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52 of 66

H459

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

Topaz, Utah

PFC. THOMAS HIGA  
VISITS TOPAZ

by  
George Sugihara

July 8, 1944

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION  
HISTORICAL SECTION  
R. A. Bankson

CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT OF PFC THOMAS HIGA'S VISIT IN TOPAZ

July 3, 1944

1. Entered City before 12:00 noon ahead of schedule
2. Entertained at home of Roscoe E. Bell, assistant project director, at 2:30 p.m.
3. Assigned to apartment (block 2, barrack 1, apt. A)
4. Invited to four homes in the center.
5. Spoke before combined old and new Community Councils.
6. At 4:30 p.m. met with mothers at the USO, rec. #4.
7. At 5:30 p.m. attended USO banquet as guest of honor.
8. Addressed the residents at the auditorium at 8:00 p.m.
9. Attended informal gathering at Block #1 from 10:30 p.m.

July 4, 1944

1. Addressed high school assembly at 9:20 a.m.
2. Meeting with block managers cancelled.
3. 1:15 p.m. accompanied to train by representatives of Council and USO, Mrs. A. Isono, Mr. K. Hashimoto, Mr. T. Tsuzuki, Mr. G. Shimamoto

### PRIVATE FIRST CLASS THOMAS HIGA...

a defender of Pearl Harbor, veteran of Salerno and Cassino, wearer of the Purple Heart, an American-Japanese from rural Hawaii, a visitor to Topaz.

Pfc. Thomas Higa was to the issei, to mothers and fathers, and to soldiers' families what Sgt. Ben Kuroki was to the nisei. His pointed address in Japanese before a preponderant issei audience of 600 (approximate) on July 3, 1944 was the first public orientation of the soldier mind and heart to those of our issei group. His was a talk sustaining the will of his buddies overseas and a stimulus to impart the same among soldiers-to-be and those remaining here. Pfc. Higa's one-hour and fifty-five minute account of his "Battle In Italy" was an attempt, free of chauvinism, to establish the necessary rapport, to dispel rumors, and to allay fears of open prejudice as thus far associated with the fighting 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Regiment on the Italian front.

The scene of this occasion was in the auditorium where the audience remained receptive in spite of the summer heat. At 8:00 p.m. the Boy Scouts bugled the "Call To The Colors"; the flag was presented. Mr. Byron T. Tsuzuki of the Community Council, presented in Japanese the introduction for the program of the evening, including briefly highlights of Pfc. Higa's purposive visit and the nature of the world at war. A vocal selection, "America The Beautiful", by Miss Kiyoko Hoshiga followed. After a formal introduction of the following: Mr. Adachi, World War I veteran; Mr. Yoshino, father of

three Topaz volunteers for the combat team; Mrs. Isono, member of the Topaz USO; and Mr. Roscoe Bell, assistant project director, Project Attorney Ralph C. Barnhart presented the speaker, Pfc. Thomas Higa, with an outline of his background and the timely significance of a soldier's return from a war front. Mention was also made of the fact this was not an affair entertained by the War Department nor by the War Relocation Authority.

At this point Pfc. Higa was presented to the waiting audience. (his message was amplified through the loud speaker system.) The following is a translation, by Mr. Henry Miyagi of the Japanese Section of the Topaz Times, of Higa's message, "BATTLE IN ITALY":

"Ladies and gentlemen and friends:

It is indeed a great pleasure to me to meet you all here tonight and to tell you something about my own experiences in the Army, and also to convey to you the thoughts and sentiments of all my brethren-in-arms who are still fighting in the Italian battlefield for our country.

As the first thing, I want to tell you that neither the Army nor the WRA has anything to do with my trip. I have come on my own accord to let you know of the true situations of the Nisei soldiers in the Army and in the battlefields for two main reasons, one of which is because of the fact that ever since I returned from the battle front, wherever I go I've heard some astonishing rumors about Nisei

soldiers being discriminated or mistreated in the Army even to such an extent as to be sent out deliberately to the most dangerous spots at the front lines, and so on. But, my friends, all those rumors are far from being true. They are simply absurd! There is no such thing. But, I suppose such rumors might not only scare all the new draftees but also cause their parents unnecessary worries about them. But don't believe such imaginary rumors. In fact, I have never met with any racial discrimination among the soldiers in the battlefield. We were always treated quite fairly and decently by all the Caucasian officers and soldiers. All of the soldiers at the battle front are fighting as one unit, in one spirit and for one purpose, to win the battle.

Also, there is another reason why I want to speak for you all, particularly to the parents of all soldiers. It is because when we, the comrades of the 100th Battalion left New York harbor aboard a transport for the Italian front, we were all determined to do our best and to fight to the death. We were all in high spirits with nothing to fear nor to worry about. But we had just one desire in common, and that desire was that if and when any one of us could ever come back home alive, we would want him to convey to the people at the home front all of our thoughts, ideals and sentiments that filled our hearts and souls night and day.

Just by chance I happened to be one of the few who got injured and sent back to the U.S. still alive. So, today, I feel that I owe it to all of my comrades-in-arms that I should

take every opportunity to convey to you folks all of our thoughts and ideals and experiences we went through.

Let me tell you, friends, the common ideals of our comrades of the 100th Battalion is that we, being American citizens, must fight and sacrifice our lives to preserve these United States of liberty and democracy that all the people might live more decently and happily forever. I do not know what some Issei might think, but as for us Nisei we must be real good Americans. There is no fence for anyone to sit on. Nor can there be go-betweens. One must be either an American or a Japanese. That is our conception of American citizenship; that is our common ideal of life of Nisei soldiers in the battlefield. And that is what I wish you folks to understand.

I was born and raised on a farm in Hawaii, and I was drafted and inducted into the Army in June 1941 and was stationed at Schofield Camp, Honolulu. About six months after Pearl Harbor in May 28th, 1942 our regiment was sent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, then to Camp Shelby, Mississippi where we went through intensive training until August 1943, when we were sent overseas to Oran, Algeria, and from there we were soon sent to Salerno, Italy for real action.

Our team was placed under the command of the 34th Division. We started actual fighting on the 28th of August, 1943. We drove the enemy back with our machine guns, mortars, field artillaries and bombers. It was the most thrilling experience of my life. I realized that we were making perfect team work, and there was no discord nor racial discrimination whatsoever.

On one occasion, we heard a group of soldier talking loudly in English, so we thought that they were American soldiers and as we carelessly approached the, all of a sudden they started firing at us, and we threw ourselves to the ground at once and took to cover. It was the first lesson we learned of the crafty Nazi's tricks. It was on September 16 of last year that our battalion started an attack on Castle Hill which was a very important point and we kept up a terrific battle for more than a month with perfect cooperation of bombers, field artilleries, mortars, and machine guns. On October 24th the Nazi ran away and we captured this vital spot, also taking about fifty prisoners. As we were escorting these German captives away, one of them asked us in English what nationality we belonged to. They seemed quite astonished when one of us told them we were American Japanese. And one of them asked, "How could you Japanese be here fighting Germans?" And as we said that we were American-born citizens of Japanese ancestry, they understood and said, "Oh, I see. I understand. I think you are right!"

In this battle of Castle Hill one of our gunners, named Awaguni stopped a great big German tank at a distance of just twenty-five yards. That means that he was so cool and calm that he could wait for a length of time before the enemy was fired on, thus assuring a direct hit on the vital spot of the tank. And we were highly complimented by our Caucasian officers and comrades. All of the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion kept up good fighting always in high spirits.

For Christmas we had a good holiday and a good treat, too.

At that time we saw an Italian farmer digging up a large wooden box out of the ground which we thought was a coffin at first. But soon he opened it and took out of it all kinds of personal belongings such as clothing, shoes, hats, wine bottles, etc. As we asked him curiously why he had buried those things under the ground, he said that the Nazi would swipe everything worth taking. But he said that he trusted American soldiers would not do such a thing.

Italians were crazy about American cigarettes. When I gave one package of American cigarettes to an Italian farmer he gave me two good-sized chicken. So, we cooked the chicken in our iron helmets, and had a good dinner of them. So, you see, a soldier's helmet is a serviceable thing. It can be used for digging ground, carrying water, for drinking or washing, and so on.

I want to tell you that the Army really makes real good men, curing all kinds of human faults. I want to let you know what all soldiers would appreciate most. It is not clothing nor foodstuffs nor cigarettes nor candies. You need not send those things to American soldiers because we have plenty of those things in the Army. What we soldiers, especially in the battlefield, appreciate most are letters from families and friends, particularly mothers' handwritten letters and pictures.

It is a Japanese custom that the family or friend would present soldiers with a Senninbari (belt stitched by several hundred people as a charm for good luck). A belt is not so bad when it is not so hot, but in a very hot climate we cannot

~~carry them~~

carry the Senninbari, nor can we throw it away because of the sentiment it carries. So we have to carry it around in our arms wherever we go. So very often it becomes rather burdensome for a soldier in the battlefield. But pictures or letters from parents, particularly from mothers--in mothers' handwriting--especially when they contain such encouraging words as: "My dear son, your mother is always thinking of you, and praying almighty God to watch over you, guide you, protect you, and send you back to me soon. So under all circumstances be good and courageous in any situation for God will always save you, etc.."

I, myself, always carry my mother's encouraging letters, and whenever I become sad or miserable I get it out of my pocket and read it, and it never fails to give me strength and ~~mm~~ courage and makes me feel better and happy.

When I got injured my mother's letter gave me great faith and encouragement and strength and saved my life.

One day when one of my comrades was digging a trench at a front line, somehow he thought of his mother and he took his mother's letter out of his pocket and after reading it over he wanted to show it to his comrade, so he jumped out of his trench and ran several yards away to his friend's trench. Just then an enemy's cannon shell fell right into his trench from where he had jumped out just one minute before. So his life was saved on account of his mother's letter. This is just one instance I know quite many cases like that where a soldier's life was

saved on account of his mother's letter.

So I earnestly wish that all the parents of soldiers will write some encouraging letters to their soldier sons as often as possible.

In that fierce battle of Cassino, I was wounded twice; first time, I was hit on the right arm, and at the second time I was struck down by a shrapnel shell on the back which incapacitated me for a long time. On account of that I have been sent back here. But now, I feel all right again, so I am going back to active service in a few days.

Well, I wish you all good health and good luck, and I hope to meet you again.

Thank you for your good attention."

July 3, 1944

(translation of Higa's talk before the old and new councils)

"I am a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion; we were the first Japanese-Americans to get into actual combat. I believe that we had done much good through our action, leaving no room for anything in the way of a bad reputation.

I was in Granada about ten days ago and was asked to make a speech in Japanese. This is the second camp I am visiting. I specially enjoy attending meetings of this sort and question-and-answer meetings as well.

Our company was called four times. When we left America, we thought that we would never return. We worried about our families and about their future. We made up our minds to fight for all Japanese-Americans. We promised at that time that if any one of us should come back we would report our role and our sentiments for all to hear. I was among those fortunate enough to return; therefore, I am going around making these speeches. We are strong, but you are the ones who will support us with prayer."

BLOCK #1 MEETING July 3, 1944 10:30 p.m.

Approximately forty people including a few members of the council, block managers' group, and residents of the block met with Pfc. Higa in an informal gathering at the dining hall. Tables were arranged "horse shoe" fashion, and refreshments were served.

The meeting was in the nature of a "bull session".

Project Reports Officer, Russell A. Bankson, was present to photograph the group. Mr. Bankson was also able to photograph the occasion when Mr. Kawamoto, a member of the Topaz USO, presented Pfc. Higa with an artificial flower which was made in Topaz as a token of appreciation.

USO BANQUET July 3, 1944 5:30 p.m. Rec #4

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Arimoto, USO

GRACE: Reverend Sano

SPEAKERS: Mr. Raymond Sanford, assistant project director,  
representing the administration

Mr. Mas Harahara representing the Community Council

RESPONSE: Pfc. Thomas Higa (very brief)

Few guests from the administration, the USO, and the  
Block Managers attended.

A buffet style affair.

July 4, 1944 9:20 a.m. Dining Hall #32

Mr. Drayton B. Nuttall, retiring principal of the Topaz High School, initiated Pfc. Higa's second formal appearance here. A capacity dining hall audience, mainly of nisei girls of the local high school and a sprinkling of issei women, joined in the singing of "God Bless America" and in the salute to the flag.

Pfc. Higa was introduced.

Being a native of rural Hawaii, he explained that he was not adept in English and that he would use simple Japanese mixed with English phrases. He prompted questions from the floor and queried at intervals if his words carried to the rear of the hall.

He spoke minus the amplifier.

The import of his message was similar to that of the previous night, both of which comprised the principal function of his visit.

# TOPAZ TIMES

S E M I — W E E K L Y

Vol. VII, No. 27

TOPAZ, UTAH

Saturday, July 1, 1944

## WORK ON JULY 4

In conformity with a national policy for all governmental agencies not to observe any holiday except Christmas, July 4th will be a regular work day for all WRA employees, it was announced today.

## CINCINNATI OFFICE TO BE HEADED BY METHODIST PASTOR

CLEVELAND, Ohio--Harry Elwood Titus, former Methodist pastor in Dayton, Ohio, has been appointed relocation officer in charge of the Cincinnati district office, Robert M. Cullum, Cleveland area supervisor announced today. He succeeds G. Raymond Booth who has been transferred to the Chicago district office.

In Dayton where he handled the relocation problems of about 50 evacuees as a sideline, Titus supervised several groups whose responsibilities included Negro-Caucasian relations in the community, supervising a center for war working women; and assisting migrant war workers with housing and other problems of settling in a new community.

## CAT FOUND IN TOPAZ; COUPLE FROM CALIFORNIA ANSWERS AD

"Where, oh, where has our little cat gone?" was the plea received from Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien of Inyokern, California. It all started with a little item published in the Topaz Times regarding a black Persian cat which had been found and in the meantime had become the mother of 3 kittens.

WEATHER	Max.	Min.
Wednesday.....	84°	53°
Thursday.....	94°	53°
Friday.....	97°	53°

## NISEI WAR VETERAN TO VISIT CENTER NEXT WEEK

A veteran of the Italian campaign and a participant in the Pearl Harbor attack, Pfc. Thomas Higa will arrive here next Tues-

day to address an audience of his experiences in the war. The nisei war veteran visitor will be met at the Delta station by a delegation of representatives of the council and the USO committee.

## DRAFT EVADERS

### 3 YEAR SENTENCE GIVEN TO YOUTHS

The 63 youths from Heart Mountain who refused to report for their preinduction physicals were each sentenced to three years in the Federal Penitentiary for draft evasion by United States Judge Blake Kennedy of Cheyenne, Wyoming, according to a wire received from Dillon S. Myer. The decision indicated that the defense plea about clarifications of civil rights was without merit as an argument in the case.

## CHIEF NURSE TO LEAVE

Miss Margaret McCaffery who has been the acting chief nurse at the local hospital for the past year will leave Monday for Heart Mountain, according to Dr. Douglas Collier, chief medical officer.

Miss McCaffery was honored last night at a party given by the hospital employees.

During his visit Pfc. Higa will be honored at a dinner to be given by the USO, according to Mrs. Marianne Arimoto, chairman of the affair. He will also meet with the new community council.

From 7:30 Tuesday evening, he will address the residents in Japanese in the auditorium. On Wednesday morning from 9:15 he will speak in English to a group in dining hall 32.

Pfc. Higa has been released from an army hospital following recovery from a battle injury and will return to active duty again on July 6, according to a teletype from Hesse H. Lewis, acting field assistant director. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor during attack and later fought with the 100th Battalion at Salerno and Cassino. He was awarded the Purple Heart for the wound he incurred at Cassino.

He was also a visitor at the Granada relocation center a few weeks ago.

## NUTTALL HONORED AT FAREWELL PARTY

In honor of Drayton B. Nuttall, Topaz High School principal, approximately 65 members of the education department, including administrators, faculty and office personnel, attended an outing and steak dinner at Oak City Canyon yesterday.

Nuttall, principal since last September, is expected to leave the project early next week.

By some strange coincidence, the ad was picked up and printed in the Deseret News of Salt Lake City under the heading "Cat Found--Returned with Interest". And the greatest surprise came this morning in a letter answering the ad--all the way from California. It stated that the couple had lived in Springville, Utah, and had moved to California but had lost a similar expectant black cat which may have wandered down to Topaz.

## THE MAIL BOX



The house is full and 20 people are scheduled to come between now and June 23rd. Six young girls, two of them only 16, are coming together from Poston. Wish Topaz would do so well.

Mrs. Inouye takes her job as a housemother very seriously. She mothers the girls and gives them good advice and gives them hot tea if they get colds. Mary Ouye from Topaz can tell you about that. You can assure the mothers that their daughters will have friends here to look out for them.

The best thing about Philadelphia as far as we are concerned is the great numbers of Caucasian people who are eager to make friends with the evacuees. Each room in the house, for example, is furnished by a different branch of the WIL. Each branch has 30 to 40 members.

Our difficulty is housing. Not that there isn't housing. People don't like it. They want little cottages with a lawn and back yard and there simply aren't any.

After a week of looking, people bring themselves to take an apartment, comfortable, but ugly, on the 2nd, third floor of a remodeled old mansion; rents are about \$45 to \$75 for that kind of a place, furnished. Unfurnished places are easier to get. We have surplus furniture in the basement for a few of our first families and encourage people to take unfurnished places which are cheaper.



We feel very strongly that now, not later, is the time for relocation. And certainly Philadelphia is easier to adjust to than the West Coast. A visiting friend from Seattle tells heartbreaking stories of growing race tension, housing, congestion, and high food costs there. I'm afraid the coast as we knew it will never exist again.

Mrs. Mildred Goertzel  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

(Editor's note: Mrs. Goertzel is the wife of Victor Goertzel, former vocational guidance adviser at the Topaz High School who is now director of the Philadelphia Hostel. The above are excerpts of her letter to a friend here.)

Today we received a copy of the Topaz Times in which an article appeared regarding my brother, Pvt. Y. Koizumi. The family appreciates your printing this news for the benefit of his friends and relatives. However, there were some incorrect facts printed which I would like to clarify.

Pvt. Y. Koizumi volunteered for Japanese American Combat Team. Later he left Topaz for seasonal work at Edgewater Beach Hotel at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He was inducted at Fort Snelling, Minn., where he specialized as rifleman.

After completion of his basic he was transferred to Fort Meade, Maryland, from where he was sent overseas in the latter part of February.

He was attached with the 88th Division, 349th Infantry now serving in Italy. He was killed in action on May 23.

Mrs. Harry Hirashima  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Keeping  
Fostered

The TAKAHASHIs, formerly of Berkeley, California, and now of Chicago, Illinois, have really succeeded with relocation in a grand style. Eight members of the family are holding important positions as professional or skilled workers.

GEORGE, the oldest brother who was in Poston, is a chemist in an electroplating plant. ...HENRY, formerly a well-known optometrist in San Francisco and Berkeley and head of the Tanforan and Topaz eye clinics, is now an OEM photographer... His wife, BARBARA, is a public health nurse.

ERNIE, who was active in both the Tanforan and Topaz educational system, is an optical engineer in an up-and-coming optical company. Before evacuation he was an optometrist in Fresno. He has a promising future. Ernie probably hopes to have as much luck in bridge, a game in which he is quite an expert....

MARY is an optometrist, the only one in the family to return to that profession, commuting daily to Hammond, Indiana, which is just on the outskirts of Chicago.... OLIVE is a top-notch clerk (civil service) for the Army Service Forces. Before Tanfo she held a civil service job with the State of California.... JOE works as a photo finisher in Chicago's largest photo processing plant....

DAVID, the youngest brother, goes to school at Otterbein College in Ohio. Another sister RUTH is also a registered nurse.

Still another brother, WILLIAM, former instructor in plant pathology at the University of California, now on leave of absence, a Ph.D., is at the U. of Rochester in New York on a Guggenheim Fellowship....

Mary, Joe, David, Ruth, Olive and Mr. and Mrs. C. Takahashi, the parents, went from Tanfo to Poston to join George. Henry's family and Ernie came to Topaz and later joined the rest in Chicago.

The entire family, excepting William, live together in a large house which they own on 6127 Kimbark Ave....

## RELOCATION NOW WELL ESTABLISHED AS WRA PROGRAM

Restoration of evacuees to normal living outside relocation centers is now on a well-established basis and moving forward at a steady pace, Dillon S. Myer, WRA director, said this week.

"Since its modest beginning approximately two years ago the program of evacuee resettlement has developed to its present stage where a network of 38 WRA field offices and many organized groups and individuals are actively helping evacuees to relocate and become satisfactorily adjusted," he stated.

"With 25,000 evacuees resettled in normal communities in all 48 states and the District of Columbia, an evacuee who now leaves a center will probably resettle in or near a community where persons of Japanese descent are already members in good standing.

"The experimental stage of relocation is over. The policy, regulations and procedures are well established to enable evacuees to leave relocation centers, and to resettle in communities of their choice where they can lead normal lives in every sense of the word."

## Calif. Methodists Pledge Support In Helping Japanese Americans

A resolution renewing its pledge of confidence in all loyal Japanese Americans and a proposal to assist them in regaining their full rights as citizens of the United States was adopted by the California Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in a meeting held in Sacramento on June 7.

The resolution stated in part: "In spite of more than two years of disrupting change in economic and home life a vast majority of both aliens and citizens of Japanese extraction have proved themselves staunchly loyal. It

## NISEI VETERAN, PFC. HIGA PRAISES ARMY TREATMENT

DENVER, June 24--Pfc. Thomas Higa, 27-year-old Japanese American war veteran wounded at Cassino in the Italian campaign, is in Denver to tell other

Japanese about the wonderful treatment the United States Army gives members of his race.

"And I mean wonderful," said Private Higa, who was the smallest man in the famous 100th Battalion, which distinguished itself in the fighting at Salerno and later at Cassino. The battalion, virtually all of whose members were Japanese Americans born in Hawaii, is still fighting in Italy.

"It was wonderful to be treated just like everyone else, even though your parents were born in Japan," added Private Higa. "Over there no one cares what your ancestry is. The only question is can you fight? And my battalion fights like hell."

Private Higa is five feet, one and one-half inches tall--or short.

"But in a battle," he smiled, "it's pretty good to be small--you don't make such a good target."

Higa was inducted into the United States Army in June, 1941, and was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Honolulu, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked. He declined to talk about his Pearl Harbor experiences, for military reasons. Six months after this country entered the war he was sent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, then to Camp Shelby, Miss. He went over-seas in August, 1943, landing at Oran, Algeria, and going directly from there to Salerno.

He hopes to return soon to a fighting front, and he doesn't care where it might be.

Asked if he'd like to fight in the Pacific, he replied: "Sure, I like to fight the enemy no matter where he is. I'm an American, see, and I want to get this war over as soon as possible."

### CAMP SHELBY

#### NISEI SOLDIERS ISSUE NEWSPAPER

The first issue of the newspaper published by the 1st Battalion of the 442nd Infantry at Camp Shelby was distributed on June 21. The paper is being published through the efforts of Sgt. Walter Kitagawa, Shoichi Kano and the company reporters.

At present, the publication consists of one page but it is expected to gradually grow into a larger paper. A contest is being conducted to find a name for the paper which features articles on the activities of enlisted men.

#### GIRL SCOUT LEADERS TO MEET WED. NIGHT

A meeting of all Girl Scout leaders will be held Wednesday night, July 5 at Mrs. Doren Boyce's home, 213-C, from 7:30 o'clock.

Miss Setsu Katayama, who recently attended the Girl Scout National Leadership Training Camp in Wyoming will speak at the meeting.

is our belief that this group should no longer be penalized because of their ancestry. To continue delaying the justice that is due this minority of American citizens and loyal aliens is contrary to every principle of fairness and in direct opposition to basic civil rights guaranteed by the constitution of the United States."

It also upheld the right to grant freedom of movement to all loyal Japanese anywhere in the United States and opposed any attempt to make property ownership difficult for nisei.

**LOST:** Ladies gold Elgin wrist watch with black enamel surface. Return to Mrs. Robert Okamoto, 31-7-F. Ten dollar reward.

## Leaves

From June 12 to 20  
INDEFINITE

**DELTA:** Noboru Hashiguchi, Ichiro Isokawa, Katsuo Tanabe, Tad Fujita.

**SALT LAKE CITY:** Henry Satake, Suyekichi Shibata, Joe Sasaki.

**SUTHERLAND:** Susumu Shinoda.

**DENVER, COLORADO:** Rose and Teruko Yamasaki.

**LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA:** June and Jean Shiraki.

**DETROIT, MICHIGAN:** Yosh Amino, Ken Kiwata, Masao Kozai, Sadaichi Takemoto, Kiyoko and Henry Morishita.

**ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN:** Tono Kimura, Frank Sasagawa, Kiyoshi Tanamachi.

**CLEVELAND, OHIO:** Minnie and Oki Hashimoto, Emiko and Teruyo Kimura, John Suehiro, Akiko Ikami, Yuji Koyama, Kiyoshi Ota, Luther Yoshikawa, Chiyo, Eugene and Helen Asazawa, Yone Komoro.

**CINCINNATI, OHIO:** Emi and Riye Kawaguchi.

**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:** Kai-chiro Okamoto, Sumiko and Yukio Hayashi, Paul Fukami, Harry Hoshi.

**ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS:** Jack Oshita.

**OTTUMWA, IOWA:** Midori Murokita.

**NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA:** Roy Harano.

**MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA:** Yo Kishii.

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE:** Toyoko Iwasaki.

**BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT:** Michiko, Noboru and Suye Kobayashi.

**LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK:** Tomiko and Mary Nakano.

**NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK:** Yoshio Yamada, Shizue Hata, Yoshie Hata, Keyko Tsuchiya, Amy Nomura.

**PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA:** Soji and Tsurue Mi-ta.

**POLAND SPRINGS, MAINE:** Riuzo Aoki.

### TRIAL LEAVE

**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:** Minnie, Taya and Wya Matsu-mura.

**ROCHESTER, NEW YORK:** Harold and Manabu Nemoto.

### SEASONAL

**DELTA:** George Abbey, James Komatsu, Bob Mizokami, Kazuo Shikano, George Kawamoto, Masukuni Kitani.

## BERMAN APPOINTED TO HEAD NEWARK, N. J. OFFICE

Appointment of Edward V. Berman, former relocation officer of the Inter-Mountain area, as relocation officer of the newly opened relocation office in New-

### MISS MARUBAYASHI TO WED HARAGUCHI

Tomiko Marubayashi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fujimaru Marubayashi, 10-3 E, will become the bride of Mitsuru Haraguchi, tomorrow night at the Buddhist Church. Following the ceremony, a reception will be held at dining hall 10.

Haraguchi is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kamekichi Haraguchi, 39-1-E. He has relocated to Chicago where the couple are planning to go. Miss Marubayashi is formerly of San Mateo.

Baishakunin for the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Susumu Furuichi and Mr. and Mrs. Masaichi Yagura.

### SUMO TOURNAMENT SET FOR JULY 4

A sumo tournament, sponsored by the Topaz Sumo division, will be held at a newly constructed pit on the high school athletic ground on the Fourth of July, it was reported. The tourney will commence after dinner in the evening.

### TWO RELOCATION INTERVIEWERS DEPART

Anselm Strauss and Mrs. Helen Ascher, relocation interviewers, left the center this week, according to Emil Sekerak, relocation office manager.

Mrs. Ascher will return to New York City and Strauss will work on his Ph.D thesis at the University of Chicago.

### DIETICIAN LEAVES

Dr. Grace Lawson, chief dietician, who was here on detail from Gila left the center Thursday, according to Dr. Douglas Collier, chief medical officer.

Collier stated that the diet kitchen in block 2 will not open until a new dietician is appointed.

ark, New Jersey has been announced by Harold Fistere, WRA relocation supervisor for the Middle Atlantic area.

"The Newark relocation office has been opened following a survey which indicates there are numerous excellent resettlement opportunities for center residents in the industrial and agricultural sections of New Jersey," Fistere said.

New Jersey is also known as "The Garden State". The northern half of the state, which will be served by Berman's office, is famous for its fruit orchards, poultry dairy farms and market gardening. The major crops include potatoes, tomatoes, fruits, corn, hay, grain and forage crops.

Berman is well acquainted with the East through his former long residence in Pennsylvania and has become thoroughly familiar with relocation problems. He has aided numerous evacuees in resettling in Montana, Idaho and Eastern Oregon since joining the WRA nearly two years ago. Serving as relocation counsellor at Minikoda, he has become acquainted with the needs and interests of both issei and nisei in considering family or individual resettlement.

### BIRTHS

**OKUYAMA--**To Mrs. Kikujiro Okuyama, 27-1-A, June 23, a girl.

**MORISHITA--**To Mrs. George Morishita, 26-5-CD, June 26, a girl.

**UCHIDA--**To Mrs. Kiyoshi Uchida, 4-4-D, June 27, a girl.

**NAGANO--**To Mrs. Charles Nagano, 16-4-A, June 27 a boy.

**TANABE--**To Mrs. Katsuo Tanabe, 26-6-F, June 28, a girl.

**MORITA--**To Mrs. Yoshitake Morita, 22-10-EF, June 29, a girl.

**KOYANAGI--**To Mrs. Koyanagi, 37-7-A, June 29, a boy.

# TOPAZ TIMES

S E M I — W E E K L Y

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TOPAZ, UTAH

Wednesday, July 5, 1944

## CITIZENSHIP TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM DISLOYAL JAPANESE

A legislation to withdraw the citizenship of Japanese born in this country whose loyalty to the enemy marks them as Japanese nationals was signed by President Roosevelt on Monday.

Attorney General Biddle said the law was needed to deal with the problem of 300 to 1000 Japanese at the Tule Lake relocation center who, he said, "assert their loyalty to the emperor of Japan and their desire to renounce their United States citizenship and to be recognized as Japanese nationals."

By making it possible for this group to abandon American citizenship, Biddle told Congress, "They could thereupon be dealt with as alien enemies under the applicable statutes."

## 19 ENLISTED RESERVE CORPS MEN TO REPORT FOR ACTIVE DUTY SAT.

### FUNERAL

### SERVICE SET FOR MURDERED TULEAN

Funeral services for Yaozo Hitomi, general manager of the Tule Lake Co-operative Enterprises who was murdered on the evening of July 2, will be held here by his friends on July 8 in the Nichiren Church at rec 14, it was announced by Ichiji Sugiyama of block 7.

A wire received here from Tule Lake notifying Hitomi's friends of the incident stated that funeral services for him will be held there on July 8.

WEATHER	Max.	Min.
Saturday.....	97°	65°
Sunday.....	92°	63°
Monday.....	94°	56°
Tuesday.....	95°	51°

## PFC HIGA, NISEI VETERAN, TELLS WAR EXPERIENCES

When the fighting in the battlefield gets too tough and things look hopeless for us, pictures and letters from mothers give us new courage and help us carry on, Pfc. Thomas Higa told his audience Monday night. A wounded veteran of the Italian campaign, on a convalescent furlough, Pfc. Higa addressed another capacity group yesterday morning and left here after lunch to report for active duty tomorrow.

Speaking in Japanese to an attentive audience, a majority of whom were issei, he related his experiences since the beginning of the war when he was still in Hawaii. He told of how the 100th Infantry Battalion was formed in Hawaii and later sent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and Camp Shelby, Miss., before being ordered overseas

through Oran, Africa, to the fighting front in Salerno and Cassino in Italy.

When he was injured at Cassino, Higa stated that he almost gave up, but his mother's letter expressing her faith in God to help him gave him renewed courage. He declared that a mother's love conveyed in letters has helped other nisei soldiers in the same way in hopeless circumstances.

He assured the parents of soldiers that their nisei sons do not experience prejudice in the army, and the 100th Infantry is not compelled to undergo any more dangers than other soldiers.

## TWO MOVIES SET FOR JULY 6, 7, 8

Two feature length movies will be presented this week in the auditorium, it was learned yesterday.

"Du Barry was a Lady" and a short will be given tomorrow night from 8 o'clock under the sponsorship of the CAS. Tickets for the technicolor musical may be obtained at the door or rec 3 for 25 cents for adults and 12 cents for children under 12.

On July 7 and 8, the high school journal staff will present the "Son of Monte Cristo" and a short subject from 8 PM. Tickets will be 21 cents plus 4 cents tax for adults and 10 cents for children. Tickets will be sold at the door.

## NARAHARA ELECTED COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

At the first meeting of the new community council held Monday, Mas Narahara of block 30 and Henry Fujita of block 35 were elected to serve as chairman and vice-chairman respectively for the next two weeks.

Those ordered to active duty are Peter Takaaki Kashima, Tom Kitagawa, Yonoo Maruyama, Tomio Nakayama, George Takio Matsui, Hideo Nishi, Ken Nihei, Hiroshi Nishikubo, Raymond Haruto Nomura, Shunsuke Ochi, Masami Sado, Tomio Sakurai, Kenichi Shimomura, Tamotsu Ben Sumimoto, Satoshi and Toshio Tamura, Shizuo Taketa, Jow Joe Taniguchi, James Yukio Toda.

## ADMIRATION AND RESPECT WON BY NISEI SOLDIERS

By Pvt. Terry Tabata

WITH THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION SOMEWHERE IN ITALY, June 17, 1944--To the average Caucasian soldier eyeing his first Japanese American in khaki utter amazement can be readily noted. To us in the army this has become a common everyday occurrence. But to those back home the question arises "How do these Caucasians feel toward the nisei soldier?" Hate! Suspicion! Damnation! Intolerance! No, those un-Christian-like qualities do not exist once they know us as we really are--Americans in thought and heart. I say "know us", for when we sweat together, joke together, and fight together in a common struggle, the color of one's hair and the pigment of one's skin is trivial to say the least.

But what of those Caucasian soldiers who have returned from the war-bled Pacific? According to certain newspapers and pressure bodies these battle-scarred veterans will be possessed with an undying hatred toward every individual with a Japanese face. Through numerous experiences I do not think so. Just prior to going overseas I met a wearer of the Purple Heart just back from the green hell of the Solomons. You can imagine his surprise when he saw a group of "Japs". But, by the time we left the post we were getting along fine, because, we got to know each other. And well do other Pacific campaigners typify, I believe, this trend of mind.

Much credit for this must be given to those unheralded nisei (G2) soldiers now engaged in the Pacific and in Asia. These individuals, heroes all, have gained the respect and admiration of their fellow American comrades-in-arms for their hazardous missions everywhere from the snow-peaked Aleutians to jungle-dance New Guinea.

Thus today, from one end of the world to the other, a determined group of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry are winning for the nisei, through blood and toil, the confidence and friendship of their Caucasian buddies; a deep human understanding which in the post-war era to come will be a significant factor in our future in America.

(Editor's note: A Topaz volunteer, Pvt. Tabata, was editorial staff member of the TIMES, prior to his army induction last fall.)

## 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION CITED IN SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE WIRE

A United Press dispatch from Rome indicates that the 100th Infantry Battalion, which has been incorporated in the 442nd Regiment Combat Team, was cited in a special statement in a July 3 communique from the Fifth Army, stated Dillon S. Myer, national WRA director, in a wire received here Tuesday.

The text of the statement on the nisei soldiers follows:

"The 100th Battalion has been fighting brilliantly with the First United States Infantry Division and has played a major role in the campaign fighting, having landed in Italy shortly after the invasion last September 9.

## APPOINTED STAFF TO SEE MOVIES TONIGHT

Movies of Thailand, Burma, and southern China, will be shown to members of the appointed personnel and their families tonight from 8:45 in the administration rec hall. The films will be shown by Dr. Douglas Collier, chief medical officer, who spent 16 years in Burma practicing medicine, it was stated.

## 263 TOPAZ MEN REPORT FOR EXAMS; 198 ACCEPTED

As of June 30, 263 Topaz draft registrants have been called for preinduction physical examinations. Of this number 198 were accepted for military service, 60 were rejected, and 4 failed to report, according to a summary compiled by the selective service committee.

Forty-six have been ordered for induction, and 41 were placed in the enlisted reserve corps, 1 received active duty directly and 4 were delinquents. Twenty-one have already been called for active duty, the summary indicated.

## HIRABAYASHI

## FAILURE TO RETURN FORM CHARGED

SEATTLE, Wash.--Gordon Hirabayashi, former University of Washington senior, who served a prison sentence when he violated military curfew restrictions as affecting citizens of Japanese ancestry as a test of the regulations, was charged on June 26 with failure to complete and return a form sent him by Seattle Draft Board #4. The paper involved is Selective Service Form #304A which is entitled, "The Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry."

When Hirabayashi received the special questionnaire last February 15, he wrote Charles Dennis, US Attorney, that he would not fill out the form because it "is an outright violation of both the Christian and American principles of justice and democracy."

A conscientious objector, Hirabayashi has been working in Spokane with the American Friends Service Committee, assisting in the relocation of evacuees of Japanese ancestry. He will be brought to Seattle to face the charges, according to Allen Pomeroy, assistant US attorney, who authorized the complaint.