

NISEI GI'S SPEED UP JAP DEFEAT

Army Reveals Work of Translation Unit, Trained Here

TOKYO, JAPAN — (AP) — A highly secret U. S. army unit made up principally of Japanese-Americans operated so skillfully on Pacific battlefields that often it knew the telephone numbers of Japanese billets.

Existence of the organization was disclosed this week by Allied headquarters.

Thousands of Japanese-American soldiers assigned to the Allied translator and interpreter section (ATIS) were trained in the Japanese language and military school throughout the war, first at Camp Savage and later at Fort Snelling.

At various times between 1,500 and 2,000 Nisei were stationed at Camp Savage. When facilities became inadequate, the camp was closed more than a year ago and the ATIS branch of the military was moved in its entirety to Fort Snelling.

Sections of it still are in operation.

Every document seized in combat by the unit's operatives, from periodicals and diaries to maps and carbon paper, was studied carefully by the Allied translator and interpreter section.

This section knew not only the location of many Japanese units, but also their officers by name and experience, and the rosters of the companies down to the lowest private.

VALUE PROVED FAST

Captured documents sometimes proved their value within 20 minutes after seizure, when American troops were sent against the new enemy installations they disclosed.

Among Nisei in the secret unit were some taken off Corregidor before the fall of that island fortress. Many have been decorated for outstanding service.

"No group in the war had as much to lose," said their commander, Col. Sidney F. Mashbir of Washington, D. C. "Capture would have meant indescribable horror to them and their relatives in Japan.

"They are worthy, as individuals and as a group, of the highest praise for their invaluable contribution to the success of Allied arms.



TOKYO JAM SESSION—It isn't quite like home, but Yanks in Tokyo still enjoy juke box jive. Cpl. Orvel Stone of Randolph, Wis., takes a whirl on the dance floor with a geisha girl, but Bob Johnson of Reading, Mass., hovers close to the music. Geishas are trained from childhood as singers and dancers.—AP Wirephoto.

ASKS FOR FRONT DUTY

One Nisei soldier once asked Mashbir to be transferred from a rear echelon assignment to front line duty. He displayed this letter from his father:

"My son, I am dying. As you know, I have lived and am dying as a Japanese loyal to the emperor. You, on the other hand, were born in the United States and brought up in the United States as an American. You are American. You have had all the advantages of education. On my deathbed, I command you to fight for the United States, and if need be to give your life for the United States."

That boy won the bronze star," said Mashbir. "Fifteen others got the same award, two the silver star, one the soldier's medal, three the purple heart, and 40 received commendations."

Approximately 2,000,000 enemy