



*The Museum of the City
of San Francisco*

20 Views of the Internment of “Little Tokio” Residents, San Francisco — 1942

Photographed by Dorothea Lange
for the War Relocation Authority.

From the holdings of the National
Archives and Records
Administration. [http://
www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov)

Slides will automatically advance.



“Headlines of newspapers, in stand at 14th and Broadway [in Oakland] presaged on February 27, 1942, the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from military areas. On February 19, President Roosevelt delegated to the Secretary of War power to exclude any person, alien, or citizen, from any area which might be required, on the grounds of military necessity. Evacuees of Japanese descent will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.”

— WRA Caption

WRA Photograph A-36 by Dorothea Lange, Oakland, California, February 27, 1942.



Little has changed at the Nihonmachi Little Friends day care center at 2031 Bush St. since 1942, when it was the headquarters of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The League's building was taken over by the Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA) in April 1942, and it served as a Civil Control Station, where citizens and aliens, subject to exclusion orders from General John DeWitt, were processed, then transported to assembly camps and, later, to relocation camps such as Manzanar.

Photograph by Dave Fowler, San Francisco, California, August 3, 1999.

Exclusion Order No. 20 affected 660 people living in the area bounded by Sutter and California streets and Presidio and Van Ness avenues. They were to report to 2031 Bush St. for registration, and then, on April 29, 1942, for removal.

Today, it is possible to stand here — to sense what it was like to line up at this gate for registration and a medical examination. Imagine, stepping through the gate in April 1942. . .

—Gladys Hansen



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**“Lining up
before
Japanese
American
Citizens
League
auditorium
at 2031 Bush
Street
to register for
evacuation.
Evacuees of
Japanese
ancestry will be
housed in War
Relocation
Authority
centers for the
duration.”**

— WRA Caption



WRA Photograph A-571 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 25, 1942.

**“Waiting in line, 2031
Bush St., for voluntary
inoculation against
typhoid, preceding
evacuation of residents
of Japanese ancestry.
Evacuees will be housed
in War Relocation
Authority centers for the
duration.”— WRA Caption**



WRA Photograph A-570 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 20, 1942.



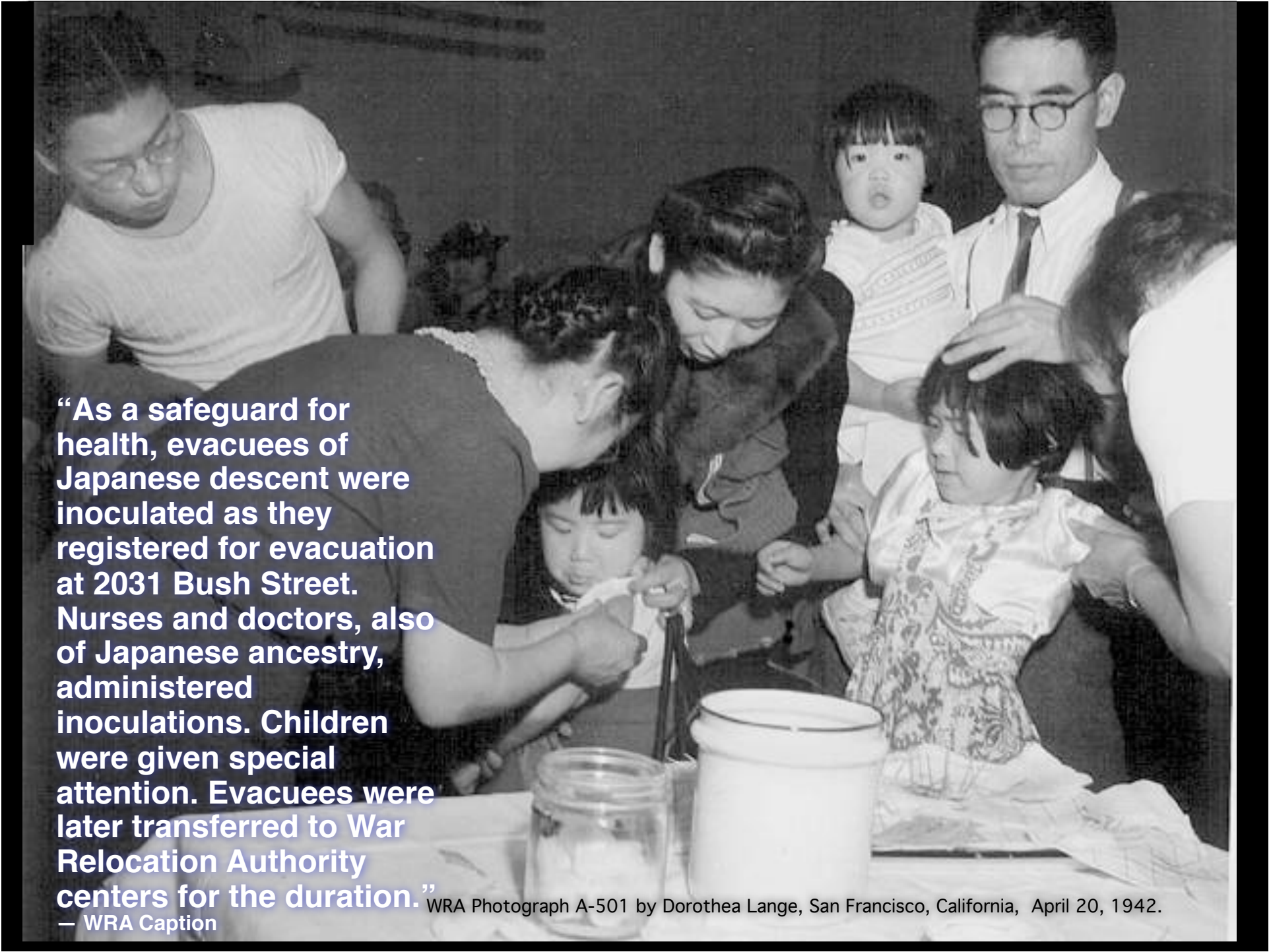
“As a safeguard for health, evacuees of Japanese descent were inoculated as they registered for evacuation at 2031 Bush Street. Nurses and doctors, also of Japanese ancestry, administered inoculations. Evacuees were later transferred to War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.” — WRA Caption

WRA Photograph A-500 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 20, 1942.



“As a safeguard for health, evacuees of Japanese descent were inoculated as they registered for evacuation at 2031 Bush Street. Nurses and doctors, also of Japanese ancestry, administered inoculations. Evacuees were later transferred to War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.” — WRA Caption

WRA Photograph A-503 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 20, 1942.



“As a safeguard for health, evacuees of Japanese descent were inoculated as they registered for evacuation at 2031 Bush Street. Nurses and doctors, also of Japanese ancestry, administered inoculations. Children were given special attention. Evacuees were later transferred to War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.”

— WRA Caption

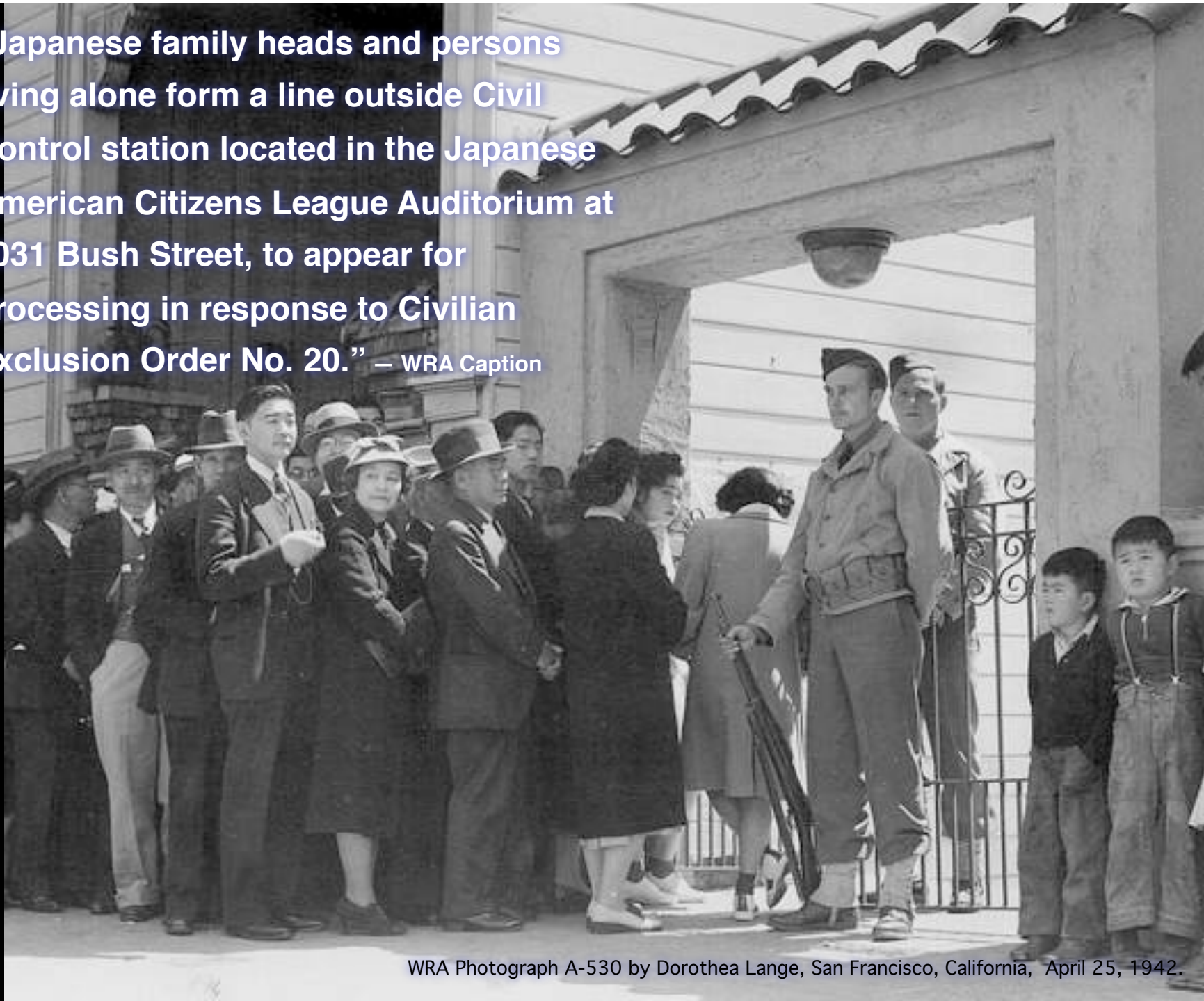
WRA Photograph A-501 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 20, 1942.



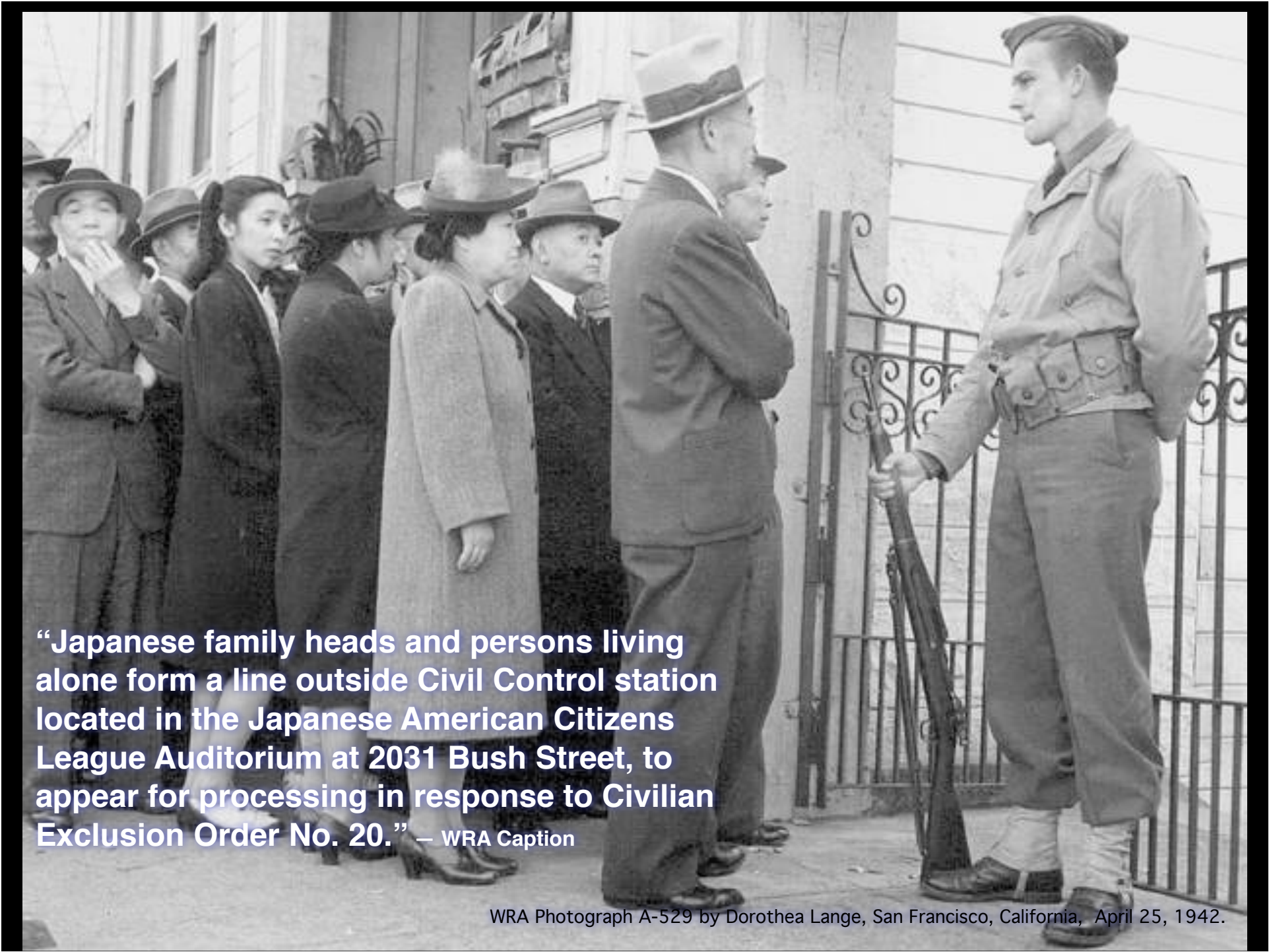
“Residents of Japanese ancestry appear for registration prior to evacuation. Evacuees will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.” — WRA Caption

WRA Photograph A-572 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 25, 1942.

“Japanese family heads and persons living alone form a line outside Civil Control station located in the Japanese American Citizens League Auditorium at 2031 Bush Street, to appear for processing in response to Civilian Exclusion Order No. 20.” — WRA Caption



WRA Photograph A-530 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 25, 1942.

A black and white photograph capturing a somber scene outside a Civil Control station. A line of Japanese American citizens, including men, women, and children, stands patiently. They are dressed in mid-20th-century attire, such as suits, coats, and hats. In the foreground, a young man in a military uniform stands at attention, holding a rifle. The background shows the building's facade and a decorative metal fence.

“Japanese family heads and persons living alone form a line outside Civil Control station located in the Japanese American Citizens League Auditorium at 2031 Bush Street, to appear for processing in response to Civilian Exclusion Order No. 20.” — WRA Caption

WRA Photograph A-529 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 25, 1942.



“The residents of Japanese ancestry appear at 2031 Bush Street, for information on evacuation. Evacuees will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.” — WRA Caption

WRA Photograph A-575 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 25, 1942.



“Mike Masaoka (second from left), national secretary and field executive of Japanese American Citizens League, and a group of friends chat before evacuation of residents of Japanese ancestry. Evacuees will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.”


— WRA Caption

WRA Photograph A-563 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 25, 1942.

“Dave Tatsuno, president of the Japanese American Citizens League of San Francisco, re-reads college notes as he packs for evacuation. Tatsuno (holding son, above) was graduated from the University of California in 1936. He was born in this country. His father operated drygoods business in San Francisco for 40 years. Evacuees of Japanese ancestry will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.” — WRA Caption



WRA Photograph A-568 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 13, 1942.



“... photograph shows a family being checked into the bus by an official. The onlooker (with glasses) is a representative of the Federal Reserve Bank who has for weeks been assisting and advising families of this area as to the disposition of their property.” –

WRA Caption

WRA Photograph C-418 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 29, 1942.



“... This photograph shows a family about to get on a bus. The little boy in the new cowboy hat is having his identification tag checked by an official before boarding.” — WRA Caption

WRA Photograph C-417 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 29, 1942.

**“San Francisco, Calif.—
High school boys, on
balcony of Japanese
American Citizens League
at 2031 Bush Street, look
down the sidewalk where
friends boarded
evacuation buses.
Evacuees of Japanese
ancestry will be housed in
War Relocation Authority
centers for the duration.”**

— WRA Caption



WRA Photograph A-501 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 29, 1942.

**“Friends and neighbors
congregate to bid
farewell, though not for
long, to their friends
who are en route to the
Tanforan Assembly
Center. They, them-
selves, will be evac-
uated within three days.**

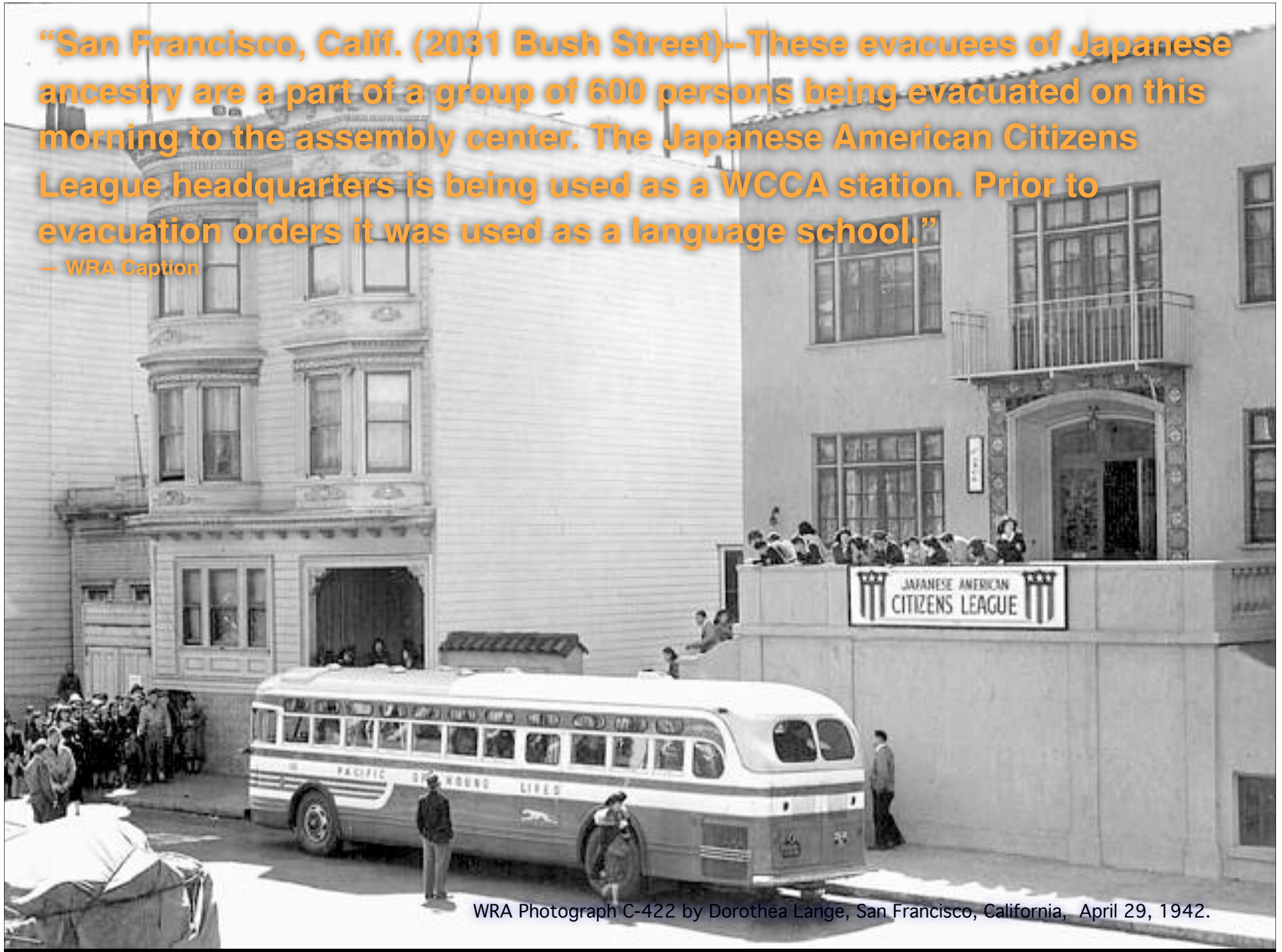
— WRA Caption



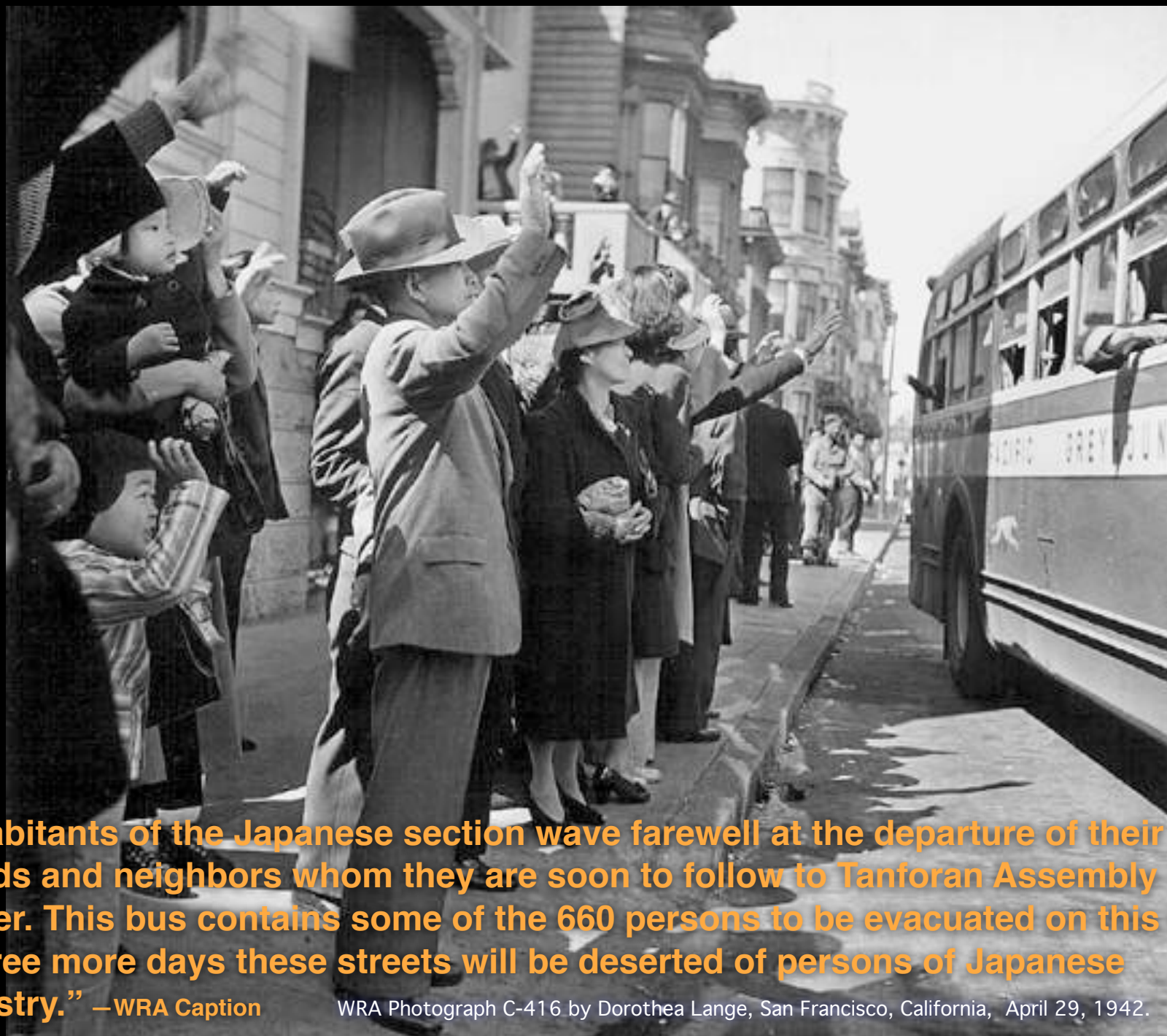
WRA Photograph C-422 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 29, 1942.

“San Francisco, Calif. (2031 Bush Street)--These evacuees of Japanese ancestry are a part of a group of 600 persons being evacuated on this morning to the assembly center. The Japanese American Citizens League headquarters is being used as a WCCA station. Prior to evacuation orders it was used as a language school.”

— WRA Caption



WRA Photograph C-422 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 29, 1942.



“Inhabitants of the Japanese section wave farewell at the departure of their friends and neighbors whom they are soon to follow to Tanforan Assembly Center. This bus contains some of the 660 persons to be evacuated on this day. In three more days these streets will be deserted of persons of Japanese ancestry.” —WRA Caption

WRA Photograph C-416 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 29, 1942.



WRA Photograph C-177 by Dorothea Lange, San Francisco, California, April 29, 1942.

Prepared by
the Museum of the City of San Francisco

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