



CHOIR OF JAPANESE-AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND WACS AT SNELLING TO MAKE BOW ON WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST
Singing group organized only last October will be heard for first time on the air on the "Army Hour" program, which will be heard Sunday wherever American troops are fighting

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Fort Snelling Nisei Choir to Have Share in Worldwide Yule Program

By JAMES BURLUM
Morning Tribune Staff Writer

Hope of "Peace on Earth Good Will Toward Men" will be expressed musically this Christmas over a world-wide radio hook-up by a choir of 125 Japanese-American soldiers and WACs stationed at Fort Snelling.

Sometime during the "Army Hour" around the world broadcast

DIRECTED BY CORPORAL

Director of the choir is Cpl. Joseph Running, Zumbrota, Minn., graduate of St. Olaf college, Northfield, Minn., and former member of the famed St. Olaf choir.

The organization was stumped for women's voices until army orders brought seven Nisei WACs to Fort Snelling. One of them Pfc. Iris Watanabe, will be heard as the "Angel's Voice" in the 11:30 a.m. broadcast Sunday.

Practice is staged during the soldiers' spare time, Cpl. Eugene Blankenship is the accompanist.

IN SCHOOL BATTALION

About half the members are from California and the rest from Montana, Idaho, Washington and other western states. They are in the school battalion at the fort.

The choir also will appear at the annual Christmas Festival service in the field house at Fort Snelling at 10 a.m. on Christmas morning, to which the public is invited. The sermon will be delivered by Chaplain Alfred P. Klausler, while Col. K. E. Rasmussen will read the gospel and Col. Frank Hollingshead, the epistle. The field house has been converted into a chapel for the service.

Sunday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., over NBC, the full choir of Nisei voices will be heard singing "All Glory Laud and Honor." Pick-ups will be made from Leyte, Paris, Aachen, Italy, Panama and the Aleutians.

NETWORK PROGRAM

On Christmas eve, Sunday night, the choir will present a program over KSTP and the Northwest network from 11:30 p.m. to midnight which will be rebroadcast to West coast radio stations. Gov. Earl Warren of California, will speak during the west coast portion of the broadcast.

Another Christmas week concert will be sung over KSTP Saturday 5 to 5:15 p.m., on the "This Is the Army" program.

The choir was organized at Fort Snelling in October by Lt. Peter Yamazaki, graduate of University of California at Los Angeles.

But the original complement of 30 singers wanted to sing, so the lieutenant volunteered to supervise them. Yamazaki had one year in the law school at UCLA before he entered the army.



LT. PETER YAMAZAKI, LEFT, ORGANIZED THE GROUP
WAC Pfc. Iris Watanabe will be the "Angel's Voice" on broadcast; Cpl. Joseph Running, right, is the director