To be released from San Francisco, June 8, 1944

From the Pacific Citizen

A Japanese-American volunteer from a WRA center is today fighting in the India-Burma theater as a member of the U. S. Army's First Air Commando Group, according to an Army-censored dispatch to the Pacific Citizen from somewhere in India. The soldier is Staff Sgt. Tom Taketa, who volunteered for the Army in 1942 from the Tule Lake relocation center. Following is the Army-censored dispatch from Staff Sgt. Taketa of the First Air Commando Group.

The First Air Commando group--that name would strike a familiar chord in your mind. Surely you've read about the great doings of this outfit. I don't know what the newspapers have said about the First Air Commando Group and its undertakings, but whatever was written must have made good reading material. I may be prejudiced because I happen to be one of its members, the only nisei with this group, but I assure you that whatever I say about this outfit is with the deepest sincerity and is shared by each and every one of us. A year and a half ago I was one of the evacuees in Tule, and little did I realize at the time of my enlistment that I would be fortunate enough to join an outfit like the one I am in now. Our old man, the C. O. (incidentally, he isn't very old and is in his thirties) is a hard-fighting leader. He's a go-getter and that's one of the main reasons we've accomplished so much in such a short time. Our men are taking the war to the enemy and I'm more than certain that the enemy is feeling the might of our punches. I know it may sound incredible when I say that we're fighting a war of our own, but that's exactly what we're doing, that is, with as much free-wheeling as we're allowed. If we had more outfits like our's over here, I for one am certain that this bloody mess could be put on the shelf in short order. But as it is, ours is a special outfit for a special purpose, made up of hand-picked men. Cooperation among the personnel was an important factor which contributed largely towards making its main objectives such a success. Yes, we've accomplished the main part of our assignment, but that does not mean we can pack up and go home. We've just begun and we still have a long, hard struggle ahead.

Department of the Interior
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The rescission of the Western Defense Command's exclusion order makes no change in the program of the War Relocation Authority in relocating American Japanese according to R. B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of WRA.

"Where in the past the Western Defense Command and the Department of Justice determined which persons of Japanese ancestry were excluded from the West Coast or who were subject to detention, the responsibility will rest solely with the Department of Justice hereafter," said Cozzens.

"Those who are not detained by the Department of Justice are free to relocate in any section of the United States, and it is the duty of the War Relocation Authority to assist those who have not been detained in re-establishing themselves in normal community life.

"Whatever the future holds for those who are detained will be a determination of the Department of Justice.

"In the meantime the War Relocation Authority will assist in finding homes and employment for approximately 45,000 still in the centers, many thousands of whom are members of the families of the 20,000 American Japanese veterans in the United States Army.

"More than three-quarters of the persons in Tule Lake Segregation Center have no detention orders against them."

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Bldg.
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

[Press release]

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ISSUED BY MAJOR GENERAL H. C. PRATT, COMMANDING GENERAL, WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND, DEC. 17, 1944 SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH PUBLIC PROCLAMATION NO. 21.

Every American has been pleased to note the steady improvement in our military situation in the Pacific during the past year. The improvement is so great that an invasion of the West Coast on a large scale is only remotely possible. On the other hand, it is still possible for the enemy to send minor forces to our shores. Commando type raids by small submarine borne units, attacks by parachute units of limited size and airborne attacks on a small scale are still possible. Appropriate measures must be continued to guard against such action. Similarly, sabotage and espionage are definitely within the capabilities of the enemy. In fact, these two types of enemy action must be particularly guarded against.

When the military situation was not as favorable as it is at the present time, it was necessary to exclude all persons of Japanese ancestry from the sensitive areas of the West Coast. The action taken at that time was based solely on military considerations and was made necessary largely due to the fact that there was little or no information concerning persons of Japanese ancestry.

During the last two years a vast quantity of information pertaining to the history and activities of all persons of Japanese ancestry, both citizens and aliens, has been assembled. This material has been the subject of exhaustive study and as a result it is now possible to consider persons of Japanese ancestry on an individual basis rather than consider them as a group as has been necessary in the past.

I consider it of great importance that the people of the West Coast understand and appreciate that the most careful scrutiny of the vast amount of information now available has led to the conclusion that the great majority of Japanese-Americans have severed all connections with Japan and are prepared to assume all the responsibilities of their situation as Americans.

However, this same scrutiny has clearly revealed that there are still a considerable number of persons of Japanese ancestry, both in the citizen and in the alien group, who continue to give their loyalty to Japan, who do not wish to be Americans and who are willing to sacrifice themselves to advance the interests of Japan. Military necessity requires that such individuals shall continue to be excluded and that those requiring control shall be adequately controlled.

I am sure that all our citizens clearly understand that such authority as the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command may have is based solely on military considerations and that any authority over civilians can be exercised only when military necessity justifies it.

In view of the improved military situation, the availability of individual data and the fact that the existing military necessity does not justify control over American citizens who have been determined not to be potentially dangerous, it is apparent that the logical and proper course is to terminate mass exclusion based solely on ancestry and to substitute for it a system which, while continuing to exclude and control those individuals who still remain loyal to Japan and are considered to be potentially dangerous to the military security of the West Coast, will restore full liberty of action to all those who have been cleared by the Army.

(More)

General Pratt's Statement.

To make effective this change of policy, Public Proclamation No. 21 is being issued today. It becomes effective at midnight 2 January 1945.

The fact that those who are to be permitted full freedom of action, including the privilege of returning to the West Coast, have been cleared by the military and that those who are potentially dangerous will continue to be excluded should reassure any who may question the adoption of the new program.

It is my sincere hope that the return of those persons of Japanese ancestry who choose to come back to the coastal areas may be accomplished without undue incident. I am confident that the fine American citizens of the West Coast will realize that the present is not the proper time for internal controversy.

It is realized that the inauguration of the modified exclusion program must be accomplished in such a way as to take into consideration existing housing shortages and available employment. It is expected that the program will be carried out gradually and that every effort will be made to disrupt existing conditions as little as possible. I feel sure that when the people of the West Coast realize that those persons who are permitted to return have been cleared by Army authorities that they will accord them the consideration to which they are entitled as law-abiding residents.

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
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RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION ANY TIME AFTER 9:00 AM EWT, Monday, December 18, 1944.

Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes today issued the following statement:

"The Western Defense Command's action in revoking the blanket exclusion order for persons of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific Coast means in a simpler (?) term that the War Relocation Authority will immediately expand its relocation program to cover the entire country, including the West Coast. It most definitely does not mean that there will be a hasty mass movement of all evacuees back into the coastal area. The War Relocation Authority will continue and intensify its efforts to relocate in parts of the country other than the West Coast those loyal and law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry who are willing to participate in this program. It will also aid those who prefer to exercise their legal and moral rights to return to the West Coast.

"The persons who are eligible for relocation or return to the West Coast have been found by the Army authorities to be loyal citizens or law-abiding aliens. They are entitled to their full constitutional and legal rights and perhaps to something more than ordinary consideration because they have really suffered as a direct result of the War. In a real sense, these people, too, were drafted by their Country. They were uprooted from their homes, substantially deprived of an opportunity to lead a normal life. They are casualties of war.

"It is the responsibility of every American worthy of citizenship in this great nation to do everything that he can to make easier the return to normal life of these people who have been cleared by the Army authorities. By our conduct toward them we will be judged by all people of the world.

I call upon state and local officials throughout the Country and especially on the West Coast and on public and private agencies to assist in the enormous task of returning these people to ordinary community life. I believe that the response will be enthusiastic and whole hearted and I particularly hope that we may see veterans' organizations, like the American Legion, church and welfare groups in the forefront of those who will consider it their responsibility to aid these people and by so doing to show their devotion to the American principles of charity, justice and democracy.

All the evidence available at the Relocation Centers indicates that the majority of the evacuee residents have not yet finally decided whether to return to their former homes or relocate elsewhere and that most of those who will eventually elect to go back will need considerable time in making necessary arrangements before they can actually leave the Centers. The War Relocation Authority is now formulating detailed plans for keeping the westward relocation movement on a gradual, orderly, systematic basis.

People of Japanese ancestry, both at the relocation centers and elsewhere who have been found eligible by the Western Defense Command for residence in the West Coast area are of course free to go back at any time. However, only those whose specific plans for resettlement in the evacuated area are approved by WRA will be eligible for the travel assistance which the Authority now extends to those relocating in other parts of the country. This includes the payment of rail or bus fare to the point of relocation, and transportation of personal properties such as household furnishings.

Statement issued by Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes.

Since most of the evacuees at the relocation centers have had little opportunity to accumulate savings over the past 2½ years they will doubtless need such assistance. Only a few evacuees, therefore, are expected to leave the Centers either for the West Coast or any other destination without first having their plans checked and approved by WRA.

In view of the fact that evacuees were moved from their homes in 1942 by governmental order, the War Relocation Authority will make assistance available to those evacuees, both at the centers and previously relocated who now have urgent reasons and sound plans for returning to the West Coast area. Simultaneously, however, the Authority will continue and intensify its efforts to relocate evacuees in other sections. One of the major WRA aims, from the beginning, has been to encourage the widest possible dispersal of evacuees throughout the nation and this will continue as a prime objective during the final phase of the program.

Of the 110,000 people of Japanese descent originally evacuated, more than 35,000 have now relocated under WRA procedures outside the West Coast area. This includes nearly 70% of the American citizen evacuees beyond the age of 17 who have been eligible for relocation. It also takes in nearly 2,500 Japanese-Americans who have been inducted into the Army of the United States from relocation centers. The great majority of the 35,000 relocated evacuees have become satisfactorily adjusted in their new locations and will possibly want to stay where they are. Many of them, in fact, will doubtless now make arrangements for having their parents and other family members still at the centers come out and rejoin them at their new home.

The mass exclusion order is revoked and the great majority of evacuees are free to establish residence anywhere in the United States. The War Relocation Authority will now work toward an early liquidation of the relocation centers which were established originally for the temporary maintenance of a dislocated people. No center will be closed in less than six months but it is anticipated that all will be closed within a year. Funds have been provided to the Federal Security Agency for public assistance to the state and local welfare agencies for those evacuees who are incapable of self-support.

As the War Relocation Authority enters the final phase of its program, its immediate aims, as always, will be to restore the loyal and law-abiding evacuees of Japanese descent to a normal American environment, to relieve local manpower shortages and to cut down government expenditures for the maintenance of a displaced segment of the population. Its long range objective will be to bring about a better economic adjustment and a more satisfactory nationwide distribution of a minority group which was doubtless too heavily concentrated before the war in one particular section of the country.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
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RELEASE MAY 7 AND THEREAFTER

(In his column in the Pacific Citizen, Salt Lake City, Evacuee Bill Hosokawa, now a reporter on the Des Moines Register, tells a story of his cousin, Sgt. Ken Omura, who died in the Pacific war against Japan. Omura was an Alaskan cannery worker, a member of the Alaskan Cannery Workers Union, CIO).

BY BILL HOSOKAWA

SALT LAKE CITY, May 6--The telegram was short and simple, like most important messages.

It read: "The secretary of war asks that I assure you of his deep sympathy in the loss of your cousin, Technician Third Grade, Ken Omura. Report received states that he died nineteen March in New Guinea as a result of drowning. Letter follows." It was signed: "Ulio the adjutant general."

We have not learned yet the circumstances of his death. He may have been swept overboard in a tropical storm. He might have been torpedoed, although that sounds remote. Possibly he was out swimming to escape the heat and somehow lost his life.

In that case it was a tragic, futile death. We say futile, so far as he himself was concerned, because he wanted desperately to see the war won. He would not have hesitated to give his life in action if need be. But too, he wanted to live and come home to the things he was fighting for.

We write about Ken Omura today not because of blood kinship. We write because Ken was a nisei, and his story is of interest to nisei. We write because his reactions, his outlook, his dreams were so typical of the nisei G.I. Joe. We write because while many nisei have given their lives on other battlefronts, Ken was the first to go in the southwest Pacific where the Jap is a

hateful thing and where the fighting is bestial and primitive.

There is a certain negative distinction about the first, and we write because it's the least we can do to rmember him.

If it had been willed that some nisei had to die in the treacherously beautiful south Pacific isles, it was just as well that Ken had to be the one. For he lost his mother as a young child, his father a short while before his induction. He had lost all track of his sister, and, so far as we are aware, he had no girl with whom to look into the future. We were next of kin.

Ken was a Kibei. They took him to Japan soon after his mother died, and he didn't get back over here until he was about 14. He was a wizened little fellow then, malnourished with the mark of the hungry,crowded little islands on him. For a long time he preferred Japanese fiction magazines over anything else.

But in time he grew and lost his pallor. He learned to speak English and went through high school. He became a baseball player of more than ordinary skill. He shunned the Kibei--he wanted to be an American.

The draft took him before Pearl Harbor, and he thought it great fun when he was assigned to an artillery company. He was ambitious, and he hadhis eyes on advancement.

After Pearl Harbor he went through the futile anger, then the heartache of being held suspect, of being refused a chance, an experience so familiar to all nisei soldiers. They took him out of the artillery and lined him up with a half hundred other nisei. They counted off, one-two, one-two.

The evens got hospital detail. The odds were yardbirds, policing the grounds, digging drainage ditches, landscaping army posts. That was his job, he didn't like it, and he learned to goldbrick, to loaf whenever he could.

But he volunteered for special service, and that was his chance for the Japanese tongue was still familiar. Late in 1942 he went overseas.

Last Christmas Eve Ken got his orders. He wrote: "The old man called a few of us in to his office, grasped our hands firmly, gazed straight into our almond eyes, and said:"Good luck. God bless you all. Do your best, gentlemen." Though puzzled and confused we gave him a snappy salute, returned to our tasks, and waited in suspense until 1430 hours, when we were informed of our departure time, destination unknown."

Soon afterward he wrote of spending a month on a lonely south sea island, then moving up to New Guinea where he picked up a yellowish tint from having to take atabrine pills. "Everyone is buzzing about an 18 months overseas limitation law. If I'm lucky, I may be home by next Christmas, but I'm not counting on it too much."

His last letters carried this paragraph:

"I'm enjoying this life. Undoubtedly I will be having a lot of fun and excitement. The Japs definitely are on the run. It may be much sooner than we anticipate before this whole mess is cleared up. I may be seeing you before long. I've got my fingers crossed."

The promised War Department letter has come, but it has shed no light on the circumstances of the death. Perhaps there is a letter on its way from one of his buddies, to tell us of Ken's last struggle. And perhaps we will never know how he died. These are the fortunes of war.

But we do know that Ken would not have wanted us to mourn. He died, whether directly or indirectly, engaged in a war to the finish against the country in which he gained much of his education. He died as an American soldier, in the defense of noble ideals.

It is not easy to write of death. Death has become almost commonplace in a world where suffering, cruelty, savagery and hate are now part and parcel of life. But, still, when death strikes close to one, the unchanging heartache is still there, and the loss of one life among many becomes a poignant tragedy instead of a statistic.

Ken left a job unfinished. If he shrank from death, it was more in the knowledge that there was so much left to be done than in the fear of death itself.

It is for us who remain to see that the unfinished tasks are completed. It is the least we can do.

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Mr. Duncan Mills
Project Director
Colorado River Relocation Center

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Mrs Brown

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RELEASE Thursday, May 4

SAN FRANCISCO, May 2, "A polite excuse for a discriminatory policy" is the label placed by an editorial in the Heart Mountain (Wyoming) Sentinel, a Japanese-American Relocation Center publication, in answer to Lt. Col. Harrison A. Gerhardt's explanation of why the War Department does not plan to assign Japanese American soldiers to South Pacific Army units.

Col. Gerhardt's statement declared that if Japanese American soldiers were used in the South Pacific, danger of infiltration of Japanese enemy soldiers in American uniforms would add to the hazards of American forces, while captured Japanese American soldiers would be subjected to more than ordinary cruel punishment by the Japanese enemy.

The Japanese Americans are anxious to fight the Japanese enemy, and asked for service in the Pacific area.

"The danger of infiltration of Japanese soldiers if the nisei are used in other units that are sent to the South Pacific area is cited by Colonel Gerhardt," says the Heart Mountain Sentinel.

"By the same reasoning, it would seem that Italian American soldiers would not be used in the Italian campaign - German American soldiers would not be used against the Germans - Caucasian American officers would not be used in the all-nisei units. The danger of infiltration will be present in any theater of war.

"Colonel Gerhardt points to the special risks of Japanese American soldiers in the South Pacific area if they should be captured by the Japanese.

He said they would be exposed to dangers beyond the normal hazards of war. The Japanese American soldier does not ask to be spared any hazards. War, in all its aspects, is brutal.

"The 'extra hazards' are a small price to pay for the opportunity to discredit the prejudicial statements of Commander Melvin H. McCoy's slur against Americans of Japanese ancestry. When he dishonors our heroes in the 100th Battalion who have given their lives for the United States with a statement, 'They are killing white men. They would just as soon be killing Germans as other white men,' no hazards are so great that we want to be spared them.

"We will continue to be inducted and serve loyally in whatever assignment is given us for we are grateful for the opportunity to serve. However hard it is for us to accept assignment to segregated units, we look upon such limited service as better than no service at all.

"There is no doubt in our minds but what nisei soldiers can and will prove themselves on any front and in any battle theater of the world. It is apparent the War Department still does not wholly understand the nisei - we look to the time when race will not be a reason for segregation."

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Department of the Interior
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Accomplishments of the Y.W.C.A. in helping Japanese-American evacuees from the Pacific Coast to cope with personal and social problems arising from their removal to relocation centers were summed up today in a report from the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. made to Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the War Relocation Authority, Department of the Interior.

Recalling that the Y.W.C.A. dealt with the problems of civilian evacuees in many parts of the world since the outbreak of the present war and long before the United States was drawn into the conflict, the board's progress report tabulates efforts made by the Y.W.C.A. to cope with problems brought about by mass uprooting of both citizens and aliens of Japanese ancestry.

With establishment of relocation centers, staff members of the national board were assigned to survey the situation and determine how the Y.W.C.A. best could serve the evacuees. Conferences were held with Government officials and leaders among the Japanese-Americans.

As a result programs were formulated and put into operation. The program in each center has been directed by Japanese-Americans, most of whom are former Y.W.C.A. secretaries, board and committee members, club members and students.

Particular stress has been laid on meeting the real needs of the women and girls in the centers through recreation, group activities, service work and preparation for resettlement. Problems of family relations, preparations for marriage, juvenile delinquency, etiquette, vocational education have been met. In some instances U.S.O. programs have been organized for visiting service men who return on furlough to visit their families or friends.

In one WRA center, the Y.W.C.A. has equipped a dormitory and a club hall which are used by many groups in the center for discussions, parties, weddings, and meetings of various kinds.

In all centers club rooms have been fully or partially equipped through activities of the Y.W.C.A.

Special projects to promote friendship and understanding between girls inside and outside the relocation centers have been tried with success and a "letter-friend" project arranged for the Girl Reserves now includes 57 Girl Reserve groups in 21 States who correspond with Japanese-American girls in seven centers.

Local Y.W.C.A.s have cooperated in the resettlement of Americans of Japanese ancestry, often employing Japanese-American girls in their offices, residences and food service departments. In addition, Japanese-American men have been employed as maintenance men, thus helping to solve the manpower problem and at the same time affording an opportunity for resettlement. No small part of the success of such resettlement projects is due to the community understanding created through the efforts of the locals.

Says the report:

"The National Board believes that its work in the centers is helping to prepare loyal Japanese for resettlement and that its work through local Y.W.C.A.s is helping prepare communities for the reception of the new residents. The Y.W.C.A. believes that in helping Japanese-American citizens and their families to take their places again in normal community life it is rendering significant service to this nation in the struggle to preserve the values long cherished as the American way of life."

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The United States Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
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San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAR RELOCATION CENTER HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATE 2100 SENIORS in 1944

Approximately 2100 seniors graduated from the relocation center high schools according to figures compiled from the War Relocation Authority center newspapers.

Majority of the centers held their commencement exercises in June. The Colorado River Center at Poston, Arizona led the centers in total graduates with 406. Heart Mountain in Wyoming followed with 301, while Minidoka in Idaho was third largest with 286.

Following is the list of center graduates:

Colorado River Project, Arizona	406
Heart Mountain Project, Wyoming	301
Minidoka Project, Idaho	286
Gila River Project, Arizona	233
Manzanar Project, California	181
Granada Project, Colorado	158
Rohwer Project, Arkansas	154
Jerome Project, Arkansas	138
Central Utah Project, Utah	127
Tule Lake Project, California	121

Handicapped as most of these high schools are by lack of buildings and equipment, they have been able in the past two years to meet the requirements of the states in which they exist. Their graduates are being accepted in

universities and colleges on the outside and in several instances have achieved outstanding records.

Under Selective Service many of the boys are being inducted into the Army immediately after graduation.

Commencement exercises in relocation schools are patterned largely after the schools they left behind in California, Washington and Oregon. There are the baccalaureate sermons on the previous Sunday. A typical program consists of the processional followed by the invocation. Usually "America the Beautiful" is sung by the class or the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played by the school orchestra.

These young people had not forgotten the America which they left two years ago. The commencement speeches of their class representatives show that they have the backbone and the grit to succeed as youth has always done.

The students and their instructors, after an interlude of two years during which they have been severed from much of the outside ties, are still able to look to America's problems with the same broad perspective that all Americans do. They have shown that they are Americans, interested in America's war, her postwar problems, and her place in the family of nations.

In the speeches of these young graduates there was no pessimism or brooding over the past. They all pointed hopefully toward the future.

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POSTON, Arizona, -- "We are not the only ones who have been driven out of our rightful homes," was the declaration of Miss Aileen Asako Oita, valedictorian of Post II High School, Colorado River Relocation Center of the War Relocation Authority.

"We are not the only ones who will have to start out all over again when this war is over. Half of the people in the world will be starting out anew, and theirs would be the more difficult task, for they would have a whole country to rebuild," said the American girl graduate of Japanese ancestry.

Miss Oita, formerly of Watsonville, California, was the third member of her family to be valedictorian of a graduating class. An older brother, Katashi Oita, was valedictorian of Watsonville Union High School in 1941, and another brother, Itsumi, was last year's Poston II High School valedictorian.

In her address, little Miss Oita chided some of her fellow students for not having adjusted themselves to the restrictions of center life.

"If you cannot adjust yourself to conditions here, you can hardly hope to do so on the outside," she warned. "Life is a give and take proposition. It is an investment. And you have to invest a lot of your own time and effort to receive any benefits."

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Department of the Interior
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Press release 3

The following editorial from The Washington Post of July 13, 1944, analyzes the issues involved in singling out only those Japanese and Japanese-Americans living on the west coast for evacuation, relocation and continued exclusion from their homes.

EXCLUSION TEST

"No one, we think, will seriously contend today that the west coast of the United States is in imminent danger of invasion. Yet some 70,000 American citizens, who were evacuated from their homes in that area because they happened to be of Japanese descent, are still forbidden to return, by military decree, on the pretext that a danger of invasion exists. A case testing the validity of this continued exclusion has at last been brought in the Superior Court of the State of California. All Americans, we believe, ought to know the facts in this case and ought to ponder its implications for their own freedom.

"One of the plaintiffs, an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, is a woman named Shizuko Shiramizu. She happens to be widowed. Her husband, Koyoshi Shiramizu, also an American citizen, was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds incurred in service with the United States Army in Italy and subsequently died from these wounds. Two of her brothers are now serving in the armed forces of the United States. Mrs. Shiramizu herself has been carefully investigated by the War Relocation Authority and has been adjudged completely loyal to this country. She has been tried by no court and has committed no offense, save that her name has an odd sound and is spelled in a peculiar, foreign way.

"Mrs. Shiramizu would like to go home. Home, in her case, happens to be California, where she was born and lived all her life (until she was evacuated) and earned her living and was married. This attachment to the neighborhood of her birth and her marriage seems neither unnatural nor unAmerican. But the commanding general of the Western Defense Command says that her presence in California -- or the presence of any persons with names like hers -- would endanger the security of the United States. He has acknowledged an improvement in the military situation on the west coast by canceling all the dimout restrictive orders which were once in force. Still, he does not feel that he can safely permit Mrs. Shiramizu to return to her husband's house.

"It is one of the functions of the courts of the United States to protect Americans against arbitrary acts of this kind by military officers. We hope, therefore, that Mrs. Shiramizu will be given her day in court and that the real issues of this case will be studied and assessed. A year ago, the Supreme Court upheld an order by the commanding general of the Western Defense Command imposing a curfew on all persons of Japanese descent. In doing so, however, it made clear that it justified a racial discrimination of this sort only on the ground of an emergency situation

and an urgent national danger. 'Except under conditions of great emergency,' said Mr. Justice Murphy, 'a regulation of this kind applicable solely to citizens of a particular racial extraction would not be regarded as in accord with the requirement of due process of law contained in the fifth amendment . . . When the danger is past, the restrictions imposed on them should be promptly removed and their freedom of action fully restored.'

"From this and from other opinions written by his colleagues in the same case, it appears patent that the Supreme Court would not countenance the continued exclusion of Japanese-Americans from the west coast in the absence of any real and present danger. If the exclusion is based on nothing more than racial hostility, then it raises an ugly threat to the fundamental principles of American life. It bears, as Mr. Justice Murphy pointed out elsewhere in his opinion on the curfew case, 'a melancholy resemblance to the treatment accorded members of the Jewish race in Germany and in other parts of Europe.' If the freedom of citizens can be restricted because of the spelling of their names, then none of us can claim more than a temporary and illusory hold upon freedom.

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Immediate Release

BIG COMMUNITY SEND OFF FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Seventy-five young Japanese American members of the United States Army Reserve left last week for Fort Douglas, Utah, to begin active army duty after a community send-off unprecedented in the history of the Colorado River Relocation Center at Poston, Arizona.

The young men all present residents of the Center and representing a wide section of the West before evacuation had taken the army oath in Phoenix. Included in the honors accorded by the community also were four young men who will leave for Fort Douglas within the next few days.

Nearly 5,000 Japanese parents, other relatives and friends of the boys leaving for military service massed in front of an outdoor theater. It was the largest throng to gather for any event in the annals of Poston.

Principal addresses at the honor ceremony were delivered by Lt. Guy B. Mosier, flier recently returned from duty in Africa, Sicily and Italy, from where he brought first hand report of heroic fighting of the Jap-Yanks of the famed 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, and S. Sakamoto, representing the Poston Community Council, who presented the congratulations of the Community both in English and Japanese. Other speakers included Duncan Mills, Project Director, and Dr. Arthur Harris, Supt. of Education. Scott Rowley, Project Attorney, was master of ceremonies.

The Mahave Indian band of Parker, a Japanese American Boy Scout color guard and bugler, and the Luanan Quartette, Japanese American girl singers, entertained the departing young soldiers, seated under American flags on the stage, and their relatives and friends massed in the big audience space under the stars.

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WAR DEPARTMENT RELEASES TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL CITATION TO 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION

Fortitude, Intrepidity of Japanese Americans Reflect Finest Traditions of U. S. Army, Says Citation Issued in Name of President Roosevelt

WASHINGTON--The War Department on August 10 released the complete text of the Presidential citation awarded to the Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion for fighting in Italy.

Award of the citation to the unit, which is composed largely of Japanese Americans from Hawaii, was announced recently by Lieut. Gen. Mark W. Clark, Commanding General of the Fifth Army, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction.

The Presidential citation declared:

"The 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action, on June 26 and 27, 1944, in the vicinity of Belvedere and Sassetta, Italy. The 100th Infantry Battalion was assigned the mission of neutralizing a strongly defended German center of resistance at Belvedere, Italy, which dominated a vital highway and seriously impeded an American infantry division's northward advance. With insufficient time for a proper physical reconnaissance, but with a determined desire to fulfill its important mission, the battalion quickly formulated its plan and launched the operation.

"The battalion maneuvered to a point one mile northwest of Belvedere, where a large and determined force of German infantry and field artillery, including self-propelled guns and tanks, was encountered. Initially one company of the 100th Infantry Battalion was committed toward the west to engage the enemy reserves and field artillery batteries. A second company passed through the leading company to continue the attack southward to cut the road leading to Sassetta, Italy. All three companies went into action, boldly facing murderous fire from all types of weapons and tanks and at times fighting without artillery support.

"Doggedly the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion fought their way into the strongly defended positions. The stubborn desire of the men to close with a numerically superior enemy, and the rapidity with which they fought enabled the 100th Infantry Battalion to destroy completely the right flank positions of a German army, killing at least 178 Germans, wounding approximately 20, capturing 75, and forcing the remainder of a completely disrupted battalion to surrender approximately ten kilometers of ground. In addition, large quantities of enemy weapons, vehicles and equipment were either captured or destroyed, while the American infantry division operating in the sector was able to continue its rapid advance.

"The fortitude and intrepidity displayed by the officers and men of the 100th Infantry Battalion reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States."

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

[press release]

(Copies of the C.B.I. Roundup, Army newspaper of the China-Burma-India Theater, containing the story of Nisei in Merrill's Marauders recently were received in the United States. Principal portions of the story follow):

oOo

By S/Sgt. Edgar Laytha

CBI now has its own Sergeant York. He is S/Sgt. Kenny Yasui. Kenny is about five feet two and weighs scarcely more than 120 pounds. And this Baby York of CBI is a Nisei.

Nisei means second generation. It is a Japanese word, but Niseis are Americans. Ten thousand (the number is now 15,000---Editor) of these American-born children of Japanese immigrants fight now in the United States Army and some in this theater.

Their presence in CBI was for a long time a military secret. For their own protection, they were not publicized. Some still have relatives in Japan who had to be considered, and then there always was and still always will be the possibility of capture by the enemy, which for a Nisei would mean no picnic.

Under the veil of protective secrecy, however, the stubborn, sturdy fighting Niseis grew to the stature of heroes. They became exceedingly popular, earned the admiration and personal friendship of every private and general with whom they came in contact. The secrecy was officially lifted a few days ago. Now we can tell their story.

The case of Sergeant Yasui, who captured 16 Japanese at the Irrawaddy River, is only one of the many bright spots the Nisei are writing into modern American military history.

They fight for Uncle Sam in the Aleutians, in Italy, all over the Southwest Pacific and all over the CBI.

The most publicized Nisei soldiers are the men of the terrific 100th Infantry Battalion in Italy. One thousand of the 1,300 men of the battalion have been wounded in combat and wear the Purple Heart.

The unit earned 44 Silver Stars, 33 Bronze Stars, three Legion of Merit medals and many battlefield promotions. Since the birth of the battalion, there has not been a single case of desertion, not even a slight AWOL. The men of the 100th fought in Sicily. (They are now fighting in France-----Editor).

Near Cassino, they spearheaded the crossing of the Rapido River; at Belvedere, they outflanked the toughest German position and flabbergasted the Nazis they captured. In Rome, they went sightseeing, but soon after helped the Engineers to rebuild the port of Leghorn.

To this Theater, they came more recently.

(more)

2-Story by S/Sgt. Edgar Laytha

Our Sergeant Yasui, who crossed the Pacific some six months ago, was preceded by a tough and audacious bunch of his fellow Nisei who joined Merrill's Marauders. I met the Nisei Marauders just a few days ago when they were mounting a truck for a rest camp.

Some were distinctly tall; all were well built. All looked gay, worryless, selfsure, happy-go-lucky. Very American.

This, of course, is no accident. Nisei grow about two inches taller and are far better built than their relatives in Japan. This is a scientifically-proven fact. The Jap is the son of an undernourished nation and looks it. The uncanny discipline and self-negation to which he is subjected from the cradle to the grave make him tight, crampy; more of a human automaton than a human being. But all this vanishes under the American sun.

The Nisei feels, thinks, acts and moves about like his fellow Americans. And this alone is a great slap in the face of the Robber Empire and a sublime compliment to America.

The Japs spent many a thousand yen before Pearl Harbor to "Japanize" their second generation in America.

With money, scholarships, free vacations, they coaxed thousands of Nisei in the past 15 years to return to the Land of the Rising Sun for a little re-education in the Japanese spirit. These Nisei they called Kibei---the returned ones. And they gave them a hell of a good time. But they spent their money in vain.

It was not so easy for a Nisei Marauder to kill his first Jap.

"I had a terrible feeling", said a sergeant who doesn't want to be named, "when the first Jap I have shot collapsed and expired with a heartbreaking 'Banzai' on his lips, but my second shot came easy, the third even easier. I can't tell you exactly how many I have shot. It is very difficult to know in the jungle where everything melts into the background."

Once these boys were in the fight you couldn't get them out of it.

When a Nisei Marauder was wounded or when he fell ill, he would hide his ailment until he collapsed on the spot. T/Sgt. Tommy K. Tsubota, from Honolulu, suffered from a bad hernia during a forced march through the jungle. With small bamboo splints, he trussed his rupture, marched on through the thicket until he collapsed and had to be evacuated by air.

Sgt. Henry Gosho, from Seattle, was very ill with malaria, but hung on to the tail of a mule and was able to drag himself through the campaign.

Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill's Marauders proudly wear the sky blue citation ribbon of their unit, though three of them--S/Sgt. Russell K. Kono, from Hilo, Hawaii, S/Sgt. Roy Matsumoto from Los Angeles, and Gosho--were cited individually.

Other Nisei units in other parts of the Theater were men of the same mettle. Sgt. Eddie Sakaue, who was loaned to the British, saved the life of an English captain under fire.

Then, of course, we have Baby York.

(more)

3-Story by S/Sgt. Edgar Laytha

It happened on the Irrawaddy River, during our mopping up operations after the collapse of organized resistance.

A group of about 17 Japanese were isolated on an island. There was a call for volunteers to capture the Japs. Kenny Yasui and three non-Nisei Americans stepped out, stripped and swam over. Little Kenny took charge.

The Jap hid in the underbrush. None was seen.

Then California-born Kenny Yasui yelled into the bush in the Japanese he learned while a student of Waseda University, Tokyo. He ordered the enemy to come out and surrender.

The hidden men in the bush must have been stupefied to hear their native tongue Instantly, a Nip sergeant appeared, looked amazed at the little naked man who said he was a Japanese colonel working with the Americans and ordered him to show the hiding place of his comrades.

The Jap was impressed and bewildered, terribly so. He took Kenny around on an inspection tour and out of many foxholes jumped many a Nip, fully armed, 20 rounds of ammunition in each man's belt.

Kenny Yasui asked for their arms, ordered them to line up. In that second, a Jap officer sprang from the thicket, threw a hand grenade to blow up Yasui and himself. Yasui jumped into a foxhole and the Japanese officer into the other world. Then Kenny took his sword.

While all this happened, a couple of recalcitrant Japanese soldiers were killed by the other Americans, but 13 prisoners waited shamefacedly for the orders of the little olive-skinned "colonel". Kenny remembered the close order drills he had to take while he was a Kibei in Tokyo. And he gave them the words:

"Kio tsuke! Hidari muke hidari! Mae susume."

The drill over, Yasui solved the problem of getting the party across the Irrawaddy by having the prisoners swim, pushing a raft against the swift current.

And on the raft sat Kenny with the sword in his hand and two of the weaker prisoners at his side.

My life among the Nisei was an exceedingly happy one. They surely will remain my intimate friends until distant times when this war will be but a memory.

But I must confess: When I was detached from the unit for other duties it was in some ways a relief. It was a relief from a little too much discipline and from too good behavior.

The average Nisei is a model soldier. He is aware of the burden of an unpopular ancestry, but he knows that he is a good A merican and wants to prove it.

Our team leader made our unit the best disciplined group at all staging camps we had to pass. We often had to march in formation when it wasn't absolutely necessary. Our carbines were the cleanest, our uniforms the neatest. We appeared on the minute everywhere we were told.

(more)

4-Story by S/Sgt. Edgar Laytha

To sum it up: They were too good for me. Still my happiest moments in CBI are the days when I come across them from time to time at places often distant and remote. And I remember the long way we went together.

I remember the midnight lunches in our barracks, when they cooked rice and spiced it with Japanese radish. Their faces were dimly lit by the burning stove.

The scene could have been somewhere in Japan, but inside every shadowy figure the American flame burned and I seemed to see it all the time.

And I remember them individually. Koji, the leader, was a Hawaiian longshoreman but worked himself up to graduate with honors from the University of Georgia.

Kitsu, the dishwasher from Los Angeles, burning the midnight oil to read John Gunther's Inside Europe.

Chris, the talented artist of the Walt Disney Studios, was able to express every thought by a quick and forceful sketch. Then there was young Kenjiro, who used to work on the Nisei farms all over the Coast, and Sam, whose dream is a mechanic's job in any plant anywhere in the United States.

And there was Clarke, the man of the world and honor student at Harvard, and Kenny, the ex-gambler. And Alex, and lastly, Karl a labor leader in San Francisco.

Karl, 38, was the oldest of us. His name is a hallmark.

It is beloved by many oppressed, exploited, humble and starving farmers and workers in Japan. It is feared and hated by the Japanese police.

The longshoremen of Los Angeles and San Francisco knew him, also the fishermen of Seattle and Alaska.

This man organized unions in Japan--was blacklisted by the Japanese police--suffered in Japanese dungeons.

Back in his American homeland, he became a union organizer and also ran for Assembly in San Francisco on a labor ticket. The dizzy speed of events after Pearl Harbor temporarily called Karl from the waterfront into a relocation center for Americans of Japanese ancestry.

From there Karl volunteered to fight for the U. S. Army for a better world in which his son may live a free man.

War Relocation Authority
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D.S.C. AWARDED TO TWO GALLANT NISEI FIGHTERS IN ITALY

Private Shizuya Hayashi of Oahu, Hawaii, killed 18 Germans in a "one-man attack" on enemy positions, according to a recent Stars and Stripes, official U.S. Army Newspaper published in the North African Theatre of Operations.

In addition to killing the 18 Germans, Pvt. Hayashi forced 4 others to surrender and drove the remainder off a strategic hill.

"Among the men who have fought in Italy, the bravery and fighting skill of the Japanese-American battalion of infantry has never been questioned", the Stars and Stripes said. "And nowhere is there a better example of this skill and courage than the act which won Shizuya Hayashi the Distinguished Service Cross."

Allen Ohata, one of a squad of Japanese-Americans who killed 47 Germans near Cerasulo, Italy, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on July 7th and was promoted to a lieutenant, according to the Associated Press.

His citation said he rescued a companion whose rifle had been damaged, killing 10 of the enemy. Then he and another rifleman stood off repeated enemy attacks for hours and finally charged and captured the remaining Germans.

These Japanese American doughboys with the 100th Battalion in Italy, have each been awarded a Distinguished Service Cross.

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
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San Francisco 5, California

Release Immediately

JAPANESE AMERICANS IN VARIOUS BRANCHES OF SERVICE

Approximately 12,000 Japanese Americans are now on active duty in various branches of the army. More than half of them are outside the continental United States, several thousand on the fighting front. More than 5,000 were volunteers, 1,300 from War Relocation Centers. There are several hundred Japanese American girls in the WAC and in the Nurses' Corps and more than 200 men in the U.S. Merchant Marine, according to Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of WRA.

On the basis of the records of the 100th Battalion, a unit composed largely of Japanese Americans who fought throughout the entire Italian campaign, the War Department on January 20 this year, applied the Selective Service to all Japanese Americans.

Ten thousand were in the army previous to January 20. Through Selective Service, 2,000 more have been added. Recently 740 were called into active service from Relocation Centers and 604 other have been placed in the enlisted reserve corps subject to call on 24 hours notice.

From Manzanar Relocation Center in California, 57 left this week. Nineteen went to Army Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota, thirty-five to Ft. Douglas, Utah and three to Navy Language School at Boulder, Colorado.

The majority of the Japanese American soldiers go to Camp Shelby, Mississippi where a special Combat team trains. This team is composed almost entirely of Japanese Americans. Many others are distributed in army camps from Fort Douglas, Utah to Camp Blanding, Florida.

JAPANESE LOYAL TO U.S.A.

The follow ing letter from H. V. Kaltenborn, radio commentator, appeared in THE PACIFIC, published monthly by the Northern California Congregational Conference:

"I have just returned from a comprehensive, although brief, tour of our Pacific fighting areas.

"On the basis of first-hand information I can tell you that American citizens of Japanese ancestry are performing some of the most valuable work that is being done by our Armed Forces in the Pacific. These American citizens of Japanese ancestry have not only proved their loyalty, but in many cases they have voluntarily risked their lives in order to perform important front-line services.

"With rare exceptions they are the only competent Japanese translators available to our Armed Forces. Those that have been given the privilege of taking up arms in the Italian war theater have also distinguished themselves. The number of medals which they have earned for outstanding service is large in proportion to their numbers.

"In talking with General Richardson, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army in the Central Pacific, with headquarters at Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands, he informed me that there has not been a single case of active disloyalty proved against a single one of the 160,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans in the Hawaiian Islands. As he put it, 'We have no Japanese problem.'

"I have given an interview to the press in San Francisco, in which I stated that there must be something wrong with the way the Japanese problem has been handled in continental United States.

"I expect to comment on this matter in my broadcasts as the news may suggest. But you are at liberty to use the statements I have made in this letter in any way that will further the cause of decent treatment for American citizens, whose only crime is that they were born of Japanese parents."

KALTENBORN'S CONTRIBUTION TO JAPANESE AMERICANS

H. V. Kaltenborn, radio commentator, attests to the splendid contribution being made by young Japanese Americans in the war effort.

The following story appeared in the editorial column of the Capital Times, Madison, Wisconsin:

"Attorney Benjamin H. Bull of Madison has just received a letter from H. V. Kaltenborn, nationally known radio commentator, enclosing Mr. Kaltenborn's check for $100 to help provide a scholarship for a young American of Japanese descent at Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam Wisconsin. Mr. Kaltenborn writes: 'As one who has personal contact with the magnificent contribution being made by young Americans of Japanese ancestry to our war effort in the South and the Southwest Pacific areas, I am happy to have an opportunity to make this contribution. I feel that I personally owe something to my fellow Americans of Japanese ancestry to make up for sometimes unfair and sometimes unintelligent treatment which they have received. You are at liberty to publicize both this contribution and this statement if you feel it will serve the cause of fair play to our fellow Americans of Japanese ancestry which we both have at heart.' Atty. Bull has been active for many months in behalf of American Citizens of Japanese descent in helping them to find employment and a chance to assist in our war effort."

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Lake Breezes Whisper:

MINN. EDITOR WRITES ABOUT EXPERIENCE
WITH NISEI GI'S

("The Lake Breezes Whisper" is a column by Claude Swanson, editor of the Fairmont Daily Sentinel, Minnesota. It was reprinted in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune recently. Because of its simple story of friendliness toward a couple of nisei privates, we are reprinting it in its entirety.)

We boarded the northward bound bus Friday for a couple of days off, hoping to offset a few off days.

In Minneapolis we couldn't help but be impressed by the number of Japanese American soldiers we saw on the streets.

Always they traveled in twos, threes, and fours. Never with others save their own race. Our curiosity was aroused. We wondered why. With the heroic example United States soldiers of their race set in Italy, we thought "our boys" would be glad to associate with them. We were anxious to find out.

The opportunity came in a manner we hadn't planned. We were browsing on a dish of beef chop suey at John's place, which was crammed with Japanese American soldiers, their wives and girl friends. At every table there was lively conservation--in English. Evidently it was an occasion. We were impressed by the happy, carefree manner in which they were enjoying themselves.

Then we had an inspiration. At the table next to us sat two Japanese American privates. We asked the waitress the amount of their check. It was less than $2, and first because we wanted to do something

for a race that had so distinguished itself in Italy against the Nazis, and second because we wanted an opportunity to talk to them, we asked the waitress for their check.

The boys beamed with surprise and gratitude. Both arose, bowed and thanked us, invited us to sit with them while they finished their meal. It was the first time in our life we had so much as spoken to a person of Japanese descent. We asked them about their being always together, never, apparently, with our boys.

"That is very easy to explain," said Pvt. Jungi Ozaki. "You see we are all together out there at Savage. We are all acquainted with each other. We are not stationed at Fort Snelling and have no contact with the other soldiers. It is only natural we are together." (Since then, the Camp Savage soldiers have been transferred to Ft. Snelling.--Ed. Note)

Pvt. Ozaki (pronounced "Oh-zah-kee"), in civilian life, was a pharmacist in Detroit. He was born on the West Coast, as was his companion. Neither had ever been in Japan. Both were at Savage where they are studying to be interpreters for the United States Army.

"You see, because of our ancestry, the army feels we are better qualified to learn the Japanese language," said Pvt. Ozaki. "It is very difficult for Caucasians to get the correct pronounciation of many of our words, and the proper inflection."

The boys wanted to know what prompted us to pay for their supper.

"It is because of the magnificent and heroic achievement of United States soldiers of your race in Italy," we told them. "It is the first chance we have had, in a small way, to show we appreciate the

loyalty of your race."

Both boys were visibly affected. "We have Japanese American soldiers at Savage, who came back from Italy," they said. "Some with only one leg. One with only one leg and one eye. All of them are very happy. One told us: "I have proof so long as I live, of my loyalty to the United States. No one can take that away. I'm proud and I am glad." That was the boy who lost one eye and his leg below the knee."

"But how do you folks feel about this government interning your parents and brothers and sisters, while you are in the uniform of our country," we asked.

Both fell silent for a moment. They exchanged glances, and we knew we'd hit on a touchy subject. Pvt. Ozaki finally spoke. "I suppose our government thought it was necessary," he said.

"...Maybe now that the war has given us an opportunity to show our loyalty and devotion to this country, there will be a better understanding. It is the first time we have had a real opportunity to show our love and appreciation of this country. Before the war, there was no such opportunity. We did our work and received our pay. We paid taxes. But every citizen does that. Now we have a chance to show we will fight for this country, to sacrifice our lives, if necessary, in order that we may live here."

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

N. Y. Herald Tribune Editorializes:

"WHAT MORE CONCLUSIVE TEST
OF PATRIOTISM IS THERE?

"Recently 11 wounded men from Bushnell General Hospital were feted in Salt Lake City. All were Japanese Americans who had seen service in the Italian campaign. Most of them lost an arm or a leg and were sent to Bushnell for the fitting of artificial limbs.

"It may have been something of a surprise to many Utahns to read about these Americans of Japanese ancestry and their fighting record in Uncle Sam's army. But these 11 are only a few of the hundreds of Japanese Americans who have fought bravely for their country--America--been killed, wounded, and taken prisoner, priased for performing 'brilliantly' in action and decorated for gallantry. And there are thousands more Japanese Americans now going into action or preparing to do so. The first Japanese American combat unit, the 100th Infantry Battalion, was activated in May, 1942. It first went into action about a year ago in Italy. Since then up to last May members of this one battalion, fighting in many engagements and singled out for high praise in a Fifth Army citation, have received 1,000 Purple Hearts, three Distinguished Service Crosses, 36 Silver Stars, and 21 Bronze Stars.

"News dispatches from Italy the last few days reveal the 100th Battalion has been expanding into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. All of the enlisted men and more than half of the officers of this regimental unit are Japanese Americans. Eleanor Packard, U. P. correspondent with

U.S. troops in Italy, said in a dispatch they were 'rated equally with their American comrades on either flank and were winning the confidence of other troops for their fighting qualities.' A few days ago, another news item reveals, they led an attack which threatened to outflank enemy strongholds blocking the way to Livorno and captured two villages in fierce fighting.

"Japanese Americans have seen plenty of action in this war on many fronts. Japanese Americans in the Hawaiian territorial guard fought at Pearl Harbor, reportedly shooting down a raiding Japanese plane and capturing the first Japanese prisoner, one-half of the crew of a Japanese midget submarine which was wrecked on a Hawaiian reef. A Japanese technical sergeant in the Air Forces has won two Distinguished Flying Crosses and an Air Medal with five Oak Leaf clusters for his gunnery work on more than 25 European theater bombing missions. Japanese Americans are serving as interpreters, radio intelligence men and in other capacities all over the Pacific war theater. They have seen action on Bataan, at Tarawa, Kwajalein, New Guinea, Guadalcanal, New Britain and in the China-Burma-India Theater.

"In addition to the thousands of Japanese Americans who are already on the fighting fronts, thousands more are training. There are today approximately 13,000 soldiers of Japanese ancestry in the Army, more than half of whom are now outside the continental United States. There are Japanese American girls in the WAC and in the Nurses' Corps and more than 200 seamen in the U. S. Merchant Marine.

"No one can say, after the record of volunteering for service, of gallantry in action and of blood sacrifice, that the second generation of Japanese in America have not in large numbers proved their loyalty

to their country by their readiness to serve in its armed forces, to fight for it, and to die for it. What more conclusive test of patriotism is there?" -- SALT LAKE CITY TELEGRAM, UTAH.

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Department of the Interior
War Reloca tion Authority
202 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5,Calif.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco, Nov. 9--News of 21 Japanese-American casualties in France has been received by next-of-kin living in the Poston,Arizona, relocation center, according to the War Relocation Authority.

KILLED IN ACTION

Pfc. Paul Horiuchi, 22, killed in action October 19, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Takeji Horiuchi, formerly of Salinas,Calif.

MISSING

Pfc. Fumitake Nagato, reported missing in action since October 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bunzo Nagato, formerly of Brawley,Calif.

WOUNDED

Louis Hirata, 19, son of Mrs. Margaret Hirata, formerly of Los Angeles.
Pfc. Koichi Matsubara,nephew of Mrs.Kiri Matsubara,formerly of Los Angeles.
Pfc. Shigetsugi Morimune, son of Mrs. Tei Morimune,formerly of Watsonville.
Pfc. Henry Shibata, son of Mr. and Mrs. Toyoichi Shibata,formerly of Coachella.
Pvt. Roy Kuwahara,son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kuwahara,formerly of San Gabriel.
Pfc. Tadao T. Oyenoki, son of Mr. Juzo Oyenoki, formerly of Calexico.
S/Sgt. Hiroshi Fujita,son of Mr. and Mrs. Sogataro Fujita,formerly of Clovis.
Pvt. Takami Hokedo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Soi Hokedo,formerly of Talbert,Calif.
Pvt. George Furuya, son of Mrs. Iwa Furuya ,formerly of San Diego.
Pfc. Henry S. Hashiguchi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hashiguchi,from San Diego.
Pfc. Frank Kumagi, son of Mrs. Chika Kumagi, formerly of El Centro,Calif.
Pfc. Frank Kizuka, son of Mr. and Mrs. Torakichi Kizuka, formerly of Bakersfield.
Pfc. Konji Hirokawa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rutaro Hirokawa, formerly of Watsonville,Calif.
Pfc. Yasuichi Kimura, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kumataro Kimura, formerly of San Diego.
Pfc. James Izumizaki, husband of Mrs. Kitako Izumizaki, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kanezuchi Izumizaki, formerly of Watsonville,Calif.

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Department of the Interior
(VS War Relocation Authority)
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San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE press RELEASE

"Unwarranted persecution and discrimination against American citizens of Japanese ancestry" was condemned in a resolution passed by the national convention of the American Federation of Labor, a copy of which resolution was received here yesterday by Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the War Relocation Authority.

The resolution adopted by the AFL in its recent New Orleans convention is as follows:

"WHEREAS: in 1942 by Presidential Order 9066, all persons of Japanese origin resident on the West Coast of the United States were ordered evacuated inland in the interest of national security and,

"WHEREAS: of 126,947 persons of Japanese origin, more than 85,000 are citizens of the United States by birth, and of these more than 8,000 Japanese American youths are serving our Country splendidly in every theater of war and,

"WHEREAS: the strong tide of just hatred against imperial Japanese barbarism and brutality has been turned without reason against loyal Japanese American citizens resulting in innumerable incidents of unjust persecution and unjust discrimination,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that this 64th convention of the American Federation of Labor in session in New Orleans, in reaffirmation of our great tradition of struggle against intolerance and oppression, strongly condemns the unwarranted persecution and discrimination against American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

"Your committee recommends that the resolution be referred to the Executive Council for thorough-going study, for such recommendations and action as seem most appropriate."

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority - Northern California Area
Sheldon Building - 461 Market Street
San Francisco, California

MAY 11 1946

FOR RELEASE TO ALL PAPERS MAY 15, 1946

SAN FRANCISCO, May 15.- The Northern California Area of the War Relocation Authority closed its doors here today as the wartime agency's four-year-old job of handling the relocation of the people of Japanese ancestry came to a successful conclusion.

As Area Supervisor Charles F. Miller turned the key in the lock of the area office door for the last time, only the WRA national office in Washington remained open to complete administrative details and it is expected to close on or before June 30.

Four District Offices of the Northern California Area, Oakland, Santa Rosa, Stockton and Watsonville, closed April 19; and the remaining four at San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento and Fresno were closed May 3. Unclaimed lots of goods, stored by people of Japanese ancestry at time of evacuation, were moved to WRA's San Francisco warehouse some weeks ago and sold at public auction April 29.

A final check of returnees to the area, which included all of California with the exception of the nine southernmost counties, showed approximately 34,757 persons of Japanese ancestry had returned, or 75 per cent of the pre-evacuation population of 46,357 in the area, according to Miller.

"Our job in this area is completed," Miller said. "From now on the responsibility for the welfare of the people of Japanese ancestry who have returned to their homes in California rests with the individual communities.

"Already the returnees, most of them citizens, have found their places in community life. Among them are many of the more than 22,000 Nisei veterans who served with our armed forces during the war and whose record

in combat in all theatres proved beyond a doubt that loyalty has nothing to do with race, color or creed," Miller continued.

"On behalf of the entire staff of WRA," said Miller, "I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of California for their fine cooperation and understanding during a period of stress caused by the exigencies of wartime.

"The broad understanding and fair play exhibited by the newspapers aided us materially in accomplishing the job we were assigned to do as did the inestimable help given by labor unions, service clubs, church groups, fraternal organizations and other groups."

Continued Miller, "I particularly want to acknowledge the close cooperation given by Governor Warren and the immeasurable aid extended by Attorney General Robert W. Kenny and the State Department of Justice, the State and County Welfare Departments, the FBI, Army Intelligence, and the various law enforcement officers of the cities and counties in Northern California.

"There are many other fine groups, such as the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the National Council on Race Relations, the Friends organizations, the American Civil Liberties Union, interracial groups and civic unity councils, as well as individual citizens whose stand for tolerance and against bigotry was outstanding.

"Frankly, without the help of all these groups and individuals, all of whom believe in the American way of life, our job could not have been accomplished," Miller concluded.

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Department of the Interior
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TWIN FALLS GRANGE CONDEMNS PROPOSAL FOR DISCRIMINATORY ACTION AGAINST NISEI IN IDAHO

TWIN FALLS, Idaho -- Opposition to the North Side Pomona Grange resolution asking the prevention of Japanese American relocation in Idaho was voiced at the Oct. 25 meeting of the Twin Falls Grange, which is on record against racial, color or religious "discrimination between Americans."

Following a thorough discussion of the resolution, the members adopted it unanimously. Specific mention was made in the document of "some of our leader and subordinate Granges" who have expressed themselves on "Americans of Japanese extraction."

Stating that a "diviation from the policy" of guaranteed tolerance in the United States "might be the opening wedge for discrimination against other minority groups," the resolution concluded: "....This Grange reaffirms its faith in our democracy opposing any attempt to discriminate between Americans on the basis of race, religion or color."

On Oct. 19 the North Side Pomona Grange, meeting in Jerome, Idaho, unanimously adopted a resolution asking for "legislative action" to prevent further relocation of Japanese Americans in Idaho and posed the present relocation of 1000 of them as "the problem facing the whole country."

Both the Twin Falls and the North Side documents are being forwarded to the State Grange and subordinate Grange groups for action.

It was recalled that in August, the master of the Oregon Grange received varied reactions to a proposal to expel all persons of Japanese ancestry from the United States.

# # #

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Bldg.
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, Calif.

MEMBER OF GRANGE REPUDIATES RACIST STAND OF LEADERSHIP

PORTLAND, ORE. -- "By far the majority of Grange members are opposed to the type of racialism expressed in the resolution," passed recently by masters of State Granges of Washington, Idaho, Montana, California and Oregon, for the revocation of the citizenship of Americans of Japanese ancestry, H.R. Bristol of Newberg, Ore., a member of the Grange, declared in a letter published in the Oregon Journal on Oct. 23.

The Grange resolution also advocated the deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry.

"The statement claimed that the said State Grange masters represented the 125,000 Grange members of the states mentioned, giving the impression that the Grange membership was unanimous in support of their proposals. Such is not the case," Mr. Bristol stated.

Declaring that "we Grangers believe in the principles of democracy and justice," Mr. Bristol noted that several thousand boys of Japanese ancestry are fighting in our armed forces.

"Are we to reward them by revoking their citizenship and deporting them from the United States?" he asked.

"There can be but one answer," he added. "When the war is over and the boys come home, they should find we have reserved those rights and privileges for which they fought and they deserve the best we can give them without reference or regard to race or color."

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Bldg.
461 Market St.
San Francisco 5, Calif.

216.2

VERMONT GRANGE ADMITS NISEI TO MEMBERSHIP

Washington -- Although Grange organizations on the West Coast are demanding the deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry, whether citizens or aliens, The State Grange in Vermont has admitted a Japanese American farmer to membership, it was reported here.

When a Vermont dairy farmer recently proposed the name of his Nisei worker for membership in the Vermont Grange recently, certain members of the Grange opposed his admittance. A Grange committee called on the farmer to withdraw the application of the Japanese American. However, the farmer refused and prepared a statement which was read at a Grange meeting. As a result, the Japanese American was elected unanimously to membership.

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Bldg.
461 Market St.
San Francisco 5, Calif.

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1st Add "A Captain's Contempt" (Editorial Reprint)

the rise of the Japanese Exclusion League on the West Coast.

"The Japanese Exclusion League is one thing we could expect to grow out of this war", the editorial says. "We got the Ku Klux Klan, among other things, out of the first World War, and it sold memberships and hoods and nightshirts to a considerable number of hoodlums, infantile adults, born joiners and chronic suckers. It lived on hatred of Catholics, Jews and Negroes. The Japanese Exclusion League no doubt will round up quite a number of present-day carbon copies of the 1919-25 Ku Kluxers. The whole thing is most regrettable, and something for Americans to be ashamed of."

The magazine finds encouragement, however, in the fact that strong opposition to the League is springing up in areas where it has been most active, and concludes with this bit of timely advice: "Influential people up and down the West Coast....can choke off this Japanese Exclusion League business if they will, though it may take a little time and certainly will take some courage."

--- San Francisco News.

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NEWS & PICTORIAL SECTION
GHQ PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
APO 500 San Francisco, Calif.

22

WITH ~~THE~~ 77TH INFANTRY DIVISION, ~~IN~~ LEYTE, P. I. --

In a brief but dramatic ceremony in the Philippines, T/Sgt. Shigeo Ito, son of California, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Ribbon for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy" during the period July to August, ~~28 July 1941 to August~~ 1944.

Sgt Ito is the section leader of the Interpreter Team attached to the 77th Division. His is an extremely responsible job and his efforts have been of limitless value to the success of the campaign.

T/Sgt Ito, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Ito of 7407 Lincoln Avenue, Riverside, California and now residing at Poston, Arizona, is one of the many loyal Japanes-Americans who have fought and continue to fight bravely in the armed forces of the United States.

T/Sgt Ito has had a long and colorful army career since his induction at Camp Roberts, California, on March 27, 1941. After serving with the 40th Division for a short time, he was transferred to the 7th Division. In May 1942, he was sent to Language School at Camp Savage, Minn., graduating on December 1 of the same year. Shortly thereafter, he returned to the 7th Division as an interpreter and with them fought through the Attu campaign in Alaska. He was then assigned to a Mountain Infantry Regiment and made the landings at Kiska. Following that campaign, he returned to the States for a one month furlough and then returned to Camp Savage in October 1943. It was there that he was appointed an Interpreter Team Leader and sent to Hawaii where he was attached to the 38th Division. In April, 1944, he joined the 77th Infantry Division and has been with them ever since.

In addition to the Bronze Star, Sgt Ito holds the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with three battle stars, the new Philippine Campaign Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. Sgt Ito is a veteran of both the Guam and Leyte Campaigns.

Press Release file

COPY

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 24 July 1945

ADVANCE PRESS RELEASE--For automatic release at 10 A.M., July 30, 1945

(ADVANCE) SAN FRANCISCO--The following statement was issued today by Major General H. C. Pratt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command:

"It has become increasingly apparent that an erroneous impression is being conveyed to the public as to the responsibilities of the various agencies concerned with the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to the West Coast States. This situation is evidenced by 'Letters to the Editors,' news items, radio releases, public statements, etc., which not only distort the facts but sometimes contain misstatements. In this connection it should be noted, however, that all responsible editorial comment has been based upon the facts as they exist.

"In view of the above, I feel that a statement by me with reference to this matter is called for.

"As Commanding General, Western Defense Command, and pursuant to Presidential Executive Order, I have the responsibility of determining which individuals of Japanese ancestry may or may not be permitted to return to the designated exclusion zone of the Western Defense Command. In making this determination, I am governed solely by military considerations and by none other, for there exists no legal authority for anyone to restrict the movements of an individual within the United States because of economic, social, or other similar reasons.

"In executing this responsibility, I have access to the records of the various intelligence agencies of the Government and am assisted by a large staff of experienced personnel. I feel, therefore, that I am able to determine which individuals may prove potentially dangerous to the military security of the West Coast and such individuals are not allowed to return. Possibly, although I doubt it, certain individuals may possess information against persons of Japanese ancestry which I do not have. If such is the case, it is a patriotic duty to convey that information to me, and I will welcome such assistance.

"The War Relocation Authority was created to assist in the proper relocation of those persons of Japanese ancestry who were required to leave their homes. The formation of this Authority was a result of the recognition on the part of our Government of its obligation to alleviate the hardships imposed upon many thousands of our citizens merely because of the accident of birth. The War Relocation Authority has no authority or responsibility whatever in determining which individuals will be allowed to return to the exclusion zone of the Western Defense Command, nor does this agency attempt to exercise this authority or assume this responsibility. It is repeated -- this authority and this responsibility is that of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command."

(End ADVANCE for automatic release at 10 A.M., July 30, 1945. Please guard against premature publication.)

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
2nd Fl., Sheldon Bldg.
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California
DOuglas 8173

FOR RELEASE December 6, 1945

Approximately 104,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, American citizens and aliens, have been returned to civilian life in the United States under the direction of the War Relocation Authority was the announcement today by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the WRA, on his arrival in San Francisco.

Of this number approximately 67,000 have been relocated since January 6 of this year. Approximately 37,000 had been relocated prior to that date, said WRA Director Myer.

The last groups of persons of Japanese ancestry reached their destinations today either on the West Coast or in the East and Middlewest, to mark the closing of the eighth relocation center since October 15, said Myer.

Only center of the original ten camps, set up at the time of evacuation from the West Coast, which still remains in operations is Tule Lake Center.

"The people within Tule Lake are under two jurisdictions -- the Department of Justice and the War Relocation Authority," explained Myer.

"Only those who are under a cloud because of renunciation of their citizenship are detained by the Department of Justice and are not free to leave for relocation in this country as they face possible deportation. There is still a large percentage, however, who are not under question, both American citizens of Japanese ancestry and law abiding aliens, who are yet to be relocated. The final date for this group to remain at Tule Lake is February 1, by which time they must have resumed their lives in the normal American way.

"While a high percentage of those who left our centers recently are settling on the West Coast, there will be not more than 50 per cent of the original population returning to this area.

"The biggest movement in relocation came in the five weeks from September 1 to October 6 when 16,005 left the centers to take up civil employment and living. This fit into the opening of the school year, for the overall picture involved 20,000 youngsters."

(more)

More than 111,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the West Coast in 1942 under orders issued by Lieut. General John L. DeWitt, then Commanding General of the Western Defense Command. Of these 72,000 were American citizens, including a large group of veterans of the American army in World War I, and their families.

"The War Relocation Authority was set up by the late President Roosevelt following the Army evacuation with its purpose to resettle persons of Japanese ancestry into the main stream of American life," said Myer. "The West Coast states were an excluded zone for general relocation until the Western Defense Command lifted mass exclusion last December 17 and the United States Supreme Court on December 18 issued a findings that persons whose loyalty was unquestioned could not be detained further.

"A program of orderly relocation was then evolved by the WRA. Some of the temporary housing provided in hostels and reconstructed barracks buildings has been rugged, but it served the important purpose to placing the returnees nearer job opportunities.

"In this work the War Relocation Authority was assisted by the Good will residents of nearly all West Coast districts who formed committees on their own and gave great assistance in welcoming these displaced persons. Church, school, and labor groups as well as hundreds of outstanding officials and personages on the West Coast lent their voices and efforts to restoring constitutional rights to this minority.

"There were a number of incidents at first but the action of law enforcement officers on the whole, with the support of the Governor, Attorney General, the mayors, police chiefs and district attorneys in the major communities brought these down to a minimum.

The late State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Walter F. Dexter, met this challenge to democracy with a forthright attitude in directing information on the subject to all schools.

"The War Relocation Authority announced self-liquidation a year ago and we expect to be finally and completely out of business by the end of the fiscal year or sooner. There is still property to be handled, dispersed and declared surplus.

"The greatest contribution to the peaceful resumption into the American way of living was made by the 23,000 men and women of Japanese ancestry, including some Japanese aliens,

(more)

too, who were in the United States Army. They gave their blood, limbs and lives and received the acclaim of their fellow Caucasian soldiers for their gallantry in action. Their interpretation, interrogation and translation work in the South Pacific saved thousands of Americans lives and did a great part in shortening the war against the Japanese enemy.

"The War Department has recognized this contribution and within the past few months has assigned five officers to speak to individuals and groups on the West Coast in confirmation of the Americanism these Nisei have shown. Each of these officers has had American Japanese under his command and each officer has done an untiring job to stress the valor and importance of the American Japanese soldier.

"I am convinced that the majority's spirit of fair play has won out over a small minority of those who would like to whip up racial antagonism. The sorry chapter of evacuation is about closed, and I pray that it never will be reopened."

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Department of the Interi
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Bldg.
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California
Douglas 8173

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One of the fictions built around Japanese-American soldiers in World War II is that they see service only in the European theater and are not fighting enemy Japanese.

However, a summary of reports from the South Pacific reveals that not only are Nisei fighting the land of their ancestors but are receiving citations for exceptional acts of bravery, according to R. B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the War Relocation Authority.

The exact number of Americans of Japanese ancestry who are making contributions of life and limb to their native United States is a military matter, said Cozzens, as their assignments are many times of the most dangerous nature.

This news came simultaneously with the return of First Lieutenant Gary Kadani to the Gila River, Arizona, Relocation Center on a visit. Lieutenant Kadani received the Presidential Unit Badge and his commission as a direct citation for valor and meritorious services in the New Guinea area where he served 31 months. He formerly lived in Hollister.

S/Sgt. Albert Y. Tamura, formerly of Bakersfield, was sent to Australia in 1942 and participated in the Solomons, Hollandia and Biak Island beach landings as an infantryman. He won the Presidential Unit Badge. He recently visited relatives at Poston Relocation Center.

Another Japanese-American who has returned from the South Pacific is First Lieutenant Shigao Yasutake, who visited his sister in the Colorado River Center at Poston, Arizona. He has served two years in the Solomons, on Russalia Island, in the Munda campaign on New Georgia and on Guadalcanal, New Caledonia and Vella Lavella in the Bougainville sector. His three brothers are privates. The parents of the four Nisei soldiers are in the Rohwer, Arkansas, Relocation Center.

Lieutenant Yasutake is a native of Gardena, California. He was awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious service.

A few instances, however, have already been revealed in reports. Some of the individual citations that have been given follow:

Tech. Sgts. Ben Honda, Marysville, Calif.; George Matsui, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mike Sakamoto, San Jose, Calif.; Min Nakanishi, Stockton, Calif., and Howard Hiroki, Honolulu, T.H., have received Bronze Star Medals for meritorious action during the capture of Saipan.

(more)

Sgt. Jessie Miyao, Hawaii, was cited for meritorious service in the capture of Saipan.

Tech. Sgt. Jimmie N. Yamaguchi, awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "meritorious service during the north Burma campaign, is entitled to wear the Presidential Unit Citation won by Merrill's Marauders as well as the Combat Infantry Badge given him for 'exemplary conduct in battle'". Yamaguchi, who has served with the Marauders more than 18 months, also wears a Bronze Campaign Star.

T/5 Micheo Sakamoto was awarded the Bronze Star for services in the South Pacific. The accompanying citation said he was "of material assistance in the successful occupation of three islands in an atoll...at great personal risk to himself."

Tech. Sgt. Terry Mizutari, killed while commanding a group of men during a Japanese counter-attack, posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and a citation from his commanding general.

Sgt. Katsushiro Kono received the Bronze Star for holding his post while being fired from all sides by enemy soldiers. Kono is a veteran of months of jungle warfare against the Japanese in the China-Burma-India theater.

Sergeant Roy Takai, serving in India with the British troops, writes:

"The enemy are all about us lurking in the hills. At night...we can hear mortar fire, machine guns fire and rifle fire just over our hill. Every day while working in bamboo huts, known to us jungle dwellers as bashas, we can hear the big guns roaring away in the very near distance...Air activities have increased lately. From our hill we can watch our dive bombers dropping their load of death on the neighboring hills, and we know, too, that death has taken its toll for after the bombing a score of vultures is seen circling on the hill just bombed."

Lieutenant Richard Hayashi, described as the first Japanese-American to get a chance to attend officers' candidate school, was interviewed in the Mediterranean theater. He declared, "The hit and run tactics the enemy is using around here are the same as those our Pacific troops are confronted with in chasing the Japs."

"They both leave lots of snipers behind. Both are masters of camouflage and both get disorganized and confused when their leaders walk out on them--which is often."

The Lieutenant saw action against the Japanese with the United States Air Force in the New Hebrides before being reassigned to Italy.

In April, 1944, three Americans of Japanese ancestry told correspondent Royal Arch Gunnison of their pledge to kill their fourth brother, Kazumaro Uno, because he was "a traitor to the American way of life under which he has enjoyed the benefits of education and freedom. We have pledged the destruction of him and all those like him." All three of the brothers were Army volunteers.

(more)

Fourteen Nisei soldiers served with Merrill's Marauders in Burma, according to a letter of Sgt. Henry Gosho of Seattle, which was printed in the Wisconsin State Journal of Madison, Wis.

A Caucasian sergeant serving with Merrill's Marauders wrote concerning Japanese-American soldiers in the outfit:

"We, of the Merrill's Marauders (or otherwise known as the Burma Raiders) wish to boast of the Japanese Americans fighting in our outfit and the swell job that they put up. Every Marauder knows these boys by name if they don't know ours -- that is due to the courage and bravery shown by them."

"One of our platoons owes their lives to Sgt. Henry G., a Japanese American of Seattle, Wash. Hank (we call him Horizontal Hank because he's been pinned down so many times by Jap machine-gun fire) guided the machine-gun fire on our side which killed every Jap on that side. The boys who fought alongside of Hank agree that they have never seen a more calm, cool and collected man under fire. He was always so eager to be where he could be of the most use and effectiveness and that was most always the hot spot. We asked Hank in the hospital, being his first time in battle, if he was scared or not. He answered, "You're darn rights I was scared." That's Horizontal Hank all over, always humorous and a smile for every guy. And yet while the other boys boast of the number of Japs they got, he doesn't talk very much about the three he has to his account. He usually changes the subject by saying, "Honorable ancestors much regret meeting Merrill's Marauders."

When his lieutenant on Leyte said someone was needed to scout enemy positions in a valley that was under heavy enemy fire, Pvt. Frank T. Hachiya of the 7th Division volunteered. That was last December 30.

Formerly a resident of Hood River, Ore., (where the American Legion Post ~~recently~~ removed ~~his name and those~~ the names of 16 ~~others of~~ servicemen of Japanese origin from its Honor Roll) Hachiya was inducted at Portland in January 1942. Trained in California and Hawaii, Pvt. Hachiya fought at Kwajalein and Eniwetok while his parents lived in the WRA center at Hunt, Idaho.

Having volunteered, Pvt. Hachiya worked out ahead of his covering patrol in the Leyte invasion. Suddenly he staggered with a sniper's bullet in his body. He emptied his rifle at the enemy, crawled back to his lines, gave his scout's report. He died from his wounds January 3.

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(The foregoing release has been approved by the War Department).

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority - Northern California Area
Sheldon Building - 461 Market Street
San Francisco, California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Commenting on its action as "an expression of true democracy and real Americanism," Charles F. Miller, Supervisor of the War Relocation Authority's Northern California Area, today thanked Richard W.Townsend Post No. 84, American Legion, at Auburn for the five-point report made by a Post committee following study of employment of alien Japanese at Clipper Gap by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.

The five-point report which was prepared and submitted by a committee from the local Legion Post with Ronald Knudsen as chairman follows:

1. As to the American born Nisei Japanese who have served in the United States Armed Forces and have thereby proven their loyalty, we consider them to be entitled to the same consideration as any other citizen.
2. As to the other concededly loyal citizens or aliens of any national origin, we consider them to be entitled to all the rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States.
3. As to all other persons of any race whatsoever, whether American born or alien, who have proven themselves by either act or utterance, to be disloyal to the United States of America, we believe that they should be dealt with in strict accordance with existing laws covering such cases.
4. That the absolute enforcement of the United States immigration laws and the California alien land laws be carried out without undue delay.
5. It is our opinion that no man can serve two masters nor can he be loyal to two countries, and we strongly oppose the holding of dual citizenship by persons of any nationality or national origin.

There's a joker in here somewhere.

Homer Chaillaux, Adjutant of the American Legion's Department of California, commented to Post 84 that "Your statement of policy is so sound that I will see that it is run in the next issue of the California Legionnaire as an indication of your policy as well as an indication that is a good policy for them to follow also."

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February 9, 1945

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

To: All Project Papers
For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In an effort to combat prejudice and discrimination against returning evacuees of Japanese ancestry, the Congregational Committee for Christian Democracy, Los Angeles, and a group of "friends supporting the program of social evangelism of the Santa Maria Methodist Church" recently placed two three-column, page-length advertisements in the Santa Maria Free Advertiser.

Under a heading "TRUTH" in type nearly two inches high, the first group quoted Dr. Paul S. Taylor, professor of economics at the University of California who, before a San Francisco audience on January 11, presented facts to controvert popular fallacies and rumors given lip-service by those opposing return of the evacuees.

Included in the paid advertisement was a statement made by the president of the Filipino Inter-Community, Antonio A. Gonzales, to the San Francisco Call-Bulletin: "We are 100 per cent for the Christian way of life. We don't want any quarrels with the Japanese." Mr. Gonzales was further quoted as saying in a private interview "We have been used as pawns once and we don't propose to be so used again."

Also included were a statement on racial discrimination taken from an opinion handed down by U. S. Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy, and an account of action taken by the executive committee of the University of California warmly welcoming returning students of Japanese ancestry.

In the advertisement sponsored by the other group at Santa Maria, Governor Earl Warren's request that the order of the War Department "be respected and carefully complied with by the Government and people of this State" was quoted at length under a heading of "Good Americanism Is Issue."

Quoted, too, were excerpts from the U. S. Supreme Court's decisions in the Mitsuye Endo and Fred Korematsu cases, and the California Department of the American Legion which said: "If there be any among you who would bring shame on the American Legion by violating the principles of the Legion by denying to a citizen the rights which are his, then you forfeit your right to be considered a good Legionnaire."

The condemnation of racism and discrimination by Post No. 8 (Los Angeles) and the offer of Santa Ana Post to use its 600 members for law-enforcement purposes were recounted under a subhead of "American Legion for Americanism."

Included in the paid advertisement were briefed accounts of action taken by Labor groups. Those included the statements by the AFL Oregon Labor Press of Portland ("We have laws to take care of any citizens who are disloyal to our country, and we should not violate our Constitution by denying privileges given by it to any group, regardless of race, creed or color."); the Oregon State CIO Council, ("It would be well for those people who advocate these anti-Christian and un-American ideas to show some of the patriotism exhibited by the Japanese Americans fighting for the democracy these people are ignorantly trying to destroy."); the San Diego CIO Council; the National Maritime Union; and the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen ("Our brother Americans of Japanese descent have shown their patriotism the hard way as evidenced by our members on the battlefronts.")

Action of the Santa Maria Ministerial Association, which vigorously opposed the evacuation as unnecessary, was recalled as part of the fight made by many churchmen to see that the evacuees were not deprived of their rights.

o O o

February 10, 1945

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

To: All Project Papers
For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NISEI EQUALITY GUARANTEED

Equality of opportunity in the eyes of the University to all students of Japanese ancestry was guaranteed last week by President Robert Gordon Sproul in a statement to the California Bruin at the Los Angeles campus.

President Sproul's statement said:

"The University makes no distinction among students because of their race, religion, or nationality. Therefore, persons of Japanese ancestry who have been cleared by the War Department and other federal authorities and who return to California either to begin or to resume their studies at the University will not be treated differently from other former students or applicants for admission.

"Moreover, such persons will be received by the University and by the faculty and student body as well, I am sure, in a friendly and cooperative manner, for they will have been certified, in effect, to have proved themselves free from any blemish or disloyalty even under the stress of most discriminatory treatment."

Taken from THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN, Monday, January 29, 1945.

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For Release in San Francisco April 13, 1944

Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes today issued the following statement regarding the program of the War Relocation Authority:

"~~I am not contemplating any major changes either in the policies or the personnel of the War Relocation Authority.~~" When the WRA joined the Department of the Interior about two months ago, I indicated my full approval of the lines along which the agency is conducting its program and the principles which are guiding its operations. I have seen nothing in the past two months that would lead me to alter my views.

The principles underlying the WRA program are comparatively simple and wholly democratic in concept. They include (1) a recognition of the fact that two-thirds of the evacuees of Japanese ancestry are American citizens entitled to certain basic rights which are guaranteed in the Constitution, (2) a firm belief that there is a place in American life for all loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens living in the United States regardless of race or ancestry, and (3) the basic concept that loyalty sustains itself only when given a chance and does not flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion or discrimination. As long as the War Relocation Authority continues to operate its program in accordance with these principles, I am confident that its activities are in the best interests of the American people.

The major emphasis in War Relocation Authority operations is now on restoring the people at all WRA centers except Tule Lake as rapidly as possible to private life in areas of the country where they are not ~~communities outside the West Coast from which they came~~ not excluded by military regulations. Over 20,000 people have already left the centers

to take up new homes and new jobs in hundreds of communities scattered all the way from Spokane, Washington to Boston, Massacheusetts. ~~Many of~~ These relocated evacuees, who are ~~mostly~~ establishing themselves in cities and on farms and many have indicated that they plan to remain in their new locations during the post-war period. Thus the relocation program is contributing to a more widespread dispersal of Japanese Americans throughout the country.

In view of this fact, it is a little difficult to understand why so many groups and individuals in the West Coast area are opposing this program and advocating wholesale confinement of the evacuated people for the duration of the war. I believe the only justifiable reason for confinement of a citizen without trial in a democratic nation is the existence of rather strong evidence that the individual might endanger the wartime security of the nation. The WRA has gathered information from many sources on all adult persons at the relocation centers and has segregated those whose loyalties lie with Japan and those who are potentially dangerous, together with their immediate family members, at the Tule Lake Center. To insist on going further and to advocate confining those whose records have stood up successfully under this kind of scrutiny can only be regarded as sheer race discrimination. Such a policy would seem more consistent with the practices of our enemies than with the principles which we are fighting to defend."

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 9, California

(The following editorial was printed in the Portland, Oregon, Daily Journal of Commerce, April 23, 1945.)

ASK A SOLDIER

"Most of the kids who have been fighting overseas in the army or the marines when they return home are not going to put all the Japanese-Americans in the same category. They are going to judge them on an individual basis." These words came from a man who has been in close contact with both the American Japanese and the servicemen. -- Dillon Myer, head of the War Relocation Authority.

Friday night Myer, speaking to a select group of press and radio people gathered at the Press Club, said the WRA is now facing many problems. The persons who create these problems, added the tall, white-haired sociological authority, are of five types. There are (1) persons and organized groups which will do anything to make a dollar; (2) persons acting with political interests in mind against the American Japanese; (3) the red-faced patriot; (4) racially-prejudiced persons, and (5) a large group of people who just plain don't think.

Ouch!

One especially marked attribute of Mr. Myer was noted by news and radio men alike. He spoke straight from the shoulder. At one point during the question and answers period which followed Mr. Myer's talk, a woman in the audience excitedly called out: "What about the man who was stabbed in the back by a Japanese American just 40 miles outside of Portland? Can you blame people who hate Japs such as that?"

Mr. Myer shot back: "What Jap? Where? When?" Then he paused, gave the woman an opportunity to answer. She was dumfounded, embarrassed. There was no response. The relocation chief then assured the perplexed lady: "I know that incident never occurred. I was in this area when the rumor was started." His point was well made. Check the source of your information before accepting a bald statement on the Japanese situation.

Myer said many of the stories of the bravery of the Japanese American fighting in the U. S. army have not yet come forth. He told of one battalion Japanese American battalion which suffered 60 per cent casualities while rescuing a lost battalion of Texans. Of the nisei who climbed a telephone pole in the Pacific area and intercepted messages between Jap headquarters, and who cut in and instructed one of the Jap groups to move in a certain direction where it was ambushed by Americans and 600 Japs killed.

"Ask any soldier or marine you meet on the street what he thinks of the Japanese American question?" Myer challenged. "I've asked many of them and never once have I received a reply of dislike or hate for these loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry." (The navy does not have Japanese Americans among its fighting ranks generally, Myer explained in omitting the questioning of sailors.) The WRA head agreed that he is willing to see disloyal Japs returned to their native land.

The groups which have been raising all the hullabaloo against the Japs in this country are now beginning to meet opposition from the great majority of Americans who, although a little slower to act, will ultimately quell the unrationalized hatred of the red-faced patriot, the unthinking American and the greedy land owners who do not wish to give up what they have come by because of the war.

As Myer put it, "If there is any shooting, it will be shooting of both sides -- and not necessarily with guns -- until this thing is cleaned up."

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Is this a threat to call out the militia?

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The following editorial appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on May 15, 1945.

TERROR ON THE WEST COAST

Not even the normally vehement Harold L. Ickes can find words sufficiently strong for the denunciation of those irresponsible hoodlums on the West Coast who, without a thought of the principles for which young Americans have been giving their lives all over the globe, have been terrorizing other loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry whose only desire is to return to the homes from which they were so rudely evicted after Pearl Harbor.

As Secretary Ickes points out with justified, righteous anger, many of the Nisei homes into which shots have been fired have American service flag stars in their windows. Many of their sons fought bravely in Europe, contributing to the destruction of the once mighty Nazi menace which was founded in racial hatred. Others are fighting and dying in the Pacific to help prevent the land of their ancestors from ever again threatening the peace and security of America.

We have been proud in the United States that we did not repeat our behavior of the First World War, when thousands of loyal American Germans were harrassed and terrorized by official and unofficial persecutors. It will prove to have been a false pride if we do not as a nation rise up in protest against similar treatment of the Japanese Americans.

If we are to retain our self-respect the public officials of California, Washington and Oregon especially must act vigorously to end this terrorism and give the Nisei the protection which is their right as unoffending residents or citizens of a free country.

* * *

The following editorial appeared in the Washington Post on May 17, 1945:

PLANNED TERRORISM

Secretary Ickes habit of calling a spade by its commonly accepted name was never put to better use than in his characterization of the recent West Coast attacks on American citizens of Japanese ancestry. These constitute, he said, "a pattern of planned terrorism by hoodlums." He also pointed his finger squarely at their ugly purpose--to set up "an economic beachhead on the property of the evacuees. This is precisely what all the recent frenzy, all the talk about spies and saboteurs, boils down to. Some people who want to take over farmland owned by the evacuees have hired gunmen and plug-uglies to frighten these citizens away from their homes. The technique differs in no essential respect from that employed in Germany by those who coveted the property of the Jews.

Mr. Ickes is quite right, too, in his assertion that these "Storm-trooper tactics" are "a matter of national concern." Hoodlumism is never more contagious than when it is practiced against a racial minority. Let the tactics succeed in California and they will find imitators elsewhere. Their success in Germany led inevitably first to the obliteration of all minority elements and then to the enslavement of the entire nation. That they have been pursued in California is due to the fact that their practitioners have masked their real motives by appealing to the prejudices of unthinking people. This, too, was the pattern in Germany.

The remedy is forthright exposure of the sort Mr. Ickes has initiated. He should be supported by the public officials of California who understand "quite well as he does the nature of this sinister racket. And those public officials should have the vigorous backing of all responsible citizens of the State who care about preservation of the democratic process. Terrorism is incompatible with a free society."

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The following editorial appeared in the New York Times on May 16, 1945:

RIDERS IN THE NIGHT

In the early days of the war, when invasion was a haunting fear, the military authorities decided upon wholesale removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast. More than 100,000 of them, men, women and children, were placed in eight relocation centers and held for thirty months. During their exile other Japanese Americans of military age who had gone into the Army voluntarily or by induction proved their valor on the battlefields of Italy, winning the commendation of General Clark. Others died as Americans fighting Japanese in the Pacific. Meantime, the danger of invasion passed, and last December permission was given to loyal Japanese Americans to return. About one-third headed east. The others gradually went back to their homes on the West Coast.

For months now riders in the night in California have been spreading terror and applying the torch to the homes of many who went back at the request of their government and in abiding faith that they would be left alone to work their land for most were farmers. No fewer than twenty-four instances of "violence or open intimidation" have been recorded by the War Relocation Authority, and Secretary Ickes charges that in not one of the shooting cases has a suspect has been put on trial. Yet there have been fifteen such cases, in addition to three arson cases, five threatening visits and one attempt at dynamiting. Obviously, our law enforcement officers are making no effort to enforce the law. That policy will merely encourage excesses that should be stopped.

* * *

The following editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Record on May 17, 1945:

WEST COAST STORM TROOPERS

Among glorious pages of the American war record is one shame. It will recount the injustice, hoodlumism and native terrorism practiced upon native Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Once again going to bat for a racial minority, Secretary of the Interior Ickes has denounced the "Nazi Storm-Trooper tactics" of lawless elements on the West Coast.

There have been 24 incidents of violence and intimidation in the last four months against Japanese Americans who have returned to California from relocation centers. That is bad enough, but most frightening is Ickes report that no suspects have been brought to trial in any of 15 "shooting attempts" in rural California areas.

State and county enforcement agencies are either conniving with the terrorists or condoning their vicious behavior.

Two-thirds of the 110,000 Japanese Americans in this country were born here. They have the rights of any other American under law. Japanese Americans have fought valiantly in our armed forces. They have a splendid bond buying record. They have given their blood to the Red Cross.

Now they are going home--only to be confronted with the night riders torch, bullets from ambush, curses and threats. Before the eyes of the visiting diplomats of the nations of the world at San Francisco this constitutes a national disgrace. We believe with Ickes the West Coast terrorism is the work of a small minority but it's about time that the decent humane majority put an end to this persecution.

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The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Sun, May 15, 1945:

PROTECT THE NISEI'S RIGHTS

To the "24 incidents" cited by Secretary Ickes in charging organized terrorism against relocated Japanese Americans in California, two others have been added.

Three revolver shots were fired into the home of Setsugo Sakamoto, whose adopted son is now fighting with the American Philippine armies and whose son-in-law also is in the services. A girl, Mary Masuda, is staying with a Caucasian family. One of her brothers was killed at Cassino, another wounded fighting to rescue a U.S. unit trapped in the Vosges Mountains. Miss Masuda two weeks ago was called upon by a threatening group and warned to "get out".

Governor Warren and Attorney General Kenny of California have been diligent, according to all reports, in attempting to suppress anti-Nisei hoodlumism. But the Federal Government also has an obligation to protect all its citizens against organized violation of their rights. An FBI inquiry and Federal Grand Jury indictments probably could halt the shootings, the arson and the dynamitings by putting some of the thugs and night riders into Federal prison.

* * *

The following editorial appeared in The Philadelphia Bulletin, May 15, 1945:

A BLAST AT INTOLERANCE

Secretary Ickes denunciation of the planned terrorism against persons of Japanese descent in West Coast states is very much in order. Much as the Secretary is given to popping off, this is once when nobody who thinks twice can dispute with him.

The outrages against returning evacuees are contrary to every cherished American principle. The victims are loyal citizens, entitled by every right to the same protection the law affords their neighbors. Not one of the hoodlums has yet been caught.

It doesn't seem reasonable that law enforcement agencies could accidently be that blind. But if there is sympathy for the hoodlums on the part of constituted authorities, it is time a higher power stepped in to show them that there is no room anywhere in this country for the philosphy this terrorism reflects.

There was a time when every person of Japanese ancestry was suspect. But that time has passed. Those permitted to return to their properties have been carefully investigated and given a clean bill of patriotic health. Big as this country is, it isn't large enough to fight a war against tyranny and oppression and tolerate them at home.

* * *

The following editorial excerpt is from the News-Press, Santa Barbara, California, Tuesday, May 15, 1945:

THE $64 QUESTION - IN GERMANY AND CALIFORNIA

A speaker representing the California Youth Authority was asked, following his talk on youth problems before a women's organization recently, "What can be done about the re-education of youth in Germany, to rid them of their Nazi philosophy?"

It was, as the speaker confessed, "the $64 question," and he admitted he did not have the answer. Nor are there many Americans who can feel confident they have the right answer to this problem.

But Santa Barbarans, and Californians, might make a start toward discovering the right answer by looking at a similar problems right in our own back yard.

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Secretary Ickes has focused national attention on the "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in certain sections of California. He lists shooting attempts, one attempted dynamiting, three arson cases and five threatening visits. And he said the only instance in which arrests were made and a trial held, a case listed by the War Relocation Authority as a dynamiting attempt, resulted in acquittal by the jury of three defendants.

Here is a problem primarily of law enforcement and law observance, right in our own State. We cannot, as California citizens, do much about safeguarding representative government and democratic freedom in Poland, in Greece, in Spain or in Argentina. But we can demand that our State Government and our various County officials observe and defend the letter and the spirit of the American Constitution in regard to minority groups of American citizens.

We cannot, as Californians, do much about cleansing the minds and hearts of German youth of Nazi cruelty, arrogance, intolerance and sadism. But we can, if we really desire, exert an influence on the youth and the adults of California against hoodlumism, arrogance, intolerance and cruelty.

If in this state which stands high in education, culture and enlightenment, we cannot cure our own ills of bigotry, hatred, greed and "know-nothing" mob spirit, then heaven help us in trying to set up a world organization for peace and justice.

The $64 question is aimed at California, as well as at Germany.

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(The following editorial appeared in the Washington Post, May 7, 1945.)

"WEST COAST TERROR"

"In California, since the beginning of this year, there have been 16 shoot- incidents -- directed at American citizens of Japanese ancestry. The Americans who were made the target of this terror had returned to their homes with the express permission of the United States Army. Their loyalty had been carefully scrutinized and certified by Army authorities. Some of them had been honorably discharged from the Army itself. Some had been released from the camps of the War Relocation Authority after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared the detention of loyal citizens on grounds of race to be unconstitutional. These Americans are being persecuted because of their racial background -- in the same way and for just the same reasons that prompted the Nazi persecution of racial minorities. When we gape at German atrocities, we might cast a backward glance at these atrocities of our own.

"A California jury has acquitted three men who were charged with having planted a dynamite bomb on the farm of Sumio Doi, recently released from a relocation camp. We do not know the details of the evidence against these men. But we do know that the presiding judge permitted the introduction of questions respecting the validity of Doi's purchase of his ranch under the California Alien Land Act and that the defense attorney was allowed to tell the jury - 'This is a white man's country. Let's keep it so'. We had supposed that 'trials' of this character had ended with the collapse of Hiter's fortress.

"These atrocities have been happening not far from San Francisco, where the representatives of 46 nations -- comprising people of every race and color -- are striving to create a new organization to keep the peace. They besmirch our principles and our pretensions. They are perpetrated, to be sure, by no more than a few bigoted hoodlums. Nevertheless, they do injury to us all - not only to our good name but also to the institutions upon which our own secure and orderly way of life is founded. If California authorities cannot uphold the law and protect the citizens of their own state, they should call for help from the Federal Government. Terrorism is no less ugly at home than abroad".

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The entire Japanese battle plan for the naval defense of the Philippines, captured with Admiral Koga, then Commander in Chief of the Combined Japanese Fleets, were translated by graduates of the U.S. Military Intelligence Service Language School and Japan received the worst defeat in naval history --

Likewise the complete Japanese plan for the defense of the Philippines also was made known through the work of the language specialists...long before our forces landed on Leyte ---

Never before in history did one army know so much concerning the enemy prior to actual engagement as did the American Army during most of the Pacific campaign --

These are the high points of a review issued by the Language School of Fort Snelling, Minnesota, at the same time emphasizing that 85 per cent of the graduates were Japanese Americans.

The report gives special credit for the Japanese Americans who broke "the veil of secrecy in which the difficulties of the Japanese language had cloaked enemy activities".

Today they are in Japan serving as equally important links in communication between General MacArthur's occupation Army and the Japanese people, once "critical" and debarred from release under the point system they are now permitted separation like other G.I.'s with replacements being trained rapidly.

The Language school had its beginning at Crissy Field, San Francisco, on November 1, 1941 -- four weeks before Pearl Harbor, with 8 instructors and 60 pupils.

After Pearl Harbor the school, because of its dominant Japanese American student body, was evacuated from the Pacific Coast. It was moved to Camp Savage, Minnesota.

"The training school had to be founded in a community which would accept the oriental faced Americans for their true worth -- American soldiers fighting with their brains for their native America," says the report.

The report reveals that many of the Japanese American students had suffered beatings from pro-Japanese in Relocation Centers but they had their minds made up to accelerate their training so they "could get their hands on those dirty Japs that caused all the sufferings and hardships of evacuation."

Today the school has a student body of 3,000 and is established in Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Chinese and Koreans are among the students. The teaching staff is composed of 162 entirely Nisei, born in the United States and the Hawaiian Islands. Twenty seven of these are civil service employes but the rest are Army sergeants.

Thousands were graduated as interpreters, interrogators, translators, radio intercepters, censors, radio announcers and propaganda writers.

The first survey of 3,700 Nisei revealed that only 3 per cent were accomplished linguists, another 4 per cent proficient and a further 3 per cent useful only after a period of training.

"The Americanization of the Nisei on the Pacific Coast had advanced more rapidly than the United States public was aware," says the report.

Numberous West Coast Nisei are listed in the report:

Lieutenant George K. Kayano of San Francisco accompanied Col. Sidney F. Mashbir, in receiving the Japanese peace envoys at Nichols Field, Philippine Islands, to mark the close of hostilities.

Major John F. Aiso, of San Francisco, was found as a "greasemonkey" in another army unit and his linguistic ability employed to defeat the Japanese enemy.

Pfc. Arthur Kaneko, of Los Angeles, who had been at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, and after that in the 236th CA (AA), where he was located by the Commandant of the Fort Snelling School, Colonel Kai E. Rasmussen, and selected with Aiso as potential instructors. Kaneko, because of the superior service he rendered is now a Lieutenant on duty in Military Intelligence research work.

Two Nisei civilian instructors, Akira Oshida of Berkeley, and Shigeya Kihara of Oakland, were teachers at the University of California, before being added to the teaching staff at Fort Snelling. With the help of Aiso and Kaneko, these four Nisei

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worked feverishly in early preparation of text books and classroom exercises for the Japanese language courses.

Many Japanese Americans who were alumni of the language school lie where they fell, including Staff Sergeant Hachiya in Leyte, Sergeants Shibata and Fukui on Okinawa, and Captain William Laffin, from Tracy and Hollywood, who was killed in Burma. Captain Laffin, whose mother was a Japanese, was commanding officer of Merrill's Marauders in the engagement at Myitkyina when he was strafed by enemy planes.

Technical Sergeant Kazua Komoto of Modesto, with the 11th Airborne Division, was among the first troops that landed at Atsugi Airfield near Tokyo. Komoto also was the first graduate of the Military Intelligence Service Language School to win a purple heart when he was shot by a Jap sniper on New Georgia Island.

Technical Sergeant John Tanikawa, San Francisco, who was awarded a Bronze Star for his work with the 41st Division on Leyte, was also a veteran of World War I.

Roy Matsumoto, of Guadalupe, was among the fourteen Nisei who volunteered for service with Merrill's Marauders in Burma, as also was Ben Sugeta, of Los Angeles, who was in the Colorado River Center, Robert Honda, of Palo Alto, who attended Camp Savage school before going to Fort Snelling, and Henry Gosho, of Seattle, who entered the service from the Minidoka center.

Technician 3rd Grade Eiichi Sakauye, of San Jose, who was in Heart Mountain center, is a Kibei who received a Silver Star for rescuing a wounded British officer under fire in the China-Burma-India Theater.

Technician 3rd Grade Terry Takeshi Doi, of Parlier, evacuated to Gila River center, was an "out and out Kibei", with his Japanese stronger than his command of English. He had been kept at the Military Intelligence Service Language School after graduation before he was cleared as being trustworthy for service in the combat zone, but after being one of the first Nisei to land on Iwo Jima was singled out for particular praise by his officers for distinguished service. He went into cave after cave with only a flashlight and knife persuading many enemy soldiers to come out and surrender, and was given by his fellow service man the middle name "Guts".

Technician 3rd Grade Kenji Yasui, of Los Angeles, and Granada Relocation Center, also a Kibei, won for himself the title of "Nisei Sergeant York". Yasui, because of extensive schooling in Japan and his command of the Japanese language, was sent to the Office of War Information in India to work on propaganda to be dropped over the enemy lines. Masquerading as Colonel Yamamoto, a local Japanese Commander, he brought in single handed a dozen Japanese prisoners of war, for which he was awarded a citation.

Technician 4th Grade Seiyu Higashi, Los Angeles, was given duty in Okinawa because as a boy he was taken back to the town of Naha on that island, received his middle school education there and was therefore familiar with Okinawa dialect. Upon reaching the town of Naha, he accidentally ran into his father, whom he had not seen for eight years.

Technician 3rd Grade Frank T. Hachiya was born in Hood River, Oregon, was killed when he was sent out as a special replacement to the language team working with the Sixth Army headquarters on Leyte, after completing successful missions in the Kwajalein and Eniwetok campaigns.

Technician 3rd Grade Eddie Fukui, of Tacoma, who was sent to the language school from Tule Lake, Technician 4th Grade Ben Satashi Kurokawa, of Guadalupe, later Gila River, and Sunichi Bill Imoto, of Seattle, and Minidoka, were West Coast alumni of the language achool who lost their lives in Okinawa.

Sergeant George I. Nakamura, of Santa Cruz, later sent to Tule Lake, was given special mention for the circumstances surrounding his death in the Philippines. His commanding officer wrote: "Nakamura was on temporary duty with the 63rd Infantry Regiment of the 6th Infantry Division and participated in an engagement near Payawan. With heroic intrepidity, he exposed himself to enemy fire in order to issue an oral ultimatum of surrender to several isolated enemy units."

Still being trained at the Fort Snelling Language school for duty with the army of occupation in Japan, which presents a ticklish problem from a linguistic standpoint, are other West Coast Nisei, among them Corporal Sherman Kishi, and his brother Pfc. Fred, of Livingston, California, who were sent to Granada Relocation Center, and Private Karl Doi, of Auburn, and later Tule Lake.

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