

Rovalt

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Wilson

June 8, 1943

Dear Mr. Myer:

The Director, Internal Security Division, Ninth Service Command, Colonel C. K. Wing, has recently brought to my attention the fact that a War Relocation Authority official at the Central Utah Relocation Center granted to the Alien Japanese Committee permission to erect a monument at the spot where James Wakasa recently was killed. In substantiation of this information Colonel Wing sends photographs of the monument. It is further reported that following objection to the erection of this monument on the part of the Ninth Service Command, the Assistant Project Director agreed to and did tear down the monument although there was no removal of the construction material from the place.

Although it is not the War Department's intention to interfere in the interior administration of the relocation centers, I can see a real objection to any action which permits monuments of this character to be erected. Wakasa's death arose as a result of justifiable military action and it seems most inappropriate that a monument be erected to him. To give permission for this sort of thing and to use government materials for it can only lead to strong condemnation by citizens already instigated to uncharitable views of the treatment given evacuees.

I have no doubt that you agree and that War Relocation Authority officials will not in the future permit any action of this nature which might be construed as condemning the action of the military authorities to take place.

Sincerely,

J. J. [Signature]

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building, Room 822
Washington, D. C.