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WHAT CARL HINSHAW THINKS OF THE JAPANESE PROBLEM

The Japanese problem in this country is a mighty serious and complex thing. And Tule Lake incidents have served to focus much attention on it. Disclosures from subsequent investigations at the War Relocation Center have riled the public temper to a point where all sorts of demands are being made. In altogether too many cases politicians are turning the war-born problem into a political haymaking picnic for themselves, such as, for instance, was the State Assembly committee's "comic opera" investigation into the activities of the Pasadena chapter of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play last week in Los Angeles.

One of the big troubles today, of course, is the fact that so many persons do not stop to consider all of the "difficult to handle" angles wrapped up in that simple phrase, "Japanese problem."

We got to wondering what our Congressman, Carl Hinshaw of California's 20th district, thought on the subject, and so we wrote him. He sends back a lot of enlightening information, and it's yours for what it is worth.

Writes Congressman Hinshaw:

I am afraid that some of our papers and distinguished citizens may be considerably off-base in demanding that the W.R.A. Centers be turned over to the army. I believe they do not fully understand the situation for lack of complete information.

(1) In the first place, the army wants nothing to do with women and children.

(2) If we separate women and children from their husbands and fathers in our camps, the Japs will do likewise for our own people in their control in the Philippines and elsewhere, all of which we must avoid.

(3) If we put the army in charge of Jap camps here, the Japs will put our people under control of their army, and the Jap army is the lowest form of life. I am informed that that would be the worst thing that could happen to our civilians under Jap control.

(4) I am further informed that our interned civilians in Japan are largely under control of the civil police there and that outside of Japan they are under the supervision of the Japanese Consular Service, supported by the Japanese army in some places and the Japanese navy in others. Therefore, if we were to transfer Japanese civilians in this

country to our War Department, the Japanese Consular Service would be supplanted by the Japanese army in toto.

(5) It is well known that the Japs are great imitators. Consequently, monkey-wise, they do everything that they think we do. I am informed that when we concentrated Japs at Santa Anita race track, they found a nice race track outside of Shanghai on which to concentrate some of our people.

(6) The principal source of difficulty at Tule Lake is found among the Kibei who were returned as children to Japan around 1924 and who re-entered this country in the years around and before 1940. These are mostly bachelors who apparently think it is smart to cause as much trouble as possible here in order that the Japanese in Japan may know that they are doing their part for the Homeland. These Kibei, about 90% of whom are bad actors, should have their citizenship rights jerked from them without further ceremony. At present they are being separated from the balance of those at Tule Lake and placed under real barbed wire and military guard. This should materially alleviate the situation problem, but it would be a damned sight better if they were removed from Tule Lake entirely and placed in a bad actor's camp under complete army or Department of Justice jurisdiction.

This presents legal legislative problems of no small magnitude, however, as they are entitled to their claim of American citizenship and cannot be deprived of it legally until the proper statute is enacted. In view of the fact that some 6,000 to 8,000 Jap-Americans are in the United States Army and a number of them doing a good job of fighting in Italy, that presents a further complication to the legislative angle. If they were all bad actors, it would be a cinch, but apparently a great many Jap-Americans want nothing to do with Japan or its institutions and desire to prove their loyalty to this country, by dying if necessary, but at least offering their lives.

In other words, my friend, this is one terrific problem and resolves itself into 7 or 8 different categories and 3 or 4 methods of treatment of each category, plus the further complication of our relations through neutral countries with the Japs in respect to their treatment of our civilians, of which there are something like 10,000.

You will be interested to know that approximately 3,000 of our citizens under Jap domination are about as free to move around in the territory where they are located as are a great many Japanese Nationals who are in the central and eastern portion of the United States.

FACTS CONCERNING JAPANESE-AMERICANS IN U.S. ARMY

Bulletin No. 1

March 27, 1944

Japanese-Americans on the Battle Front in Italy

Following are reports from the Fifth Army front as told the American public by war correspondents, the War Department, the Caucasian officers of the Japanese-American battalion in Italy, and others.

One of the first to report the action of the 100th Infantry Battalion composed of American-born Japanese troops on the Italian front was Reynolds Packard, UP staff correspondent. In the Washington, D. C. Daily News, October 4, 1943, Packard's dispatch said:

"The first Japanese-American troops to go into battle in any theater of the present war are mostly from Hawaii. Many of them are volunteers especially trained in the United States."

He quoted one of their sergeants, Burt Tanaka of San Diego, California.

"You don't need to worry about us. We're glad of this chance to show the world that descendants of Japanese are just as good and loyal American citizens as the descendants of Italians and Germans who are also over here fighting."

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Record of the "Guinea Pigs"

Referring to what has been called the "guinea pig" unit, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, October 19, 1943, said:

"The alarmists who profess great trepidation over our Japanese-American population are thrown for a considerable loss by the record of the so-called "guinea pigs from Pearl Harbor." This is the name given an infantry unit recruited in Hawaii, composed almost wholly of men of Japanese descent and recently in action on the Volturno front.

It quoted their officers as saying: "Their story is a record of daring, doggedness and heroism."

Referring again to the "guinea pig" unit, the Post Dispatch went on: "It is likely that these fighters are driven to superlative performance by the feeling that they must vindicate their group before the unthinking critics. These men have Japanese faces but they are loyal Americans."

An editorial in the Salt Lake City Telegram of Oct. 11, 1943, relates an amusing incident which illustrates the democratic composition of our Army:

"The first unit of Japanese-American troops has been in action in the Salerno-Naples area of Italy and an incident which occurred shortly after they reached the battle zone might give Army authorities some idea of a new way to undermine German morale.

"When the Japanese-American soldiers were moving up toward the front they passed a German prisoner. He could hardly believe his eyes when he saw Japanese soldiers in American uniforms. His jaw dropped a foot as he saw men of a race supposed to be allied of Germany fighting on the other side. He asked if they were really Japanese, and when told that they were, but that they were natives of this country and American citizens, he shook his head with amazement and said: 'Ach! That's America!'"

Continuing, the editorial comments:

"Seriously, our Japanese American soldiers will be a valuable addition to our combat forces in Europe. Not only are they proving to be good soldiers but their appearing in the fighting lines will be an impressive demonstration to our enemies of American unity and patriotism."

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Stimson Reports on Their Conduct

Before they had been in Italy one month, Secretary of War Stimson reported on Oct. 14 "Their behavior under fire and their combat discipline have received the praise of General Clark."

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They Occupy Advance Positions

On October 11, the United Nations radio at Algiers said that a detachment of American-born Japanese soldiers, after four days under fire recently near Benevento, finally entered the town and rescued 22 United States parachute troops who had been behind enemy lines for more than two weeks. They were given the lead of a veteran American division that had glorified itself in the mountains of Tunisia.

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Japanese-American Unit Wants to Fight Pearl Harbor Attackers

"An entire unit of American soldiers of Japanese descent is fighting today on an important sector of the Fifth Army front" according to a delayed dispatch from H. R. Knickerbocker, Chief of the Chicago Sun Foreign Service, which appeared in the Sun on Oct. 28.

Knickerbocker quoted their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Farrant L. Turner as follows: "They actually tell me something you may find it hard to believe - that they would rather fight the Japanese than the Germans."

As a result of an interview with their senior commissioned officer, Capt. Isaac Kawasaki, Knickerbocker reported that he said:

"Yes, that's the way these fellows feel about it. The Japanese in the Pearl Harbor attack hurt us worse than anybody. They did really a dirty job on the 300,000 Japanese people living in the United States.

"We pay and will go on paying a terrible price for the sin of those Japanese. They made us lose the faith and trust of the American people. Now we men of Japanese blood in the United States Army are trying to win back that faith and confidence of America.

"We are more than willing, we are eager to fight the Germans, But it is not against the Germans we hold our primary grudge. It is against the Japanese Imperial Army, Navy and Air Force."

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Tested Under Fire

The Akron, Ohio Beacon Journal, October 22, 1943, commenting on the fact that "Gen. Mark Clark has praised both their behavior under fire and their combat discipline," continued:

"The men of the 100th are Americans just as the U.S. fighters whose ancestors came from Germany and Austria and other Axis nations are Americans. We are proud that this Japanese-American unit came through its test with honor. Democracy has scored a victory over race prejudice.

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Japanese-Americans Are Playing Heroic Role in Italy

John Lardner, special correspondent in Italy of the North American Newspaper Alliance in a wireless dispatch dated October 25 and which appeared in the Toledo Times, October 27, reported:

"In the last month they have charged repeatedly into murderous machine-gun and automatic fire. Their position today is perhaps the most advanced of the Fifth Army forces."

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Biddle Lauds Nisei Soldiers

In an Armistice Day address in New York Attorney-General Biddle lauded Nisei soldiers in Italy. He said, "Our sons are today fighting side by side with sons of Italians, of Germans, and of Japanese. Is anything more needed to entitle the loyal Japanese-Americans to recognition?"

American Japanese in Italy Like to Stay at Front

"It is virtually impossible to evacuate to rear areas any of the Japanese-American troops fighting for Italy except in the case of very severe battle wounds," an AP dispatch from Allied Headquarters in Algiers declared on Nov. 16. This dispatch which appeared in the Seattle Times Nov. 19, added, "These boys don't want to go back, even with injuries requiring days of rest..."

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Loyalty is Demonstrated

The Grand Rapids Herald (Michigan) on November 25 quotes an (IN) Washington dispatch concerning Japanese American soldiers on the Italian front as follows:

"During their four days under fire the men were in the fight for two. They led a veteran American division which had won glory in the Tunisian mountains. For much of the time they were under a heavy artillery barrage from the Germans." The dispatch goes on to quote their commanding officer as saying:

"We've had our baptism of fire and we have not been found wanting. We don't say we've done anything remarkable."

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Doughboys o.k. Japanese Yanks

Kenneth Dixon, AP correspondent with the Fifth Army in Italy, in a delayed dispatch dated Nov. 24 and which appeared in the Seattle Times, Dec. 3, states:

"They first came in to replace a rough, tough battalion which was removed from the division before the North African invasion.

"The division, so the boys say, fought through the North African campaign minus one battalion, and it was to fill this gap that the boys of Japanese descent joined them..."

"They moved into the lines while the doughboys looked at them and reserved judgment. When at the front they were under constant fire day in and day out, battling mud and rain and terrific terrain."

The dispatch goes on to say:

"They hail from Hawaii and they're of Japanese descent, but they call themselves Hawaiians or just plain Americans, and across the cold mud and rocks and hills of this bleak Italian front the doughboys will tell you that 'they've earned the right to call themselves anything they damn well please!'"

In an interview with one of these soldiers, Dixon reports him as saying:

"The Jerry prisoners were pretty surprised when they saw us, and they couldn't understand it. But we told them we were good Americans."

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The Des Moines Register, in a four column feature on Dec. 13, under the headlines, Jap-Americans Give Lives for U. S. In Italy, had the following to say:

"Daily they are giving their lives for Uncle Sam in rough mountain action against the Germans. The U. S. Army unit . . . has distinguished itself in action as daring as any in the entire Italian war theatre."

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Not One Nisei Has Betrayed Trust in Army

"High executives of the War Department are proud of the way in which Japanese American soldiers have responded to the call of American patriotism and done a good job in the Army," Drew Pearson declared in his nationally syndicated column, "Washington Merry-Go-Round," in the Washington Evening Star Dec. 18, 1943.

The Pearson column added: "Reports from Italy pay tribute to the bravery of one Japanese-American Battalion which was under fire. Most of its men were recruited from Hawaii. They fought with great heroism and the casualty lists were very heavy."

Commenting on their loyalty, Pearson said: "The Japanese-Americans are all carefully investigated before they enter the Army, but in no case has one of them, after entering the Army, betrayed trust."

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Americans at War

H. R. Knickerbocker, Chief of the foreign staff, of the Chicago Sun and now with the American Army in Italy, in a cable to the New York PM of Dec. 22 said:

"Once more it can be noted how many different kinds of men are fighting under the flag of the United States. Since Pearl Harbor I have personally seen Filipinos, Japanese and Mexicans, not to speak of American Indians and negroes, fighting side by side with their white brothers in a sort of true brotherhood for which we are waging war."

General Clark Lauds Nisei Unit

Commenting on an AP dispatch of Dec. 27 in which it was reported that General Mark W. Clark gave high praise to the Japanese-American battalion, the San Francisco Chronicle of Dec. 30 editorializes:

"General Mark Clark has promoted two American Army officers of Japanese descent, citing them for outstanding leadership in the field of battle, and assuring them that their battalion, the 100th Infantry, is doing a fine job on the Italian front...

"These facts will be carefully overlooked by German propagandists, desirous of increasing racial problems in America and of persuading the world that our race prejudice is as bitter as theirs. A Nazi would find it hard to explain why our Army advances officers whose ancestry is Japanese--or why, for that matter, people of that ancestry volunteer to fight for the United States."

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Japanese American Battalion Fighting Some of the Hardest Italy Battles

Japanese-American soldiers who have fought in the Italian invasion "to prove they are as good Americans as any other doughboys have won their place so far as their fellow fighters are concerned," Don Whitehead, AP staff correspondent with the Fifth Army in Italy, reported in a delayed dispatch dated Dec. 27. This dispatch was quoted in the Stars and Stripes, Jan. 4, 1944.

"From the beaches of Salerno right into the Nazi winter line these troops of Japanese descent have fought and are now fighting some of the hardest battles of the entire campaign," Whitehead declared.

"They have asked no quarter, nor have they received any. They rank on a par with other troops for endurance, skill and ability," the AP report added.

Whitehead quoted Major John S. Johnson, Jr., Commanding Officer of the Japanese-American battalion, "The boys feel they are on the spot and that they have a personal duty to make the people at home feel they are as much American as anyone.

"They are no different from any other soldiers, but they have that added incentive to fight because some of their fathers are in internment camps at home.

"These island troops do not like to be called 'Japanese-Americans,' nor do they like to be regarded as different from any other troops," said Whitehead. "About ten per cent came into the Army from the Hawaiian National Guard, while the others entered through Selective Service. About 17 per cent of them are college men. Some operated or worked on plantations, some were school teachers and others were in business.

"Since landing in Italy the unit has won a reputation for its close fighting."

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Secretary Stimson Reports on Casualties Sustained by Japanese American Unit

Secretary of War Stimson, at his press conference on January 20 pointed out particularly the casualties of the 100th Infantry battalion composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry. He said their losses to date have been 96 killed, 221 wounded and 17 missing in the Italian campaign.

"A battalion ordinarily numbers slightly more than 1,000 men. Thus the Japanese American battalion has suffered casualties amounting to about one-third of its men," according to a UP dispatch in the Grand Rapids press Jan. 20, 1944.

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Nisei Soldiers Win Praise of Officers

A letter was received recently in Washington from Lawrence J. Collins from an American Red Cross hospital in Africa. He wrote:

"I am happy to see that the battalion of American Japanese that has seen action in this theater has won praise in all quarters for its ability and loyalty. Several officers (Caucasians) from that unit are in this ward and they laud them to the skies. Interesting, too, are the praises they receive spontaneously from other officers here that have seen them in action or just worked with them in adjacent sectors."

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Secretary Stimson Discloses Japanese Americans Fight for Cassino

The United States Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry "has been fighting effectively in the Cassino sector in Italy" Secretary of War Stimson declared at his press conference in Washington on February 17.

Secretary Stimson's announcement was the first indication that the now famous battalion which has been in action in Italy from the time of the capture of the Salerno beachhead, was engaged in the bitter battle for the strategic city of Cassino.

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Only 11 Nisei Came Back

How a "suicide mission" of Japanese-American volunteers secured a vital road junction for United Nations forces on the Fifth Army front

is revealed through a newsphoto from Italy which was published on Feb. 13 by the Des Moines Register.

The Register printed the photo of eleven battle-weary Japanese-American soldiers, noting "only these returned from a rendezvous with death." The caption to the picture reported that these eleven soldiers, members of the fighting 100th Infantry Battalion "were all who came back out of a platoon that accomplished its mission and secured for United Nations' Armies a road junction in Italy that had been heavily defended by a German machine gun crew." A platoon normally numbers 50 men.

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Japanese Americans First to Storm Cassino

The Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion has won new distinction in twenty-eight days of steady fighting in the bitter battle of Cassino, Cyrus L. Sulzberger, special correspondent for the New York Times Syndicate, reported from the Fifth Army front in Italy on Feb. 28:

"The full story of this battalion and its losses cannot yet be told for various military reasons. It took San Michele in a night attack. It launched the first infantry attack right around Cassino, getting ahead of other units in its enthusiasm. It held the terrible Castle Hill sector," Sulzberger cabled in a dispatch which praised the courage of the "Puka Puka" battalion, the great majority of whose members are American soldiers of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii."

The Japanese American unit is described by their commander as "the best soldiers I have ever seen," Sulzberger said, adding:

"The men of this Japanese American battalion have fought with tremendous bravery, sustained stiff casualties and carried heavy loads uncomplainingly. They have said nothing about their suffering in the bitter climate around here. Apparently they feel they are serving in a sort of crusade to make the rest of America understand that they, too, are good and loyal citizens.

"According to their commander, Maj. Casper Clough, Jr. of Saugerties, N. Y. 'they are showing the rest of the people that they are just as good citizens as the next John Doughboy!'

"Some of the latest periodicals reaching the front indicate an unfortunate amount of the type of patriotism that holds all Japanese citizens should be barred from the United States and that the 'only good Japs are dead ones.'

"The record of the 'Puka Puka' battalion appears to be a good answer to that."

Sulzberger quoted the commander of the Japanese American battalion who said that the Nisei troops have already won special Distinguished Service Crosses and Silver Stars.

"They are fine men and I hope America realizes it," the officer said.

William P. Haughton, State Commander of the California American Legion, states in the February 15 issue of the California Legionnaire:

"The American Legion has pledged its confidence in and its full support to our Army and Navy. Numerous persons of Japanese ancestry are now serving with the armed forces of our country on the battle fronts, and according to all reports, are serving valiantly and well.

"We salute all men and women who love this country enough to fight, and, if need be, die for it. Every person good enough to fight for us is entitled to our respect and equal protection under the Constitution."

FACTS CONCERNING JAPANESE-AMERICANS IN U.S. ARMY

March 29, 1944

War Department Reopens Selective Service for Japanese-Americans

On January 21, the War Department announced completion of plans for general selective service procedures for American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Under the War Department plan, Japanese-Americans considered acceptable for military service will be reclassified by their selective service boards on the same basis as other citizens, and called for induction if physically qualified and not deferred.

The War Department announced: "The excellent showing which the Combat Team has made in training, and the outstanding record achieved by the 100th Infantry Battalion now fighting in Italy were major factors in the adoption of the present plan."

The Salt Lake City Tribune expressed the opinion in an editorial on January 23 that the War Department's action in reinstituting selective service procedures for Japanese-Americans "will meet with the approval of most other Americans who have felt that these Nisei natives of Nipponese descent should perform duties of citizenship regardless of race."

"This new order," the Tribune stated, "should go far to eliminate misunderstandings of other American citizens as to the status of these people and to assure them that the nisei Japanese will carry their share of the war burden."

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Reactions of Nisei to Selective Service Announcement

The reopening of Selective Service for Nisei has been generally accepted at all War Relocation Centers. Almost without exception, it has been considered as a step toward restoration of rights of citizenship. The following editorial in The Irrigator, Japanese American newspaper at the Minidoka War Relocation Center, sets forth the attitude of the Nisei:

"The acceptance of the nisei through the draft and his induction into the United States Army through the normal channels undergone by any other John Doe American prove that America's faith in the nisei has been fully restored, and all our labors, our protestations of loyalty to this country, our faith have not been in vain.

"In our daily lives, this War Department announcement will aid us. We shall be able to look at other Americans eye to eye without any qualms of inequality. We are now like other Americans whose services will be accepted by our country without discrimination.

"Yes, we are now really Americans in every sense of the word.....

"Let us not be found wanting."

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Japanese-American leaders at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center expressed high praise and gratitude to the War Department upon the announcement that Japanese-Americans would again be drafted for active service.

Reactions expressed by center leaders and reported by the Sentinel were as follow:

Yosh Kodama, relocation supervisor: "Our struggle back to 'America' has been recognised and now accepted. Our stake in the future is assured."

Shig Masunaga: "The 4-C classification has long been a sore spot in the minds of the nisei. The opening of Selective Service to the nisei will remedy an injustice that has been too long without justification."

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The Pacific Citizen, official publication of the Japanese American Citizens League, said of the War Department announcement:

"The most progressive and far-reaching step yet taken toward the reestablishment of nisei rights was taken this week with the War Department announcement of the reinstitution of selective service for Japanese Americans. The announcement will do much toward rightfully easing the present position of all loyal Americans of Japanese parentage. Denial of selective service has been a deterrent in resettlement. It has laid the nisei bare to criticism and suspicion. On college campuses, on farms and in certain industries the presence of large number of draft-age nisei made apparent the fact that they were not eligible for army service."

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Articles in the Pacific Citizen January 29 and February 5 by Saburo Kido comment as follows:

"Biggest news of the year is the announcement from the War Department on the reinstitution of general Selective Service for the nisei...

"Now that the draft is going to be applied to all loyal Nisei on as equal basis as any other American citizens, every Japanese family in this country will have a direct share in winning the war.

"From this point on, we have confidence that every right to which we are entitled as citizens will be restored. Ours has been the hard road. We had to win back our rights by discharging our duties and responsibilities as citizens first. Others fulfilled their obligation as part of their duty as a citizen. With patience and tolerance, the Nisei can win the fullest confidence of the fair-minded people. This is the chance to show the true value of the Nisei as American citizens."

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From the Gila News Courier, Japanese American publication at the Gila River War Relocation Center, comes this reaction:

"The War Department announcement was a long step toward the desired end of full restitution of nisei rights and privileges as American citizens. Without this, even though the nisei may have passed the test, America will fail to pass through the test of democracy, and ten million Americans will have warred in vain."

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The Arizona Chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League strongly commended action of the War Department in reinstituting selective service for the nisei and urged every Japanese-American to contribute his utmost toward an early victory, according to the Phoenix, Arizona Republic, Jan. 23.

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Citizenship Recognized

The Twin Falls, Idaho Times News declared on January 28 "that the War Department, in accepting Americans of Japanese ancestry on the same basis as other citizens into the Army under selective service, has repudiated another story the rumor-mongers like to circulate."