



German World Alliance

Deutsche Weltallianz

P.O. Box 50371
Preston King Station
ARLINGTON, VA. 22205

Website: www.GermanWorldAlliance.org

April 30, 2009

President:
Dr. Peter Wassertheurer,
Austria

Past President
Prof. Dr. Alfred Oberberger
USA

1. Vice President:
Dr. Kearn Schemm, USA

2. Vice President:
Ernst Friedel, Canada

Treasurer:
Dr. Herbert Traxler, USA,

Secretary:
Prof. Dr. Reinhold Reimann
Austria

Directors:

Toni Bergmeier, Canada
Dr. Marianne Bouvier, USA
Dr. Nicholas Bruck, USA
Prof. Dr. Hartmut Fröschle
Germany
Prof. Dr. Alfred de Zayas
Switzerland
Edgar Grunwald, USA
Dipl. Ing. Rudolf Maywald
Germany

Pres. Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: German-American Internees

Dear Mr. President,

The German World Alliance (GWA), headquartered in Washington, D.C., is pleased to note the initiatives which you have started since the beginning of your presidency in order to bring about a new dialogue in many conflict areas of our world. I am, as president of the GWA, convinced that a policy of détente is only possible through dialogue. Those who reject dialogue are not really competent to offer solutions to the world's problems.

I would like at this point to remind you of your speech in Prague. In it, you recalled the horrors of WWII and warned of intolerance and extremism. Europeans cheered you and let you know that they understood your message. After two horrible world wars, Europe now follows a policy of political dialogue. I am certain that both America and Europe will have to continue to be responsible in the world. Understanding between the two sections of the earth is thus important. Understanding can only take place where it is possible to have an open dialogue and to discuss rather than repress problems.

In the United States, many citizens of German ancestry are still alive who were interned in US camps and accused of disloyalty to the US because of their German identity. They suffered discrimination, were suppressed and blanketly accused of cooperation with Nazi Germany. They have, up to the present day, received neither restitution nor an apology from the U.S. government. Here I would like to remind you of the case of the many Japanese who suffered a similar fate in the USA. The Japanese were rehabilitated and received restitution. These gestures allowed those who had suffered a painful wound to begin a process of healing.

Nearly a full human life span has passed since WWII. It is my view that the time has come to make a similar gesture to the German-American internees, to show the US government's regret. It is important that these elderly persons should finally be liberated from the old accusations of disloyalty toward the US. To do so would be an important moral gesture.

I hope that I, as president of the GWA, can presume to ask you to take this step. The GWA, which represents the German ethnic group in the US, will make every effort for the publication of a letter by you in this regard in all German publications.

Respectfully,

Wassertheurer Peter
President of the German World Alliance/
Präsident der Deutschen Weltallianz
Rv. VP K Schemm

EBERHARD E. FUHR

MAY 4, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President, United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500 via fax 202/456-2461

Dear Mr. President:

You were obviously misinformed when you approved grants for Japanese Internment Sites to the exclusion of German, Italian and other European internment Sites during and extending three years after WW 2.

Chicago, at 4800 S. Ellis, was an interim internment facility processing hundreds, mostly German and Italian civilians for more permanent facilities in N..Dakota, Texas and Ellis Island. This site was included in the Art Institute of Chicago Exhibit, in 2005 of notable WW2 Chicago area sites important to prosecution of the war and A Bomb development.

At age 17 I was arrested in my Woodward High Class in Cincinnati. Woodward was then fully integrated 50/50 with about 4,000 students. Ezzard Charles, already pro boxer was in my Spanish 2 class. I lettered football and baseball. I was sent to the above, and on reaching 18 ,was taken to the Cook County Jail Draft Board for registration. Sent then to Crystal City Texas for internment with Germans, Japanese, and families from Latin America. This site is NOT one of those designated for preservation or recognition..

Department of Justice statements, by the Attorney General and his assistants, noted that 60,000 “mostly German” were arrested; hearings were granted; but COUNSEL was EXCLUDED. The Courts, including Appeals Courts, consistently held that habeas corpus was properly denied as late as the Schleuter Case, affirmed Jan 2, 1947. I was released at the age of 22 in September 1947, a long two years plus after the war ended.

I seek absolutely no personal remuneration as accorded the Japanese , even though we lost our home to looters and foreclosure..The confinement of Europeans was just as onerous as for the Japanese, thus requiring EQUAL RECOGNITION– or none.

Respectfully Yours,
Eberhard Fuhr

Tempe, Arizona
May 4, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
Via fax 202-456-2461

Dear Mr. President:

This is to inform you that the grants that **you** approved for Japanese American Internment Sites in March 2009 discriminate against former German Americans and Italian Americans. This is true because not one of the included sites is a location where German Americans and Italian Americans were interned.

This is second slap of the face of German Americans and Italian Americans. The first was when P.L. 100-383, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was enacted.

Mr. President, this is a country where we seek justice for all. Such has not been the case of the German American and Italian American victims of internment. Please correct this situation.

Sincerely,

Arthur D. Jacobs
Major, USAF Retired

May 6, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
Via fax 202-456-2461

Dear Mr. President:

In a very few years, all 15,000 European Americans who were victims of WWII U.S. government internment policy will be deceased. For sixty eight years, European American internees have struggled to persuade Congress to investigate the injustices and constitutional violations of U.S. internment policy, which occurred during a very tumultuous period of world history.

In 1988, The Civil Liberties Act was enacted, giving redress to Japanese Americans, who were the majority of WWII internees. European Americans, the minority of internees, were dismissed and ignored. Then last year, Public Law 109-441 was enacted with the express purpose of preserving Japanese American Confinement Sites, exclusively.

Unfortunately, since European American WWII internees are small in number and geographically dispersed, it is difficult to lobby Congressional support. Obviously, we are not a large political block that can influence congressman or senators as effectively as former Japanese American internees. Perhaps, since internment policy emanated from the executive branch and not Congress, it is fitting to petition the President of the United States to use executive power to correct the injustices that occurred to European American internees as a result of Executive Order 9066.

Enclosed is an FBI original document dated December 4, 1941 from Hawaii which details the origins of U.S. internment policy. Important details are enumerated in the document regarding the use of "selective" internment policy in sizeable enemy alien populations. War hysteria caused the public to lose sight of reality, that most internees were merely poor powerless immigrants, who were the nationality of the enemy.

President Obama, it is time for our government to finish the work initiated by The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by investigating all victims of WWII internment. As citizens, our job is to ensure that government servants and elected officials seek justice for all. To date all branches of the American government have failed German American and Italian American victims of internment. Remember the last line of our Pledge of Allegiance - "Justice for all."

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Weiss
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Enclosure

EW
12/4/41

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
HONOLULU, T. H.

RLS:PB

December 4, 1941.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

Q.B. 11.11.41

Re: INTERNAL SECURITY.
CUSTODIAL DETENTION LIST -
JAPANESE, GERMAN AND ITALIAN ALIENS.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letter in the above-captioned matter dated November 25, 1941, concerning the status of the custodial detention project and the submission of information relative to Japanese, German and Italian aliens who are considered dangerous and whose removal from society in the event of war would be required in the public interest.

Concerning the comment on the instructions contained in a radiogram dated November 20, 1941, to submit a list of all German and Italian aliens recommended for custodial detention, I have forwarded data in compliance with these instructions by letter under the caption, "INTERNAL SECURITY, Custodial Detention, German and Italian Aliens," dated November 17, 1941, which was mailed on the first available clipper from these islands. This letter contained as an enclosure a memorandum approved by the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department of the United States Army, outlining the procedure for the custodial detention of these aliens in the event of a declaration of war involving the United States with Germany and Italy. In addition to the names of the aliens who are considered dangerous and for whom custodial memoranda had been prepared, there were also listed American citizens of German descent of similar classification. These names were selected by the military authorities in collaboration with this office and represent the persons of German and Italian tendencies for whom custodial detention has been recommended by this field division and represent the list described in the letter of reference.

This list includes all of the known German aliens residing in the Territory of Hawaii which have been compiled from the alien registration data furnished this office by the Bureau, which it received from the Bureau of Immigration, and which this office obtained from the

[Stamp: NOV 21 1941]

1512

3-21-17 6080 Ted TAP

Director

12/4/41

records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Honolulu.

This information has been furnished by this office to the office of G-2 in Honolulu. Since the War Department in Hawaii will exercise control over German aliens, the office of G-2, with the approval of the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department, has decided to deal with these aliens, as outlined in my letter to the Bureau of November 17, 1941. Custodial detention memoranda are being submitted to the Bureau on all of the aliens who are to be seized by the War Department in Honolulu on whom they have not heretofore been submitted.

This office feels that insofar as the German and Italian alien situation is concerned, there can be no improvement since each and every German and Italian alien in the Hawaiian Islands is known and arrangements have been effected by the War Department through the assistance and cooperation of this office in furnishing them the names of such individuals, for the specific handling of each and every individual alien German and Italian in the Hawaiian Islands, as outlined in my letter of November 17, 1941.

A similar compilation of the names of Japanese aliens and citizens of Japanese ancestry was furnished to the Bureau in connection with the control of Japanese aliens in the event of war between the United States and Japan which was transmitted to the Bureau with my letter of November 22, 1941, captioned "Internal Security, Custodial Detention, Japanese Aliens." As pointed out in this letter, the names included in these annexes attached to the plans under which they will be seized are those Japanese aliens and citizens of Japanese ancestry for whom custodial detention memoranda have been submitted by this office to the Bureau.

I have kept myself currently informed at all times as to the identity and number of persons recommended for custodial detention by this office and this information has been properly classified according to existing Bureau instructions.

The Bureau will observe from my letter of November 22, 1941, and my letter of December 4, 1941, as a supplement thereto, entitled "Internal Security, Custodial Detention, Japanese Aliens" that there are now a total of 338 Japanese aliens to be seized under the respective plans outlined therein. It also includes 9 American citizens of Japanese ancestry. The Bureau will also observe from Exhibit A to my letter of November 17, 1941, entitled "Internal Security, Custodial Detention, German and Italian Aliens" that a total of 80 alien Germans and 29 alien Italians have been listed for custodial detention and seizure by Army authorities. This figure is arrived at by deleting the exceptions listed in paragraphs 4, 6 and 8 of the memorandum entitled "Seizure and Detention Plan" attached to my letter from the total number of German and Italian aliens listed in Exhibit A to said letter.

Director

12/4/41

It is true that investigative reports have not been submitted in every case but such reports are being prepared. However, the custodial memorandum submitted on each subject was based on information already in the file which was obtained through the general survey of Japanese activities in the Hawaiian Islands and other investigations which have not been reported by investigative report in the individual case file.

The War Department will control the enemy alien population in the Hawaiian Islands. The method and manner of such control, as has been agreed upon by the War Department in Hawaii, is outlined in my letter of November 22, 1941, and the enclosures attached thereto. Since there are over 41,000 Japanese aliens in the Territory of Hawaii, it is obvious that the War Department would not and could not seize approximately a tenth of the population of the Hawaiian Islands and place that number in concentration camps. Furthermore, there are approximately 115,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry which makes a total, in round figures, of 155,000 people in the Territory of Hawaii of Japanese ancestry against a total population of 430,000. Therefore, the seizure of Japanese aliens in Hawaii is a matter of selectivity. This has been gone over carefully and thoroughly with representatives of Military Intelligence in Hawaii and it is the considered opinion of this office and the Office of Military Intelligence in Hawaii that if the leadership of the Japanese alien population is seized, that, of itself, will break the backbone of any Japanese alien resistance or organized attempt at interference. The Japanese alien, without leadership, can not and will not operate effectively against the internal security of these islands. Those aliens who have been listed for custodial detention comprise the alien leadership in Hawaii in every branch of alien activity, namely: businessmen, consular agents, Japanese language school teachers and principals, Buddhist and Shinto priests, and others of no particular affiliation but who by reason of their extreme nationalistic sentiments would be a danger to our security as well as others who have seen Japanese military service.

This office, through its Special Agent in Charge, is in entire agreement with the plans which the Army has formulated for the handling of the enemy alien in Hawaii and has collaborated with the Army here in perfecting these plans.

In selecting the custodial detention subjects in this field division, this office has at all times had the full cooperation

Director

12/4/41

of the Office of Military Intelligence and the Office of Naval Intelligence and has received full and complete information concerning subjects which they had heretofore regarded as being persons who should be taken into custodial detention in the event of war. As a matter of fact, early in 1940, this office received from the Office of Military Intelligence and the Office of Naval Intelligence the names and addresses of all the persons whom they considered dangerous to the internal security of these islands and who should be picked up for custodial detention in the event of war, involving the United States and Japan and the other axis powers. It also received at that time the names and addresses of individuals who were considered less dangerous and who should be placed under surveillance in the event of war. Both the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Office of Military Intelligence have continued since that time to furnish the names of those individuals whom they consider dangerous to the internal security of the United States and who should be considered for custodial detention as those names have come to their attention. This office has opened investigative cases on all of these individuals and as the investigations are completed, custodial detention memoranda have been, and will be, submitted in the cases where the information justifies it. Custodial detention memoranda will be submitted to the Bureau promptly as justified in current investigations. These will be on individuals who have been considered less dangerous. The primary thought in this project at the Honolulu Division was first to be sure that the leadership of the Japanese alien populace was taken care of and this has been done through the submission of custodial detention memoranda which include membership in the organizations heretofore mentioned. Custodial detention memoranda will be submitted to the Bureau daily as they are prepared at this office.

This office will forward to the Bureau a weekly summary of all persons listed for custodial detention divided into nationalities, both citizen and alien. This summary will be a supplement to my letters of November 17 entitled "Internal Security, Custodial Detention, German and Italian Aliens" and my letter of November 22, 1941, entitled "Internal Security, Custodial Detention, Japanese Aliens" and will classify the individuals reported under the respective plan of seizure which will govern them.

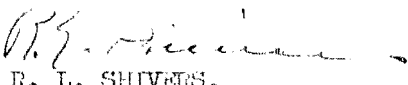
Director.

12/4/41.

The plan formulated by the military authorities for handling the enemy aliens in Hawaii is based on a comprehensive knowledge of the situation which has been gathered by this office over a period of two and one-half years and the knowledge which the military intelligence has gained over a period of many years in its operations in the Hawaiian Islands. It is intelligent and represents the thinking of this office, the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department and the officers of G-2, and has been designed in the light of that knowledge and the effect of such actions on the civil populace.

The progressive stages outlined in my letter of November 22, with respect to the Japanese alien populace, are an intelligent approach to the situation and are calculated to obtain maximum results with minimum disturbances in the civil community. It is further calculated to preserve and maintain the respect of the alien populace in the constituted authorities and to maintain the loyalty of the vast majority of the second and third generation Japanese without alienating either group.

Very truly yours,


R. L. SHIVERS,
Special Agent in Charge.

VIA CLIPPER.

May 10, 2009

Mount Sinai, New York

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: German-American Internees, WWII

Dear Mr. President,

Kindly accept this letter as a follow-up to your speech in Prague. In it, you recalled the horrors of WWII and warned of intolerance and extremism. More important, this letter is in memory of my mother on Mother's Day.

In September 1941, I was born in the New York Hospital, New York, NY. Months after the outbreak of World War II, my mother, father and I were randomly selected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to be used as a family of German origin for exchange with American families held captive in Germany's Third Reich. In the early morning hours of July 7, 1942, the FBI raided our east side Manhattan apartment and arrested my mother, father and me (I was a mere 10 months old). The three of us were incarcerated on Ellis Island awaiting a ship bound for Germany. Both my mother and father were stripped of their American citizenship.

During our stay on Ellis Island, a number of mothers of American born children, as well as my mother, brought us children before the Immigration and Natural Service (INS). These mothers informed the INS of their refusing to take American born children to a foreign country. The mothers went on to tell the INS to care for us children till war's end and their return to the U.S. or until we turn 18—whichever was to come first.

Soon after this confrontation between German mothers and INS authority, my mother, father and I were transported by rail to U.S. Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas, February 1943. Along with thousands of others, we remained interned in this camp till June 1947--two years following V-E Day.

Of course, I am forever grateful to my mother for having raised me to become a good and proud American and for keeping me, a natural born American citizen, out of harms way of Nazi Germany during WWII. So in your thoughts, Mister President, please wish my deceased mother a Happy Mother's Day as I yours.

While people of German descent were rounded up and incarcerated for exchanges, repatriations and/or internments, Japanese-Americans were also forced into repatriation and internment. However, the United States government has recognized, apologized, and granted restitution to Japanese-Americans.

Yes, the Japanese-Americans suffered injustices but so did German-Americans. Therefore, I respectfully request German-Americans be granted equal treatment.

Thank you, Mister President, for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

<Signed>
Werner Ulrich

BEND, Oregon
May 15th, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The WHITE HOUSE
Washington, DC 20500
---via fax: 202/456-2461

Dear Mr. President:

The grant approval for some of the former Japanese/American internment sites is simply put, discriminatory favoritism.

I can't imagine that you are not aware of this fact, that thousands of German- and Italian/Americans were also interned, and hundreds of Central -and South Americans of European descent were kidnapped and imprisoned on US soil.

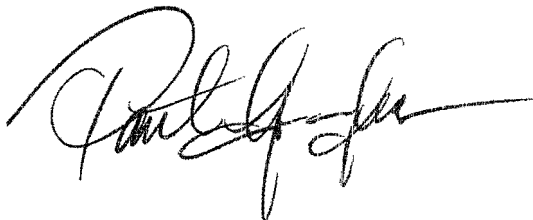
I'm deeply disturbed by the dishonesty that exists, always has -actually, within our government per se. You Mr. President, are "the" image of change. More voters than not believed that. I'm a former internee, born in New Jersey and then incarcerated for two years in Texas camps.

Our Japanese/American fellow citizens should stop promoting the false historical imagery, that THEY were the only ones rounded up during WW II. It is, of course, a self serving campaign and it's working.

Compliments of the US Government, our entire family was shipped to Germany five months before WW II was over. I experienced B 17 bombings and French tank grenades exploding, none of that could, however, erase my American soul. It brought me back.

I'm 70 years old, 6 feet tall, Caucasian, white haired and available for a photo-op, if you so desire. I for one would like to put this myth to a final rest.

Most respectfully,
Paul Grayber

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Grayber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.