



# UNITED WE STAND

## American-Born Jap Troops Take Part in Italy Fighting

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, Sept. 25 (Delayed.)

(AP)—The first unit of American-born Japanese troops to enter the overseas combat zone went into action in the mountains above the Gulf of Salerno today—and every one of them was smiling with satisfaction.

Their smiles brought expressions of blank amazement from veterans and officers accustomed to seeing men enter combat with tense, drawn faces. These troops acted like they were going to a baseball game which, incidentally, is their favorite pastime.

The unit was recruited from Hawaii and most of its officers are Regular Army men who served there. They have taken for their motto "Remember Pearl Harbor." And their smiles of anticipation were not forced today.

### Anxious for Action

"They're really anxious to get into action," their commander said. "I've been with them since this outfit was organized and I wouldn't trade my command for any other in the Army. They feel they've got a chance to prove they're real."

### Officers' Tribute

The officers are unanimously enthusiastic about the quality and spirit of the men. They said they never had seen any troops train harder and more assiduously and never had any doubt as to what to expect from them in combat.

They were ashore in Italy only one day and had just finished organizing their encampment when a German prisoner was brought past the site. He gaped with surprise when he saw their faces and asked if they were Japanese. An interpreter explained that they were Americans of Japanese parentage. The German shook his head in wonder and said: "Ach! That's American."

SAYS THE ARMY

Los Angeles Times\*\* SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 1943—Part I

- ★ SAYS President Roosevelt  
Americanism is not and never was a matter of race or ancestry. . . . The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal Americans of Japanese descent has my full approval.
- ★ SAYS our last Ambassador to Japan - Joseph C. Grew  
These Americans of Japanese origin are to Japan what you and I are to England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France and other European countries. They are Americans. . . . an invaluable element in our population . . . . I applaud the action of the army in setting up facilities whereby those Americans will be able to show the world . . . . We show the rest of mankind what men of diverse races and cultures can accomplish with a common good will.
- ★ SAYS Sgt. Takayama at Ft. Leavenworth  
Yes, it's a small world after all and when we all come to realize that "man is man, one to another" we shall all be free, forever.
- ★ SAYS a California-Born Navy Officer  
The present hatred and misunderstanding against them in California is unfair, and the claims are unsupported by evidence. I have twice fought against the Japs and hope to do so again, but our own loyal citizens of any race or color I will never stoop to persecute.



What Hitler Wants Us to Believe

Hitler propaganda wears a thousand false faces. It never announces itself as "Nazi." It appears where least expected, and under the most innocent auspices, often turning up as the latest funny story told during lunch.

To destroy our national unity, create unrest in all groups of the population, and deflect us from our major purpose—the defeat of the Axis—Hitler is trying to set capital against labor, white against Negro, Catholic against Protestant, Christian against Jew. He knows that prejudice, in any form, plays his game.

From

## DIVIDE AND CONQUER

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- \* "Commanders serving in the combat zones having Japanese American soldiers under their control in all instances report that they perform highly important missions in a very loyal manner. In fact, these officers report no single occasion for having the slightest concern about their loyalty and trustworthiness. . . . the majority of those serving overseas are in the Southwest Pacific theater." Three have received the Medal of Merit.
- \* (From July 28, 1943 letter by COLONEL WILLIAM P. SCOBEE, written prior to the entry of the Nisei Combat Team on the Italian front.)

\* "Rancor and bigotry, racial animosities and intolerance, are . . . more dangerous than any external force because they undermine the very foundations of democratic effort."  
Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes

While on furlough, "What I saw in Los Angeles made my blood boil. The evacuation was necessary to protect our people from the state's un-Americans. . . . I got to Manzanar at four in the morning. Everyone was still sound asleep. I could almost cry, Mom and Dad had gotten so thin and tired looking." (From October 3, 1943 letter by Sgt. Bill Ikeda)

### New National Legion Commander Wants To Deport Japanese

SAN FRANCISCO — Warren H. Atherton of Stockton, Calif., newly elected national commander of the American Legion said in an interview in the San Francisco Chronicle last week that the legion favors repatriation of all alien Japanese immediately following the war.

Atherton, a California native son, declared:  
"I feel that such action without question would reduce future problems by removing an unassimilable group."

From courageous August 21, 1943 resolution of the Minnesota Department of the American Legion

"Whereas, at its national convention in 1942, the American Legion accepted as one of its war aims the following statement: 'We condemn religious prejudices, racial or national antagonisms as weapons of our enemies;' and

"Whereas there appeared in the official publication, the American Legion magazine, for June, 1943, an article entitled 'Japs in Our Yard,' by one Frederick G. Murray, M. D. which urged, among other proposals, that native-born American citizens of Japanese descent, without regard of proved loyalty or good character, be relocated on islands in the Pacific Ocean—in direct violation of our constitutional guarantees—and urged this, not as a military measure but as a social, political, and economic policy; Therefore be it

"Resolved, that we, the Department of Minnesota, the American Legion, do vigorously protest against our national magazine being used to foster race discrimination and hatred, in violation of the Constitution of the American Legion and the Constitution of the United States; be it further

The Combat Unit is the baby of the War Department's swivel chair boys who don't know what they're talking about . . . I should like to have you oppose the formation of Japanese combat units."  
Said by John R. Lechner, LL.D., chairman of the American Legion District Americanization Committee on June 30, 1943 program of the Altadena Area War Council.

## "PREJUDICE IN ANY FORM PLAYS HIS GAME"

Brutal threats of banishing their aged mothers and fathers torment our citizens, make for national disunity, and hinder the war effort. "Boring from within", Hitler calls it. Does Atherton know that:

- It is our naturalization laws that bar these old people from citizenship;
- \* In spite of being objects of American racial discrimination, these aliens-by-necessity have raised sons to be soldiers of intense loyalty;
- \* In Hawaii on December 7th one of these sons captured our first Japanese prisoner;
- \* Staff Sgt. Ben Kuroki received the air medal with oak leaf and was presented to the king and queen of England;
- \* Recently Kuzo Komoto received the Order of the Purple Heart medal for combat injuries received in the South Pacific;
- \* Other men of their face, together with blonds of German ancestry, are fighting a good fight for us on all fronts; Does Atherton remember what we are fighting for?

### President Roosevelt Commends Role of Japanese Americans In National War Effort

Chief Executive's Letter to Senate Asks For Considerate Treatment of Minority as "Vindication Of Ideals For Which We Are Fighting This War"

WASHINGTON — Loyal Japanese Americans have received presidential commendation for the role they have played to date in the nation's war effort.

In his letter to the Senate on September 14, President Roosevelt declared that "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."

The President said that Japanese Americans were "making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well being."

The President promised that the loyal evacuees would be able to return to the evacuated areas as soon as the military situation made it feasible.

Touching upon the treatment of Japanese Americans since Pearl Harbor, the President said:

"In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate and equal treatment for the people of this minority as of all other minorities."

Do Commander Atherton The American Legion Magazine and Lechner wish to go on record as opposed to these standards?

"We Must Remember What We Are Defending"

October 8, 1943

The National Executive Committee  
The American Legion  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Gentlemen:

I am one of the fortunate marines who have recently returned to this country after serving in the offensive against the Japanese on Guadalcanal. After being in the States a while we find ourselves bewildered by a condition behind our backs that stuns us. We find that our American citizens, those of Japanese ancestry, are being persecuted, yes persecuted as though Adolph Hitler himself were in charge.

We find that the California American Legion is promoting a racial purge. I'm putting it mildly when I say it makes our blood boil. We are fighting for freedom for all Americans regardless of their ancestry. Yes, we believe in those things for which we fight and we believe in fighting until we get those inalienable rights, liberty and justice for all, no matter how long it takes to secure them.

Does the National American Legion endorse the California Legion's policy of persecuting loyal American citizens? We have a right to know.

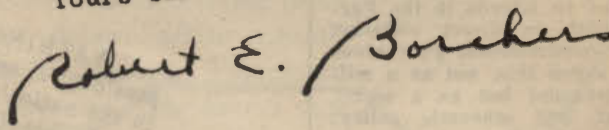
Our buddies who are still in the war zone write and ask, "How are things at home?" What can we tell them. They will return some day to form a new and greater legion, - an AMERICAN legion. We shall fight this injustice, intolerance and un-Americanism at home! We will not break faith with those who died.

It is our understanding that the real reasons behind this un-American abuse of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are not for military security, but just ugly hatred and lust for economic and political gain. What can be closer to fascism?

We have fought the Japanese and are recuperating to fight again. We can endure the hell of battle, but we are resolved not to be sold out at home.

Yours sincerely,

Pfc R. E. Borchers, U.S.M.C.R.  
Field Signal Bn, T.C. 13-B-4  
Camp Pendleton  
Oceanside, California



ARTICLE XIV ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Section 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States. Nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ★ ★

Copies of this leaflet fifteen cents per dozen, one dollar per hundred.

Like Will Rogers, almost all we know is what we read in the papers. If you suspect yours of prejudice, write us for a free copy of JAPANESE IN OUR MIDST — 1943.—Pasadena Chapter, Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, 2045 LeDroit Drive, South Pasadena, California.

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"Patriotism is the will to serve one's country, to make one's country better worth serving. It is a course of action rather than a sentiment."

—DAVID STARR JORDAN

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