

## Japs Traded Food Hoards For Whisky, Dies Group Told

By the Associated Press

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Los Angeles, June 17.—Testimony of secret hoards of food stocks, some of which he said he believed had been traded by Japanese for whisky and chickens, was given a Dies Congressional Subcommittee by a former employe of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming.

Earl A. Best, a wounded veteran of Dunkerque who said his son, Clifford, was killed in Africa last January, told the committee yesterday he was sent to Heart Mountain last December as an associate steward after having served for a time as chief steward at the Poston (Ariz.) Relocation Center.

During a month-long inventory of food at the Heart Mountain camp, Best said, he found 36 of the center's 42 kitchens had supplies hidden in their attics.

In one of them, he declared, a Japanese cook showed him secret pantries reached by sliding doors in the kitchen walls, one of them about 5 by 15 feet in size and piled to the ceiling with foodstuffs.

He notified the project director

about the secret storerooms, he added, but no action was taken.

"At one time while I was there, there were 10,000 gallons of mayonnaise, when they were using only 600 gallons a month," Best testified. "Much of this supply had gone back to oil.

"There was a 65-months supply of corn meal. There was a five-year supply of canned tomatoes, at the rate they were using them, but on the ration point system there was enough for eight years."

Expressing the belief that "it was a case of their wanting to steal it and trade it for whisky and other things," Best declared he had heard from Japanese at the camp that a chef was trading hams for whisky with Japanese soldiers from the United States Army who visited the camp on furlough.

He said the garbage collector was selling chickens to the Japanese and that many of the kitchens had as much as 200 to 300 pounds of chickens on hand. No money was ever seen to change hands in such transactions, Best added.