

On March 10th, 1942 - 6 p.m. - received word from a friend that notice had come that all Nationals must go to Road Camp.

Had a boat building establishment with two fishing boats under contract - these were only partly finished. Had to leave this work to my two sons to complete. No consideration whatsoever was given - all Nationals had to leave - regardless of any reasons.

We were told to leave the "protected area" so applied for the family's transfer to Smithers, B.C. Which was not in the "protected area". However, this request was rejected. No reason given.

Left March 12th, 1942 with other Nationals. Family could not see me off due to curfew regulations imposed upon the Japanese.

Prince Rupert, B.C.

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Kumetaro TSUMURA

Father was sent to Road Camp March 12th, 1942. The rest of us left Prince Rupert on March 21st, by train. The last few days were hectic ones - stayed up to half the night getting everything in order. We were told that only one clothes bag and one suitcase could be taken for each individual, therefore, stored the rest of our goods in the Japanese Hall - did not have time to crate these properly.

On the train we had but two meals a day but this was supplemented with our lunches that we had packed previously at home. No berths - had to sleep in a sitting position. Train was stuffy since the weather was cold no windows were allowed open. On the last day we had our last meal at 8 a.m. - being told that we would arrive at our destination at 1 o'clock - so we threw away our stale lunches, which we had previously packed from home. We did not reach Vancouver until six o'clock that evening (March 23rd) so dug up our stale lunches. Had to wait for hours before R.C.M.P. rounded us up and checked our baggage. Around nine o'clock we had our first meal in a mess-hall in the Park which consisted of a few pieces of balogna. Hastings Park was unorganized at this time. The toilet facilities were very poor - a line of hastily constructed toilets with no partitions whatsoever, had to sit back to back with one another! It was really a barn - with horse dung littered all over. We slept on a paliasse right on the concrete floor - in the corner was hay with white worms crawling all over. After many protests we were finally moved into a cubicle. The first few weeks it was very cold in there but later on when the heaters were installed we could not sleep because the room was so stuffy.

Prince Rupert, B.C.

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S. TSUMURA