



World War II Enemy Alien Records Related to Japanese Americans at the National Archives

Presentation Handout, 2024

Enemy Aliens: Arrests, Investigations, and Hearings

The Department of Justice (DOJ) oversaw the domestic operations of the Alien Enemy Control Program, aided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Department of Justice Internee Cards and Case Files

The records of the **Department of Justice (Record Group 60)** include case files that document the DOJ's role in the Alien Enemy Control Program during World War II. The files include the arrest, investigations, and hearings of individuals of Japanese, German, and Italian descent who had already been targeted by the FBI and military intelligence agencies. Files also include internees taken from Latin America.

Department of Justice alien enemy case files are held in Class 146-13 (Alien Enemy) Litigation Case Files and Enclosures, 1938–1962 (National Archives Identifier: [636309](#))

Conducting Initial Searches

World War II Japanese Internee Cards, 1941–1947 (National Archives Identifier: [720246](#)): fully digitized and name searchable in the National Archives Catalog. Enter the person's name in the [Search within this Series](#) box.

Accessing DOJ Case Files

To request a DOJ case file, please provide the following information:

- Name of internee (include all names used)
- Link to the digitized index card

Requests and questions about the DOJ case files may be submitted to the **Textual Reference Branch at the National Archives at College Park, MD**, at archives2reference@nara.gov.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Case Files

The **Federal Bureau of Investigation (Record Group 65)** was responsible for investigating and arresting enemy aliens who were brought before the Alien Enemy Hearing Board. Except for records that have been reviewed and made public, accessing FBI records requires requesting specific case files through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). For more information on FBI



records held at the National Archives and how to access them, read this [Overview on FBI Records](#).

Copies of some reports from FBI files can often be found in the Department of Justice alien enemy case files. This is often the easiest and most expedient way to access FBI reports.

Requests for FBI files may be submitted to the Special Access and FOIA Office. Please email your request to specialaccess_foia@nara.gov and include the following information:

- Name (include all names used)
- Date of birth
- Address at time of arrest (if known)
- FBI case file number (if known)

Immigration and Naturalization Service Enemy Alien Case Files

As part of the DOJ, the **Immigration and Naturalization Service (Record Group 85)** coordinated the detention and investigation of enemy aliens. Case files may include administrative records and FBI investigation and identification forms. In many cases, the files note whether the individual alien remained in an enemy alien camp, was released, or was sent to a War Relocation Authority camp with other incarcerated family.

INS Office in Los Angeles:

Enemy Alien Case Files, 1941–1948 (National Archives Identifier: [6217699](#)): these case files relate to those apprehended in Southern California and may be name searchable in the National Archives Catalog. Enter the person's name in the [Search within this Series](#) box.

INS Office in San Francisco:

Enemy Alien Case Files, ca. 1942–ca. 1948 (National Archives Identifier: [43434825](#)): consists of only one file 12044/255 for Ryoichi (Johnny) Yasui, which is associated with A-file [A5998036](#) [14-0003/716].

For records from the Los Angeles INS office, contact the **National Archives at Riverside** at riverside.archives@nara.gov.

For the one case file from the San Francisco INS office, **National Archives at San Francisco** at sanbruno.archives@nara.gov.

Alien Files

Created by the INS beginning in April 1944, Alien Files (A-Files) contain records of any active case of an alien not yet naturalized. An A-File (part of records from the **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [Record Group 566]**) may also be created if the INS initiated a law



enforcement action against or involving a non-citizen. Such files may include FBI investigations and transfer documents from DOJ to War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps for Issei (first generation Japanese Americans) who were initially detained in DOJ-INS detention centers or long-term camps, as well as post-war parole reports.

A-Files that have been transferred to the National Archives are name searchable in the [National Archives Catalog](#).

Requests and questions about the A-Files may be submitted to either the **National Archives at Kansas City** at afiles.kansascity@nara.gov or the **National Archives at San Francisco** at sanbruno.archives@nara.gov.

DOJ-INS Internment Camps

Immigration and Naturalization Service Case Files

After receiving an order from the U.S. Attorney General for the internment of an enemy alien, the person was sent to an enemy alien internment facility run by the **INS**. The INS oversaw all the Department of Justice and many of the Department of State internment facilities. If a family was detained together, a single file can contain records of the whole family unit.

The **National Archives in Washington, DC**, holds the records of 12 enemy alien internment facilities:

- Bedford, PA
- Camp Upton, NY
- Crystal City, TX
- Fort Lincoln, ND
- Fort Missoula, MT
- Kenedy, TX
- Fort Stanton, NM
- Old Raton Ranch Camp, NM
- Santa Fe, NM
- Seagoville, TX
- Staunton, VA
- White Sulphur Springs, WV

INS records also include files from the Tule Lake Segregation Center, covering the immediate post-war period when the camp held those who renounced their U.S. citizenship, and those seeking repatriation and expatriation to Japan.

Accessing INS Case Files

Indexes to the INS enemy alien case files from the Central Office are not available online, but camp information can often be found in the World War II Japanese Internee Cards, 1941–1947, index (see previous section). To request an INS case file, please provide the following information:

- Name of internee (include all names used)
- Date of birth



- INS camp (if known)

Requests and questions about the INS case files may be submitted to the **National Archives in Washington, DC**, at archives1reference@nara.gov.

Enemy Alien Control Program - Military Records

American Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Enemy Alien Branch, and Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau Records

Records of the American Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Enemy Alien Branch, and the Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau (part of the **Office of the Provost Marshal General [OPMG] [Record Group 389]**) include documentation of the U.S. military's role in enemy alien internment, including the operation of Army internment camps and records related to the Enemy Alien Control Program in the U.S. Territories.

Records Relating to Japanese Civilian Internees During World War II (National Archives Identifier: [872144](#))

- Consists of files of Japanese nationals (and possibly U.S. citizens) interned in the United States, including those who were arrested and sent from overseas (Peru, Guam, and Saipan).
- No name list, but files are arranged alphabetically.

Subject Files, 1942–1946 (National Archives Identifier: [833674](#)):

- Name searchable in the National Archives Catalog. Enter the person's name in the [Search within this Series](#) box. Here are the [query results](#) for the full list.
- Hawai'i, Civilian Internees Folders: Records pertain to both Japanese and Japanese American civilian internees living in Hawai'i at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. Includes 1,202 case files for internees of Japanese ancestry.
- Hawai'i: Enemy Alien General File (National Archives Identifier: [900260](#)): This one file documents the deportation of Japanese Americans to the mainland.
- Hawai'i, Return Groups Files: Records consist of lists of Japanese Americans deported to the mainland and later returned, or offered the option to return, to Hawai'i at war's end. Here are the [query results](#) for the full list.

Military Government of the Territory of Hawai'i (MGH) Records

Records from the **Military Government of the Territory of Hawai'i (Record Group 494)** include internee case files and lists:

- Internee Release Forms, 1942–1945 (National Archives Identifier: [1088866](#))
- Internee Case Files, December 15, 1941–1945 (National Archives Identifier: [1073970](#))



- No name list, but files are arranged alphabetically
- Lists of Names of Japanese Alien Internees, 1945 (National Archives Identifier: [1089727](#))
- Internee Property Case Files, 1943–1945 (National Archives Identifier: [1112476](#))
- Index of Paroled Enemy Aliens, 1942–1943 (National Archives Identifier: [7873232](#))

Accessing OPMG and MGH Records

Requests and questions may be submitted to the **Textual Reference Branch at the National Archives at College Park, MD**, at archives2reference@nara.gov. Please include the following information:

- Name (include all names used)
- Date of birth

Enemy Alien Diplomats and Latin Americans Deported to the United States

Department of State Records

The **Department of State (Record Group 59)** managed the internment of enemy alien diplomats and Latin Americans deported to the United States. The State Department was also responsible for negotiating a civilian internees exchange, facilitating the return of U.S. citizens held in Axis nations in return for the repatriation of Axis citizens detained in the United States. Case files for Latin Americans are part of the Department of Justice alien enemy files, but State Department records include hearings to determine whether former enemy aliens could return to their Latin American country.

Records:

- Reports on Interned Enemy Aliens, 1942–1947 (National Archives Identifier: [719525](#))
- Transcripts of Proceedings before the Hearing Board of the Alien Enemy Control Section, 1946 (National Archives Identifier: [657806](#))
- Subject Files, 1939–1955 (National Archives Identifier: [2173219](#)): Includes documentation on internees from Latin America, case files on Japanese nationals who died in the camps, and records related to Japanese diplomats.

Accessing State Department Records

Requests and questions may be submitted to the **Textual Reference Branch in College Park, MD**, at archives2reference@nara.gov.