



13 DPA Series: RELOCATION OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS — Although many Nisei serving in the Hawaiian National Coast Guard distinguished themselves as heroes when Pearl Harbor was attacked, the United States thereafter barred all Japanese-Americans from the military. After many appeals to serve, Secretary of War Stimson announced on January 28, 1943, that volunteers would be accepted. The several thousand who had been drafted prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, together with those who enlisted from the relocation camps (more than 33,000 in all), served with distinction as translators in the Pacific Intelligence and as soldiers in both the Pacific and European battlefields. The latter compiled extraordinary combat records, the Nisei 442nd Regiment alone winning more than 5300 decorations, while the translators' efforts "enabled American commanders to anticipate enemy action, evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, avoid surprise and strike where they were least expected." The above pictures show: A Nisei soldier (furloughed to help his family move to a prison camp) with his mother in a strawberry field at Florin, California, 1942; and a Nisei serviceman visiting his parents incarcerated in the Minidoka Relocation Center. He was one of three sons who served in the U. S. Army. Note the Purple Heart decoration awarded to one son.

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