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THE RELOCATION OF JAPANESE AMERICANS AND ITS
CHALLENGE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

A talk delivered by Miss Rose A. Reynolds, relocation officer in charge, War Relocation Authority, Boston, Mass., on August 19, 1945, over Station WORL. This talk was one of a series of radio programs on "American Ideals" sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of Boston.

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One result of the Allied victory over Japan is the focusing of new attention on the Federal government's program for relocating the Japanese Americans who were evacuated from their West Coast homes shortly after Pearl Harbor.

The three-year task of relocating these displaced persons is now approaching its final phase. The relocation centers operated by the War Relocation Authority are to be closed before the end of 1945. I am therefore glad to have the opportunity to talk with you tonight regarding the relocation program, and to explain how you and your community can aid in working out this challenge to American democracy here in New England.

But first let us go back a bit to the spring and summer of 1942. During these anxious days, the United States Government carried out one of the largest controlled migrations in history: the movement of 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes on the Pacific Coast to 10 wartime communities newly constructed in seven states west of the Mississippi River.

At that time invasion of the West Coast appeared possible. That was why the Western Defense Command ordered the exclusion of all people of Japanese birth from a zone comprising the western half of Washington and Oregon, all of California, and the southern third of Arizona. No charge of mass disloyalty was made against the affected people. They were evacuated solely on the basis of military necessity. Roughly two thirds of the 110,000 individuals affected by the mass exclusion were Nisei -- American citizens by birth. The remaining third were Issei -- that is, Japanese immigrants who, in common with all other Orientals, had been denied the right of naturalization.

The evacuation was conducted by the Army. The evacuees were gathered at several assembly centers from which they were sent to the relocation centers. At these points they became the responsibility of the War Relocation Authority. This agency was formed on March 18, 1942, by executive order of the late President Roosevelt and has been a part of the Department of Interior since March 1944. The War Relocation Authority was delegated the authority to formulate and carry out a program for the relocation of these people whose pattern of life had been so summarily shattered by the exigencies of war.

The relocation centers should not be confused with internment camps for aliens of enemy nationality suspected of acts or intentions against the national security. The centers were established for the major purpose of serving as temporary wartime homes where the evacuees might live pending their re-absorption into private employment and normal American life.

I think this is especially important for us to keep in mind at this time, now that peace has come. The 40,000 persons still residing in the relocation centers are not in any sense "internees," nor are the centers to be considered places of detention. In fact, since January 2, 1945, when the Army lifted the orders excluding them en masse from the Pacific Coast, all loyal persons of Japanese ancestry have been free to return to their former homes, or to go to other communities to resettle, without further investigation or hindrance of any kind. These evacuees are thus free to move about like all other loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens in the United States. The only persons of Japanese origin who cannot now return to the West Coast are those who have been individually excluded by order of the Western Defense Command.

The lifting of the exclusion orders was forecast by President Roosevelt in September 1943 -- more than a year before the ban was actually lifted. At that time he said, in a message to the Senate: "We shall restore to the loyal evacuees the right to return to the evacuated areas as soon as the military situation will make such restoration feasible. Americans of Japanese ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war it is important to us to maintain a high standard for fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority as of all other minorities." Earlier, President Roosevelt had said; "The principle on which our country was founded, and by which it has always been governed, is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart. Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry."

The relocation centers are still being maintained by the government as temporary shelters for a remaining limited period in order to give the evacuees still residing in them the time and opportunity to work out plans for their future lives in normal American communities. Up to August first about 55,000 evacuees -- men, women, and children -- had already left the centers to re-establish themselves. Some 10,000 had returned to the Pacific Coast. The other 45,000 had relocated to new cities, towns, and farms, in other parts of the country, principally in the Midwest and East. In all, about 500 had resettled throughout New England, including 150 in Boston and its environs.

Among the resettlers throughout the nation are nurses and teachers, engineers and store clerks, mechanics and gardeners, seamstresses and stenographers, farmers and doctors, bookkeepers and domestics -- in fact, practically a cross-section of the many types of workers to be found in almost any good-sized community. In addition, 3,000 young Nisei have been enabled to resume their education in some 500 schools of higher learning throughout the country.

Thousands of Japanese American boys have proved their loyalty to the United States by serving against the enemy in every theater of war. According to War Department records, more than 20,000 Nisei from the mainland and Hawaii had been inducted into the Army of the United States up to the late spring of 1945.

No unit in our Army has won higher praise than the 100th Infantry Battalion, composed almost entirely of Americans of Japanese descent. The 442nd Combat Regiment of Japanese Americans, with which the 100th Battalion was joined on the battle front in June 1944, has also set a remarkable record for excellent performance and gallantry in action. It has received three Distinguished Unit Citations from the President, and 64 divisional citations. Members of the unit have been awarded more than 3,000 Purple Hearts, and in April, 1945, they had won 31 Distinguished Service Crosses, 183 Silver Stars, and 218 Bronze Stars. A group of these heroes of the 442nd arrived here in Boston on June 28th at Commonwealth Pier. Among them were Nisei boys who had participated in the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" at Belfort, France, ~~last spring~~.

Other Japanese American soldiers played important roles in the fight against our Japanese enemies. They served in every battle area of the Pacific and in Burma. They saw action at Iwo Jima and Leyte, Okinawa and Saipan, Manila and New Guinea. During a recent broadcast from Tinian Island in the Pacific Theater, Sergeant Ben Kuroki, Nisei boy from Nebraska and perhaps the most famous of the Japanese American war heroes, told of completing his 27th raid in a B-29 Superfortress over Japan. Sergeant Kuroki holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. He won these decorations during 30 missions over Europe in a B-24 Liberator before being transferred at his own request to the Pacific Theater as a member of the 20th Air Force. During the broadcast the other day, Sergeant Kuroki was asked what he thought of bombing Japan. His reply was: "I don't feel any different than any other American."

Many of the Nisei soldiers who have been killed or wounded have had mothers and fathers, wives and sweethearts, sisters and brothers in the relocation centers. Thousands of their civilian relatives and friends have proven their loyalty by buying war bonds, giving blood to the Red Cross, salvaging scrap iron and paper, working in war plants, and helping to save vital wartime crops.

Today, largely as a result of the brilliant record of the Nisei soldiers, the evacuees as a group have more friends and supporters throughout the Nation than at any previous time. They are being accepted as workers, friends, and neighbors. The removal of the restrictions that formerly applied in the West Coast area underscores this growing public acceptance. Most Americans have shown that they are willing to accept the evacuees for what they are -- loyal and law-abiding people who can make a valuable contribution in the life of the communities where they resume their normal lives.

The evacuees still in the relocation centers need to be aided in working out their personal and family problems, in locating jobs and homes, so that they can once again become self-sufficient and self-supporting, like the 55,000 persons who have already relocated.

Hundreds of communities throughout the country are helping in the successful relocation of the evacuees. Citizens' resettlement committees, community agencies, and many interested individuals are aiding in the practical solution of this war-born problem in complete accord with our

democratic concepts. The people of Japanese descent are being helped to start once more to develop and mature in a truly American environment.

Among the workers still residing in the relocation centers are gardeners, caretakers, nurserymen, cooks, houseworkers, and mechanics. Some of them could help fill the need in the Boston area for workers with such skills in city and country homes, on farms, in greenhouses and at nurseries, and at schools and other institutions where housing for a family as well as employment for one or more adults would be available. Also at the relocation centers are men and women with other skills who could fill jobs in offices and stores, hospitals and hotels, and those factories which must now quickly increase their labor force to meet the tremendous need for consumer goods which has had to wait for victory.

There should be no question of Japanese Americans competing for jobs with returning veterans or war workers. For one thing, the number of evacuees coming to any one community has been and should continue to be relatively small, so that they can be readily absorbed into the productive life of the community. Secondly, as a group of displaced persons whose lives have been seriously disrupted through no fault of their own, they are entitled to consideration in the situation that now confronts our country as we try to return, as quickly as possible, to a peacetime economy in which the American tradition of equal opportunity for all will continue to prevail.

The War Relocation Authority recently announced a schedule for closing the relocation centers during the period beginning October 15 and ending December 15. Now that the war is over, their closing on schedule becomes one of the essential steps in our reconversion to a peacetime way of life. There remain only a few months in which to complete this great national program of relocation. That program presents a challenge to the New England tradition of tolerance, individual freedom, and full participation in the duties of citizenship.

There is much that public-spirited citizens in Boston and vicinity can do to help empty the relocation centers. They can join together with other like-minded persons in citizens committees designed to assist in the resettlement of Japanese American families to their communities. They can help develop relocation opportunities, and bring jobs and available housing to the attention of the district office of the War Relocation Authority in Boston. They can extend a welcoming hand to evacuee families on their arrival so that their adjustment in new communities can be hastened. They can help show that the Nation as a whole, despite the physical upheavals and the emotional strains of global war, has not lost its national conscience. And, finally, they can help demonstrate that, despite all the clamor of the race-baiters and their tawdry appeals to fear and hatred, the fundamental decency that characterizes the great majority of Americans is still very much alive.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
1702 Post Office Building
Boston 9, Mass.

(New England Area)

April 3, 1945

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO PROJECT PAPERS

The new booklet, "Introducing New England Farming to Issei", recently distributed at all Centers, is receiving a great deal of favorable comment. As Roger F. Clapp, Relocation Supervisor for the New England Area, comments in the introduction - "It is difficult to describe a \$500,000,000 business in this little booklet." Much specific information is given on truck farming, poultry production, fruit and specialized crops.

New England is an area where urban and rural living go hand in hand. Because of the extensive bus and railroad system, members of farm families can easily commute to the cities daily, and many city workers live in rural areas by preference.

Every farm in the Southern half of New England is within two hours of a good market.

If you have not seen a copy of this interesting booklet, ask your Block Manager for one. The booklet is in Japanese, but English translations are available.



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
1702 Post Office Building
Boston 9, Mass.

April 10, 1945

PROJECT PRESS RELEASE NO. 6

For Immediate Release upon Receipt

CITY PLANNING AID IN RELOCATION OF LOYAL
JAPANESE AMERICANS, KIN OF U. S. SOLDIERS

In a feature story published in the Sunday, April 8 issue, the Springfield Sunday Union and Republican, Springfield, Massachusetts covers in a half-page set-up, totaling 93 inches with news copy and photographs, the development of the War Relocation Authority plan and acceptance in this busy industrial city located in the heart of the most fertile Connecticut River Valley, one of the most successful agricultural areas in the East.

Indicative of the cooperative community interest is the announcement by Mayor J. Albin Anderson of the appointment of his representative committee to direct the relocation program, the personnel including industrial, agricultural, professional, labor, church and civic leaders.

In part his interview states, "These loyal Japanese Americans, many of whom have sons fighting with unmatched gallantry on the Italian front, fall under the protection of our flag, and they are entitled to the same liberty and justice that any other American can claim as a matter of right."

"We feel sure that the majority of Springfield people will do all they can to help the federal government relocate these loyal Japanese Americans partly because we want to keep faith with those who are dying to prevent injustice, intolerance and un-Americanism here at home."



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
1702 Post Office
Boston 9, Mass.

April 10, 1945.

Condensed

PROJECT PRESS RELEASE NO. 5

For Immediate Release Upon Receipt

SUCCESSFUL NEW ENGLAND ISSEI BUSINESS MAN TO VISIT CENTERS.

Within the next few days, about Apr. 22, Issei Bill Mori, formerly of Seattle, Washington, who moved to the East Coast in 1932, will visit the Centers of Minidoka, Manzanar, Heart Mountain and Central Utah to tell at first hand of job opportunities and community acceptance in the New England area.

On arriving in the East Bill Mori opened a small restaurant in Stamford, Connecticut. It proved so successful that he opened a larger one in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1935, where he now makes his headquarters. Each of the restaurants are very successful and employ about twenty men, both ~~Isseis~~ and ~~Niseis~~. Bill also has a part interest in restaurants at Hartford, Connecticut run by Chick Nagata.

Mr. Mori married Kayoe Yoshihashi of Los Angeles, California in 1942, she being the sister of well known Dr. Takehiko Yoshihashi who taught oriental history at the University of California and later at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is now with the Office of War Information in San Francisco.

Mr. Mori is visiting friends at the Center to assist in their relocation program in the New England area, and at the same time to recruit workers for his restaurants. All interested persons who care to discuss business conditions in the East with him are requested to contact the Relocation Officer and Mr. Mori will gladly meet with them and answer all questions.



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War Relocation Authority
1702 Post Office Building
Boston 9, Mass.

For Release on Receipt - No. 8

April 21, 1945

NEW ENGLAND HOSTEL TO OPEN IN BOSTON

May 1 is the date when a hostel will open in Boston, Mass. for all Japanese Americans going to the New England area. Located at 6 Walnut Street, it is convenient to the center of the city and yet has the advantages of being close to Boston's famed Common and Public Garden. While it is designed to meet the needs of family groups, there will be ample facilities for all comers.

"This hostel is made possible through the initiative of the Unitarian Service Committee and the Congregational Service Committee with the cooperation of the local Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Universalist groups," Edward Cahill, the chairman of the Governing Board announced today, "with other groups assisting with furnishings and in getting the quarters ready." Those on the Governing Board are:-

Miss Louise M. Walworth of the YWCA, and Rev. Earl W. Douglas, Executive Director of the City Missionary Society representing the Congregationalists; Mrs. Harry Cary of the Unitarian Service Committee on Minorities, and Edward Ingraham, Chairman of Boston Hospitality Committee for Japanese Americans representing the Unitarians; Rev. George L. Paine, Episcopal Church representative; Miss Dorothy Shimp, Chairman of Christian Friendliness Society representing the Baptists; Dr. Roger Etz, Universalist; Rev. Walter Knight, Presbyterian.

Rev. Robert L. Zoerheide and Mrs. Zoerheide, directors, will live at the hostel and supervise the program associated with it. Mr. Zoerheide is Minister to Students for the Unitarian churches in Boston, and has been active in Unitarian work camp direction in the Middle West. Mr. Roger F. Clapp, Area



Supervisor of WRA in Boston, has actively cooperated with the Governing Board and the Boston Hospitality Committee in making possible this new project. Rates established by the Board are 60¢ per person per night, with children under 15 at 30¢ per night. For the present no meals will be served, but kitchen facilities are available for those desiring to use them.



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Bureau of Publicity
178 Newbury Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

SPECIAL RELEASE

Special Bulletin No. 2158

May 15, 1945

(Tuesday)

(Mrs.) Eleanor R. Collier, Director, KENmore 8138

FOR LOCAL NAMES PLEASE SEE ACCOMPANYING SHEETS

FOR RELEASE ON AND AFTER 12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, MAY 21

LOCAL RESIDENTS
RECEIVE DEGREES AT
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Note to Editor: If desired, this news story may be printed in your paper Monday morning, May 21, but all names should be listed as candidates for degrees as they will not have had their degrees until noontime.

Boston, Mass., May 21.....Climaxing a weekend of alumni and student events, Boston University's 72nd annual Commencement exercises were held here this morning in Symphony Hall with approximately 600 students being granted their academic degrees by President Daniel L. Marsh of the University before an audience of faculty and administrative officers of the University and parents, relatives and friends which taxed the capacity of the historic hall. With President Marsh presiding and the exercises opened by complete academic procession of faculty and students, 575 degrees were presented, divided as follows: college of liberal arts, 84; college of business administration, 63; college of practical arts and letters, 111; college of music, 15; college of physical education for women, Sargent college, 78; school of theology, 64; school of law, 3; school of education, 108; school of social work, 11; graduate school, 38. Of this group, honors were granted to 24. There were awarded 401 degrees on the undergraduate level and 174 on the graduate level.

President Charles Seymour of Yale University, who was also the recipient of the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, delivered the Commencement address.

At yesterday's 72nd annual Baccalaureate services of Boston University, President Marsh gave his 20th annual Baccalaureate sermon, which was devoted to the theme, "The Indispensable Book." He said: "The Book to which soldiers and sailors turn for comfort and courage on the eve of battle is the Book whose teachings all should follow in the struggle for worthy works, noble achievements, and victorious living in the great battle of life."

Tomorrow (Tuesday, May 22) Boston University's classes will be resumed for the Intersession which is the war-accelerated schedule at the University with classes held daily for the next six weeks. Students then will swing into the Summer Session for the following six weeks, which will end with the Summer Session graduation exercises on Saturday, August 11.

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FOR LOCAL NAMES PLEASE SEE ACCOMPANYING SHEETS

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
1702 Post Office Building
Boston 9, Mass.

News Release

To Project Papers

SEVENTH'S 'PUKA PUKA' BATTALION OF JAP-AMERICANS WINS FAME

By Catherine Coyne

Southern France, March 25 - The 100th or "One Puka Puka Battalion", rated by "Axis Sally" as the Seventh U.S. Army's "secret weapon," boasts officers with the highest I.Q. in the Army, that it has lost only three of its soldiers as prisoners-of-war, that it has approximately 1600 wearers of the Purple Heart, and that never has one of its soldiers gone absent without leave.

This infantry battalion of Americans of Japanese ancestry, with other units of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, is holding the enemy at the Franco-Italian border, engaging in a containing action high in the Maritime Alps, not far from the Cote D'Azur. The place and the action are disagreeable, yet so great an improvement are they over the hell of Anzio and the Vosges, the boys hope they will be kept here, unless of course the War Department were to reverse itself, to let them demonstrate their Americanism by fighting in the Pacific theatre.

NEW ENGLAND ACCENT

Sixty-five per cent of the battalion comes from the Hawaiian Islands and, surprisingly to me at least, speaks with what approximates a New England accent. Maj. Alex McKenzie of Honolulu, commanding officer, explained that the accent was natural inasmuch as English was introduced in the islands by New England missionaries and of course, there is something hard to down about anything of New England origin.

Apart from the Oriental cast of features of the soldiers, the outfit is as Yankee as the Bulfinch front of the State House in Boston. Its record of achievement and gallantry is higher than the American average, and the soldiers in this area, white or Oriental alike, are proud of it.

The front here is miserable; the boys live in foxholes built of stones and protected from the cold mists by blankets and tarpaulins. As in the typical combat outfits, they get three days rest every three weeks at a rest camp. Their camp is "the swankiest joint we could find", according to Maj. McKenzie, on the French Riviera, a large house in a setting of flowering mimosa and palms

TWO N. E. OFFICERS

Their stories are like those of other outfits, stories of how a small patrol, by making a terrific din, deceived a larger force of Germans into surrender; stories of souvenir hunters, like PFC Miko Takahashi, who collects hats that he will arrange in trophy cases after the war in his flower shop in Honolulu.

Their slang is mixed with Hawaiian words. "Puka" is Hawaiian for "hole", so the outfit is known as the "One Puka Puka" Battalion. Their drinking toast is the Hawaiian "Okole Maluna."

Most of the senior officers are white, with the exception of Capt. Mitsuyoshi Fukuda, teacher of mathematics and physical education in Honolulu before the war, who is battalion executive officer. Two of the other officers are New England men, Lt. Anthony A. DeLuce of Lawrence, Massachusetts, Boston College tackle in 1939-40, who is a platoon leader, and Lt. Thomas Flourde of Lewiston, Maine, who has been a One Puka Puka man for 15 months.

"This is quite an outfit," Flourde boasted. It has been cited by President Roosevelt. In his fighting career with it, Flourde has earned the Purple Heart, for wounds received at Anzio, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

"SALLY" IN SCANDAL

It was the Lewiston boy who started everyone talking about "Axis Sally", the Nazi broadcaster of jazz and propaganda, who hailed the "One Puka Puka" as the Seventh Army's "secret weapon."

"At Anzio," he said, "she broadcast: 'Greetings to the 100th Battalion at Anzio. Glad to have you with us.' She followed us right along, too." Of course, her propaganda stank, but her records were swell."

"But don't get fooled by this new 'Axis Sally'. She's not the McCoy at all. Our grapevine has it that our 'Sally' got pregnant and Jerry had to put in a substitute. Tish, tish!"



Two W. H. O. officers
Their stories are the basis of a new picture, which is being
as well as a picture of a large group of people who are
stories of various kinds, like the story of a man who was
he will arrive in New York City in the next few days.

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