

Mapped Narratives of Resistance in Tule Lake

Dr. Richard Marciano

Connor Mullane [MLIS]
Britton Schams [MLIS]
Mirielle Vasselli [MLIS]
Chenxi Liu [HCIM]
Jiale Xu [HCIM]

Description of Our Study

With detailed information on the names and addresses referenced in the Tule Lake incident cards, we are able to visualize the data by geolocating the persons involved. Understanding the spatial dynamics and relationships of location and proximity in the Camps can offer unique insights into the nature of oppression and resistance. Using open source tools like *Open Refine* and mapping tools such as *QGIS*, the team was able to research and map significant narratives of resistance.

7 Men Attempting Escape



Figure 1: The housing locations of the 7 men who attempted to escape from the camp on September 8, 1945.

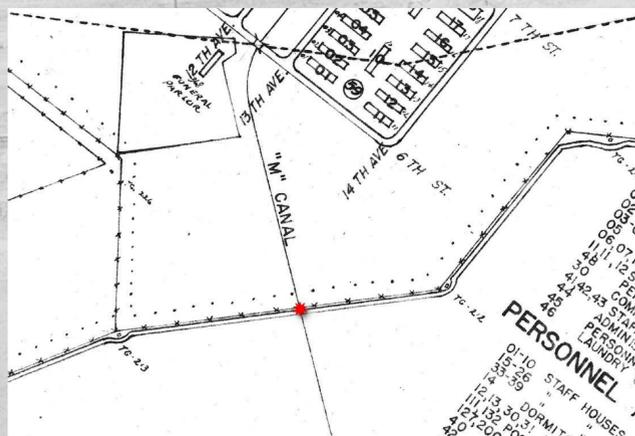


Figure 2: Location of the attempted escape by crawling under the perimeter fence between towers 12 and 13.

On September 8th 1945, seven men attempted to escape Tule Lake by crawling under the barb-wire tipped chain-link fence that surrounded the camp. Through our mapping research, we found that the majority of the men who attempted to escape were located within the same block (Figure 1). The two that aren't, live in the same building (Figure 1). This suggests that these men had relationships and networks due to their proximity to each other. Their location of escape was far removed from any of the living quarters (Figure 2). This might have been an conscious choice as it was most likely less guarded as more high-traffic areas of the camp.

Negotiating Committee

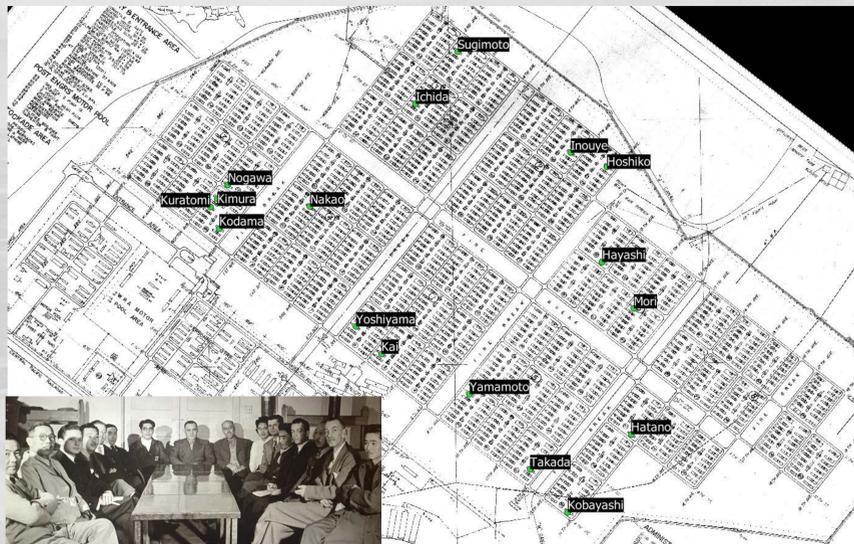


Figure 3: All 17 men that took part in the Negotiating Committee with Tule Lake Camp Director Raymond Best.

A *Negotiating Committee* of 17 men attended a meeting with Tule Lake Camp Director, Raymond Best, and WRA Director, Dillon S. Myer, on November 1st, 1943, in order to try to find solutions to problems at Tule Lake, including the firing of farm workers without warning, the death of a truck driver, and the ensuing tension at his public funeral. Each dot on our georeferenced map represents one Committee member who attended the meeting at that day. Our initial investigations map the locations of the Committee members in order to spatially visualize the extent of the leadership network in the camp, and assess the geographical footprint of this committee.

94 Hawaiian-born Japanese Americans

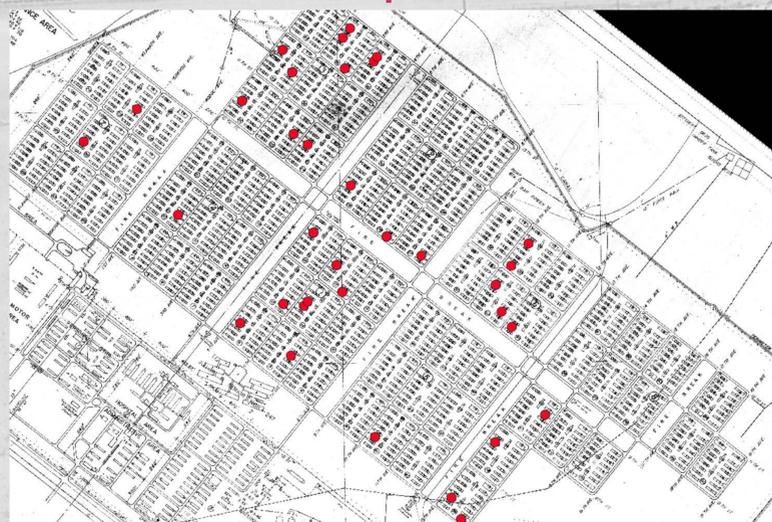


Figure 4: The locations of 72 Hawaiian-born Japanese-Americans arrested following the Nov 3rd 1943 riot.

The people mapped here were the Japanese-Americans from Hawaii who had been arrested for the Nov 3rd riot. Of the 94 who were on the list, 72 could be verified so far in incident cards. The dots represent the address of those arrested for the incident; only 17 of them did not live with someone else who was also arrested for the riot.

6 Women Staging a Sit-Down Strike

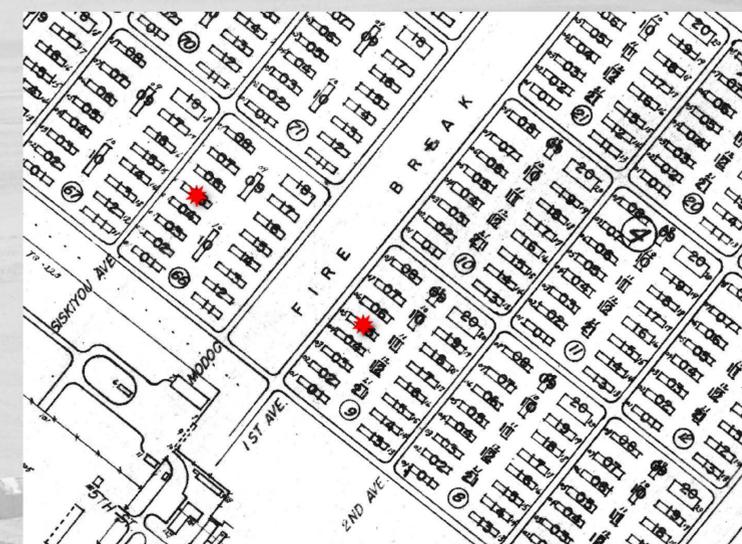


Figure 5: Two of the six women involved in the sit-down strike live close in proximity.

On November 4th 1943, six women staged a sit-down strike at Gate 3 in response to their husbands and family members being held in a stockade. Through our mapping of the data, we were able to find a spatial relationship between two of the six women involved in the sit-down strike which revealed they lived across the fire break from one another (Figure 5). One of the women was married to a resistance leader, who took center stage during the Negotiating Committee mentioned earlier. This suggests, but does not confirm, what we hypothesized from the beginning, that these women had ties to leadership and therefore had some form of leadership themselves within the camp.

Further Research

In moving toward the development of interventions based on the current knowledge and materials of understanding the spatial dynamics and relationships of location and proximity in the Camps, it is necessary to conduct more analysis and mapping on data we have. We found several significant events that closely related, such as 47 people were arrested on the same day because of exercising, two hundred people detained for marching and wearing insignia. We hope to map locations of these people and activities, so that might give us helpful insights to figure out why these things happened to them.

Furthermore, we could push this research further by looking into who the men that were imprisoned were while the six women staged their sit-down strike. By finding their identities and cross checking with birth, marriage or death records, possible connections could be found. This would help us identify if the six women had any connection with leadership within the camp and subsequently played leadership roles themselves. Since there are not as many female-lead acts of resistance, there is a chance that they could have had their own leadership within the camp.