Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology

DST:irj
Enc.
Barstow, 1:50 p.m.
May 14, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas,

We're finally off, and to Tulare, I believe. Mr. Booth, of the Friends Service Committee prepared breakfast for us because my sister knew his family. We woke up three o'clock in the morning and got our baggage off all right, except for the fact that they made us take our card table out and leave it behind.

The Japanese people were in good spirits on the whole as they were sent off by their Caucasian friends, since they were the last group to leave Pasadena. There was very little tear shedding. Many were bored because there was none to see them off. Our family group had half-a-dozen Caucasian friends over whom we made quite a hullaboo. For some time we kept waving to strangers on the street as we passed them by.

We are on the Santa Fe line and going by way of Barstow. It is now 6:15 and we have just come into Bakersfield!

(Signed) James Sakoda
Dear Dr. Thomas,

I was pleasantly surprised to receive your telegram this morning. I immediately conferenced with those closely connected with myself, and the general opinion is that of all going Tulelake.

I think I have mentioned my family only in passing. My parents are in Japan, but there are four of us here. There's George Sakoda, 29; May Sakoda Takasugi, 27; James Sakoda, 26; Ruby Sakoda, 24. May has married into the Takasugi family, and that constitutes the balance of the seven in our room. Their father has been sent to New Mexico, probably because of connection with the local Japanese school; the mother is with us; there's Kingo Takasugi, 26, May's husband, and his sister Yaye, 21.

I would prefer that the family be not broken up if possible. The four of us get along quite well for brothers and sisters. The only one who is not sure whether she wants to go or not is the mother, whom we have difficulty in communicating with because she is deaf. We are all willing to go to Tulelake together if arrangements for that can be made. However, we can provide transportation for ourselves very easily, although it can be worked out if necessary.

Another possible solution is for George, Ruby and me to go to Tulelake together. This is not satisfactory to May, but she believes that we should go on without her if necessary.

The other possibility is for me to go alone. I am willing to do this if it will help along our study. However, I would prefer the first or the second solution, if they can be worked out. It's quite all right if I go ahead first alone and then have the others join me later.

The day before yesterday I was sick as a result of the typhoid shot. Yesterday I was puttering around in the Welfare Office, getting data on the age, sex, and citizenship distribution of the Tulare Center. Everybody seems willing to help as long as it's not "dangerous" for the Japanese.

Very sincerely yours,

James Sakoda
Barstow, 1:30 p.m.
May 14, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas,

We’re finally off, and to Tulare, I believe. Mr. Booth, of the Friends Service Committee prepared breakfast for us because my sister knew his family. He woke up three o’clock in the morning, and got our baggage off alright, except for the fact that they made us take our card table out and leave it behind.

The people were in good spirits on the whole as they were sent off by their Caucasian friends, since they were the last group to leave Pasadena. There was very little tear shedding. Many were bored because there was none to see them off. Our family group had half a dozen Caucasian friends over whom we made quite a hullaboo. For some time we kept waving to strangers on the street as we passed them by.

We are on the Santa Fe line and going by way of Barstow. It is now 6:15 and we have just come into Rialto.

Jane Shafter
Dr. Dorothy Thomas
Dept of Agriculture
U. of C
Berkeley, California
May 23, 1942

Dear Mr. Sakoda,

I have your letter. Be patient a bit longer, for I still have considerable manipulating to do. But the prospect looks pretty good. I hope to see the Regional Office on Monday. I hope also that I don't have to consult continuously and with too many people before I manage to get some action, but one never knows. In fact, judging from past performance, one knows pretty well that it takes time and a lot of useless effort.

Meantime, please continue with your reports. They were good. Did you receive my "Instructions to Observers"?

More later.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

QST
Dear Dr. Thomas,

I am sending another report and some slightly inaccurate statistics. If we were to stay here permanently I would go through the original social data sheets and get the correct figures myself, but I thought that for the present I would let it go with what was on hand.

Our whole family is waiting for developments of our prospects of going to Tulelake. Everybody wants to go now. Not only because of the weather, if they get there early, they feel that they'll have better chances to get the sort of job they want.

I received an airmail with instructions, which I received via Sierra Madre. I was interested to hear that Tom was taking the condition at Tanforan rather hard. I think that I'm enjoying myself here, even though I don't seem to have enough to be doing all of the things I should be doing. I've only peeked into Kimball Young's book on the section of techniques of studying personality. I am properly impressed with the difficulty of identifying myself wholly with others and still remain objective enough to record it all accurately.

The instruction memorandum was certainly enough to kill any seasoned social scientist. I never imagined that there were so many aspects that could be investigated. I had only begun to jot down what came my way which I thought was socially significant, and took your advice not to do too much typing or to try to fit data to concepts. I'm lost now, and probably will be for some time, until things begin to crystallize. Maybe I'm only lost because I've become just another evacuee, trying to get used to new conditions, avoiding the heat of the day, feeling dizzy because of typhoid shots.

It was very heartening to hear that you will have me on the payroll "however small it may be" if the project is approved by Mr. Eisenhower. I don't have any job in the Welfare Office, but it works out right because I can gather my information without having my hands too cramped with work. There are several mental cases in the center, and I hope to be able to look into them further. At least I have more training in psychology than the others on the staff.

I'll be waiting to hear from you again.

Very sincerely yours,

James Nakano
M-19-3 Tulare Assembly Center
Tulare, California
June 5, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas,

Was glad to hear that your plans were coming along. We are all keeping our fingers crossed, and hoping that we'll be able to go to Tule Lake.

However, we are starting to like this place, and we'll be leaving friends behind. There's a lack of equipment here, but otherwise everything seems to be moving along smoothly. If we were to be relocated to a permanent place where there was plenty of suitable work for everyone, I'm sure everything would come along just fine.

I'm still snooping around, and am sending two reports from the Police department and the Recreation department. There's much more complaints than are recorded in the Police records, but on the whole the offenses are not so serious. All of the equipment in the recreation department are donated or loaned by members of the Center. The local library does not want to cooperate in opening a branch here, it seems. Too bad we got into a reactionary district.

I'm translating a diary for a lady, and am trying to arrange a joint meeting of the Christian and Buddhist groups. About time we patched up our quarrels.

Will be looking forward to a favorable reply by and by.

Very sincerely yours,

James Sakoda
Gambling
5/22
5/28 Group of women whose husbands are interned. Also complaints of neglect of minor children. D-22, 23, 24.
5/30 E-1-3. Late at night. (Single men).
5/30 Gambling operated by women in D-23-3
6/1 E-1-3
D-22

Disorderly Conduct
5/22 Boys ordered to leave bottles at canteen
5/24 Broken window
5/25 Spitting out of window
5/28 Young men congregating outside women's shower room. Request made for screen.
5/28 Shizuo Furuki. F-3-6, #1176-A, aias Sasebo Kengo. Observed leaving apt. about 12 p.m. carrying a blanket and returning about 4 or 5 a.m. Has annoyed women in adjoining apt.
5/29 Water fight in shower.
5/30 Excessive noise in empty room.
6/1 Fight between 2 boys about 16.
6/1 Window in shower room broken.

Practice of "Cure-all" Medicine
5/29 Mr. Oiye, diabetic, had to be hospitalized. Medicine concocted by Mr. Yoshida.

Theft
5/29 Disappearance of ice-pick from canteen
6/2 Coin purse
6/1 Stealing at post office on inspection.

Liquor
6/1 1 qt, 1 pt, 14 oz. Confiscated from box of groceries sent in.

Sex Offense
Examination of Lucy Sakamoto, age 13, G-7-5, shows her to be 5 months pregnant. Frank Sakamoto, her brother, was accused by her as being responsible for her condition. Further examinations are being made on her condition. Frank has been booked in the city jail of Tulare, California. Said party to be tried at Tulare Courthouse at an early date.
Dear Dr. Thomas,

After days of waiting the order has finally come through. I was very enthusiastic about it until it came through, and now I feel a little sick about having to leave all of my friends. The office force (Welfare Office) says that it will give me an ice cream party.

The order was for only three of us, myself, my brother, and my little sister. I guess the Army figured that the others didn't belong in the immediate family. It was too bad that we were registered under separate family numbers. The others didn't like it very well, especially my married sister. But it can't be helped, and we must go. We are hoping that arrangements can be made later whereby the others can join us, possibly when Tulare is relocated.

The Chief of Police was anxious to have me leave as early as possible, even though the order said that I was to leave before Monday. I asked till Sunday, wanting to be here as long as possible. So we're leaving this Sunday on the 2:30 train. I'll be able to see another talent show, attend another dance, and possibly attend the Sunday morning service. I'm sorry I won't be here for the joint Buddhist-Christian meeting which I arranged for June 21st, and for which I invited Mr. Booth of the American Friends Service Committee, whom we knew well.

I have been keeping records of my observations, although I didn't limit it to any specific person, because I felt that I'd like to make my selection later on when I knew what was happening.

If there are any suggestions as to methods of improving my reports, I would be very glad to have them as soon as possible. I'll have another chance at beginning from the beginning, it seems. I'll be at a disadvantage because I won't know as many people at Tulelake as I did here, although even here I didn't know so very many. But I think that I've profited very much from my experience here.

One thing that I must avoid is being looked on with suspicion. I find that everyone is sympathetic when I tell them that I am doing "research" or working on a thesis. Once I got wind of a rumor going around that there was a fellow going around listening to people and was writing about it, and was being paid for it. Obviously it was I that was being referred to. I felt then that my status should be that of a research student with a scholarship. Please let me know if you think that it's all right for me to say that to people. So far, people have been very sympathetic and have tried to help me as much as possible.

I'll write again from Tulelake. Thanks an awful lot for arranging for our transfer there. People say it's perfect up there. I think I'll feel happier when I'm on the train and see the scenery up north. I'll be looking forward to seeing you there, too.

Very sincerely yours,

James Sakada