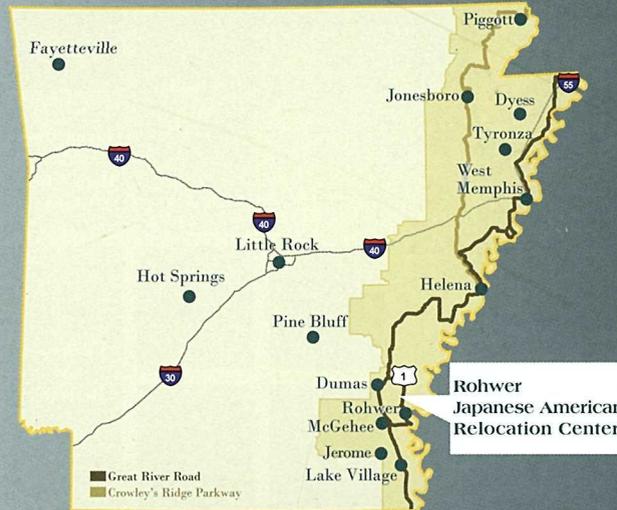


The Rohwer Memorial Cemetery as it looked in June 1944.

War hysteria, racial prejudice, and failure of political leadership led to the forced removal of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast. One third of those removed were foreign-born, called Issei. Many were more than 50 years old and prohibited from becoming American citizens. The remaining two-thirds were American born citizens, called Nisei; most were under 21 years old. These Americans left their entire lives behind, including jobs, possessions, and community.

“Let’s teach (our children) that even in a life such as this, our hearts do not despair, that, although we left behind many material things, we did not leave our courage, our fortitude, and our ability to do the best with the least.”

-Sam Nakamoto, Nisei Rohwer internee, excerpt from “Life is what we make it,” Inside View Japanese American Evacuee Center, Rohwer, Arkansas 1941-45



This site is a key Delta Destination in the 15-county Arkansas Delta Byways tourism region.
DeltaByways.com



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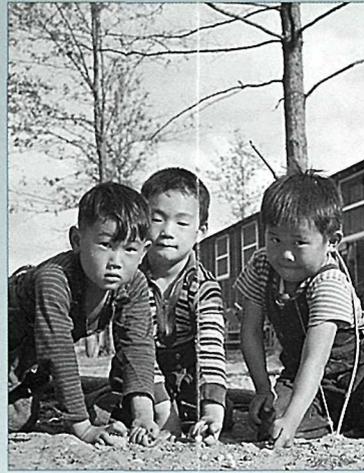
All images courtesy of the National Archives, unless otherwise noted.

ROHWER JAPANESE AMERICAN RELOCATION CENTER



HISTORIC CAMP MAP

In 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the federal government forced Japanese American citizens to leave the West Coast, supposedly for reasons of national security. They left homes, businesses, and communities and were imprisoned in camps such as this one at Rohwer.



The Rohwer internment camp was located in Desha County, Arkansas because a large parcel of federally owned land was situated away from populated areas and near a railway. At Rohwer, about 8,000 Japanese Americans inhabited

500 acres at one time. They were watched by armed guards from towers linked together by a barbed wire fence. Some internees died while in the camp. Carved stones in the Memorial Cemetery mark the final resting places of both young and old.

