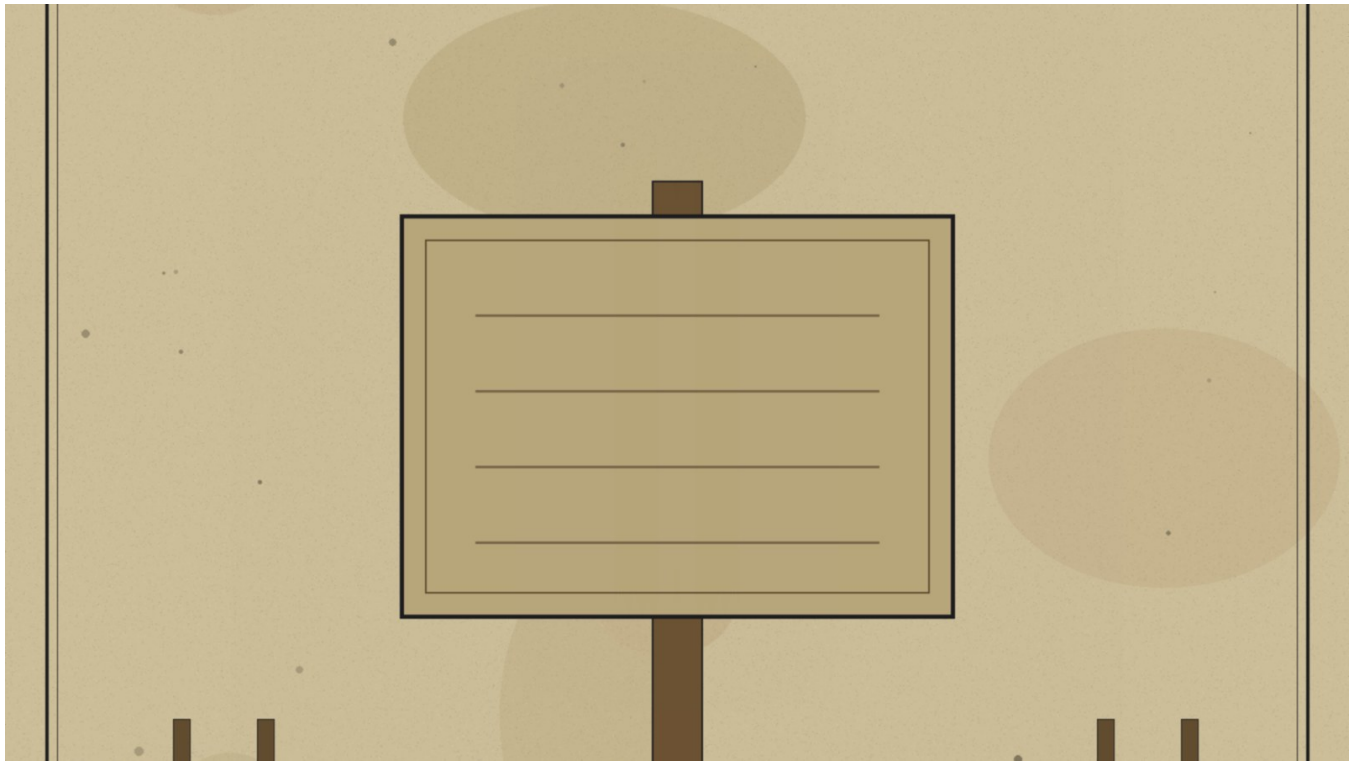




When a Paper on a Post Ordered Bainbridge Island Families to Leave

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Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1 — backed by EO 9066 in the Federal Register — told Japanese American residents on Bainbridge Island to leave a military area in 1942.

Public notice is not always a hearing about a park bond. Sometimes it is a sheet of paper on a wooden post that tells families they must leave their homes.

In 1942, that is what happened on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound, Washington. Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1 — issued under authority flowing from Executive Order 9066 — required persons of Japanese ancestry on the island to leave by a short deadline. The order gave instructions for reporting and warned of penalties for noncompliance. Military police and local officials posted the order as a public notice. A Library of Congress photograph shows MPs posting Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1 on Bainbridge Island. That image is one of the clearest visual records of notice as force.

This paper studies those papers without softening what they did to Japanese American communities. It also refuses invented quotes and partisan cosplay. The goal is notice literacy at the hardest edge: how presidential war-powers text in the Federal Register became a geographic order on a pole.

Discussed on X by @NoticeNearYou: <https://x.com/NoticeNearYou/status/2105697697965699409>

What Executive Order 9066 put into the federal mailbox

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. It was published in the Federal Register on February 25, 1942, at 7 FR 1407. The GovInfo PDF of that Federal Register issue preserves the publication context.

EO 9066 authorized the Secretary of War and designated military commanders to prescribe military areas from which “any or all persons” might be excluded. In form, it was a war-powers order published through the Register system that had begun with Volume 1 in 1936. In effect, it created the legal umbrella for the civilian exclusion orders that followed.

Naming Roosevelt here is institutional history. The order came from the presidency during World War II. Readers can and do argue about judgment, racism, military claims, and later redress. The notice facts remain: the order was signed, published, and then implemented through area commands.

What Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1 told Bainbridge residents

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1, dated March 24, 1942, was the first area order under that system. It focused on Bainbridge Island. Persons of Japanese ancestry were required to leave the designated military area by a short deadline. The order told people how to report and what noncompliance could bring.

Calisphere and Densho-related scans preserve the look of the Bainbridge order as a physical posted text. The National Archives’ research overviews on mass removal and incarceration place the island’s expulsion in the wider West Coast sequence that followed.

Two layers of notice worked together:

1. Federal Register publication of EO 9066 made the presidential authority official in the national gazette.
2. Local posting of Exclusion Order No. 1 made the duty personal, geographic, and immediate.

A paper on a post changed whole communities.

Who stood in the chain of implementation

- Franklin D. Roosevelt, President — EO 9066.
- The Secretary of War and Western Defense Command / military commanders who issued Civilian Exclusion Orders.
- Military police and local officials who posted Order No. 1.
- Bainbridge Island Japanese American residents subject to the order — citizens and non-citizens alike caught in ancestry-based exclusion.
- The Office of the Federal Register — publication channel for the executive order.

Every link matters. Without the Register text, later orders lack the published presidential umbrella. Without the local poster, the umbrella stays abstract. Without the people forced to move, the paperwork’s human cost disappears from view.

Why this is the hardest edge of notice practice

Bond notices ask for money authorization. Hearing notices ask for comments. Draft proclamations demand registration. Exclusion posters demanded departure from home on a wartime clock.

The form still looks like “public notice”: posted text, official header, deadline, penalty language. The substance was mass removal that led into incarceration pathways documented by the National Archives and community memory projects.

Studying the form helps explain why notice, due process, and later redress matter. It does not convert the poster into a neutral civic celebration. The lesson is cautionary: publication can make injustice efficient.

Efficiency is not the same as justice. A clearly posted unjust order can still be unjust. Clarity simply removes the excuse that nobody could find the command.

Federal Register path meets the fence post

This historic set began with Federal Register Volume 1, Number 1 in 1936 — the permanent federal mailbox. Six years later, EO 9066 used that mailbox. Days after Register publication, area commanders translated authority into local exclusion orders. Bainbridge was first.

That sequence is why institutional notice history is not trivia. Mailboxes carry whatever the government files. Civic work includes building mailboxes and scrutinizing what officials put inside them — and what soldiers nail to posts afterward.

How to read exclusion orders without soft focus or exploitation

Guardrails for writers and teachers:

- Use archive photographs and scans; do not fake illegible body text in decorative art.
- Name ancestry-based targeting plainly.
- Include redress and historical reckoning as part of the longer American story without pretending 1942 readers already had 1980s language.
- Avoid turning trauma into clickbait montage.
- Point to NARA, LOC, GovInfo, and community archives (including Densho-related collections) for primary evidence.

Respect means accuracy plus restraint.

What later redress teaches notice readers

Decades afterward, the United States formally confronted the injustice of mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans — through historical commission work, legislation, and apology language that belongs to that later record. For a notice paper, the key bridge is this: posted wartime orders are not self-justifying. Later public law can judge them.

That is one reason preserving the posters and Register pages matters. Without the public record, redress debates float. With the record, a nation can say: this is what was ordered, this is how it was posted, this is what it did.

Bridge to modern emergency geography

Modern readers still meet geographic emergency rules: evacuation zones, cordons, quarantine orders, base security perimeters. Most are not ancestry-based exclusion. All deserve the Bainbridge questions:

- What authority?
- Where published?
- Who is covered?

- How short is the deadline?
- What are the penalties?
- How do ordinary people get the text in time to comply or to challenge?

A short deadline plus a posted-only theory of notice is a due-process stress test. Bainbridge is the stress test Americans should not forget.

Short deadlines are a design choice

Exclusion Order No. 1 did not invite a leisurely comment period. It imposed a short departure clock. Short deadlines maximize compliance pressure and minimize organized legal resistance on the ground.

When you evaluate any emergency notice today, measure the clock. A seventy-two-hour departure order is a different civic object than a thirty-day hearing notice. Both may be “posted.” Only one is built like a shove.

Ancestry lines on a public sheet

The order targeted persons of Japanese ancestry. Citizenship status did not erase the ancestry criterion for those swept in. That fact is central. A notice that sorts people by ancestry for removal is not a routine land-use flyer.

Public-notice analysis must say so without euphemism. Euphemism is how hard orders get remembered as paperwork weather.

Posting as theater and as proof

Photographs of MPs posting orders do documentary work. They show uniforms, poles, paper, and public space. They also became evidence for later history: the government did not merely “suggest” relocation in a private letter. It posted.

Theater and proof can coexist. The state needed visible authority. Historians later needed visible artifacts. Residents needed to know the command was real. All three meet at the post.

Bainbridge as first — then a cascade

Being first mattered. Bainbridge Island’s Japanese American community became the opening case in a sequence of West Coast exclusion orders. First does not mean smallest harm. It means the template hardened in public earlier.

Cascades are a notice pattern: one order teaches agencies and publics what the next order will look like. Watching the first poster was watching the system declare its method.

What “any or all persons” did inside EO 9066

The executive order’s broad exclusion authority — “any or all persons” from military areas — was the elastic clause. Area commanders then filled the elasticity with ancestry-targeted civilian exclusion orders.

Broad authority plus specific local orders is a recurring emergency pattern. Readers should inspect both layers. The Register layer shows the umbrella. The poster layer shows who got wet.

Redress, archives, and why the papers must remain findable

Community memory, archival collections, and later federal reckoning all depend on being able to find the orders and the Register pages. Taking down hard history does not protect the vulnerable. It protects the next hard order from comparison.

Notice Nearby's job in this paper is modest: keep the exclusion notice readable as notice — authority, posting, deadline, targets, penalties — so citizens recognize the pattern if it ever tries to wear friendlier clothes.

Companion reading inside this historic series

Start with Federal Register Volume 1 (1936) to see the mailbox built. Then read EO 9066's 1942 Register publication as mail in that box. Then stand at the Bainbridge post with Exclusion Order No. 1. The trilogy is the point: infrastructure, umbrella authority, local posted command.

Also keep Selective Service 1917 nearby. Both are wartime publication systems with teeth. One demanded registration nationwide. One demanded departure from a named island community by ancestry. Comparing them without flattening them is adult history.

Practical checklist if you ever see a sudden geographic exclusion notice

1. Capture a photo of the posted text and note time and place.
2. Find the higher authority cited (statute, executive order, military proclamation).
3. Find the official publication channel (Register, gazette, newspaper, base bulletin).
4. Identify who is covered in exact words.
5. Calendar the deadline immediately.
6. Seek legal help fast when rights, housing, or liberty are at stake.
7. Preserve copies for later accountability — personal and public.

That checklist is not legal advice. It is emergency literacy learned the hard way from archives like Bainbridge.

Closing: a paper on a post

In 1942, posted Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1 — backed by EO 9066 in the Federal Register — told Japanese American residents of Bainbridge Island to leave a military area. MPs put the paper up. Families had to move.

A paper on a post changed whole communities. Studying that notice is how we keep public-notice vocabulary honest: the same civic technology that can announce a budget hearing can also announce an expulsion. The difference is law, purpose, and the courage to judge the result.

Discussed on @NoticeNearYou: <https://x.com/NoticeNearYou/status/2105697697965699409>

Notes

- Sources: Federal Register EO 9066 / 7 FR 1407; GovInfo FR-1942-02-25 PDF; LOC photo of MPs posting Order No. 1; NARA incarceration research overview; Calisphere/Densho-related Bainbridge order scan.
- Author: Ryan Standley / Record of Sale, LLC / Notice Nearby.
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- Not legal advice. Not a newspaper. Not Legal Publication. Record of Sale, LLC (Oregon).

Historic public-notice series: [Federal Register Vol. 1](/papers/federal-register-volume-one-1936) · [Homestead Act](/papers/homestead-act-public-notice-1862) · [Ona Judge Gazette ad](/papers/ona-judge-gazette-advertisement-1796) · [Emancipation Proclamation](/papers/emancipation-proclamation-public-notice-1863) · [Selective Service 1917](/papers/selective-service-proclamation-1917).

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noticenearby.com/papers/civilian-exclusion-order-bainbridge-1942