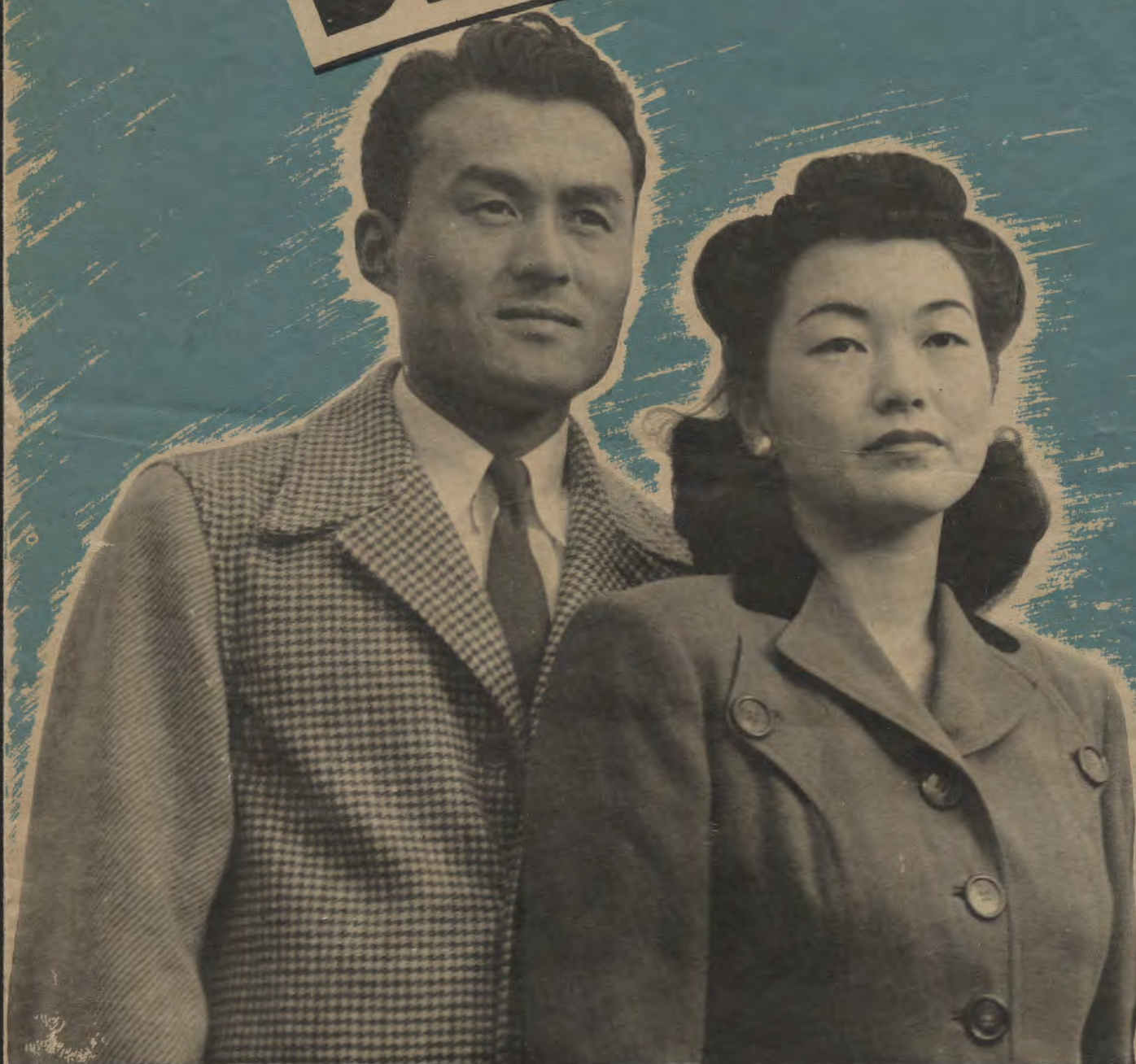


DEMOCRACY

DEMANDS



Fair Play For
AMERICA'S JAPANESE

Pro

Leading Papers Speak Up

COLLIER'S
October 21, 1944

COMMON SENSE IN CALIFORNIA

A California outfit called the Japanese Exclusion Association tried recently to round up the necessary 180,000-odd signatures to make it virtually impossible for persons of Japanese descent to earn their livings in California. The petition failed by about 100,000 signatures—and California and common sense won, if you ask us, by the same score. . . . it looks as if the ancient American policy of giving minorities—any and all of them—a fair shake pays dividends in peace and in war. Why, then, chip holes in that ancient American policy?

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
June 23, 1944

Is This the American Way?

On the west coast, many otherwise respectable organizations—including the American Legion, which should stand for the finest kind of Americanism—have been engaging in a bitter hate campaign against the Japanese Americans. They have sought to direct the enmity for Japan against these citizens. The west coast press has also played a disgraceful role in this attack.

What kind of Americanism is it for the city of Gardena to omit from its honor roll of citizens the names of 17 Japanese Americans in the service of our common country? What kind of Americanism is it for the American Legion to revoke the charters of two posts made up of Japanese American veterans of the first World War? What kind of Americanism is it for the legion in Portland, Ore., to protest the efforts of local citizens to provide some volunteer care for a Japanese cemetery?

The attitude expressed in these actions is a disheartening sign that we have a long way to go to achieve the kind of tolerance and democracy we fight for.

TACOMA, WASH., TIMES
October 28, 1944

Leaguers Take On Big Job

Members of the Remember Pearl Harbor League undertake a big job when they propose to amend the Constitution of the United States to bar American born Japanese from citizenship and residence in the United States. That is easier said than done. . . . If it were not for the possibility of serious repercussions, the effort to amend the Constitution to deny citizenship to American born members of one race would be quite a bit on the ridiculous side. If it can be done in one instance, what is to prevent any interested groups from conjuring up a case against the Germans, Italians or any other American residents of any other nationality, including the Irish. And then, Heaven help us, where would New York get her policemen?

NEW YORK TIMES
September 2, 1944

NOT IN THE BLOOD

Their names are: Masaki Fujikawa, Shinei Nakamine, Denis Masato Hashimoto, Grover Kazutomi Nagaji, Kenji Kato, Tsugiyasu Toma, all killed in action against their country's enemy. . . . Other Americans of Japanese descent have fought for our flag in the Pacific and in Burma, taking risks, because of their race, over and beyond those assumed by white soldiers. . . . Letters from other American soldiers received in this office have proclaimed the loyalty and devotion of these men.

What this proves is a fact encouraging for Japanese-Americans, for the country of which they are citizens and for the long prospect ahead. There is nothing in the Japanese blood, or in any racial blood, that makes men ignorant and brutal. Education and environment turn the scales one way or the other. A whole generation in Japan and Germany has gone to waste and worse than waste. Under decent governments, in a decent society, in a decently organized world, the coming generations may be reclaimed. The war must be won by destruction, but the peace will be kept by education.

SAN FRANCISCO
CHRONICLE

September 21, 1944

FOUR MEDALS

The Army has awarded Bronze Star medals for meritorious action on Saipan to four California boys, coming from Marysville, Stockton, San Jose, and Los Angeles. These young men showed their American fighting spirit by volunteering for a job that took them, in that region, into particular danger. Their names are Honda, Nakanishi, Natsui and Sakamoto.

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS
November 17, 1944

The Japanese Question

. . . Many of the Japanese who were interned in the WRA camps have settled perhaps permanently in other states. That raises the question of whether California can afford, as an enlightened state to put itself in a class by itself by excluding them (we are talking about those who are American citizens) while its sister states are granting them the rights of residence and citizenship. Californians generally look with disfavor upon denial of full citizenship rights to Negroes by some of the Southern states. On a purely rational basis it is hard to distinguish between the two attitudes.

The very complexity of the problem suggests that it would be well to meet it head on by creating a committee of California citizens of the highest integrity and public trust, and fully representative of all shades of opinion, to study it and render considered judgment as to the best course for the state to pursue.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
December 6, 1944

Americans vs. Americans

The simple fact that Americanism is not served by the persecution of Americans still needs to be learned. It needs to be learned by, among others, the American Legion Post of Hood River, Ore., which has expunged from its county war memorial the names of 16 Americans of Japanese ancestry who are serving with the United States forces overseas.

The 16 Americans whose names were erased from the memorial are being good Americans, by fighting for their country. The members of the Hood River Post of the American Legion who voted for the erasure are being poor Americans, by allowing themselves to be led by prejudice and empty emotionalism into persecuting their fellow-citizens.

or It

ROCKFORD, ILL.,
REGISTER-REPUBLIC
May 24, 1944

We Point With Pride

A photograph on the picture page of Saturday's Register - Republic showed a Japanese-American boy as one of six winners of a spelling contest at Lincoln junior high school. It was refreshing evidence of the tolerance which pervades this community, particularly Rockford's school system.

A few weeks ago at another of our schools a Japanese-American girl took part in a speech contest. She did not win first place, but an instructor has told us that she received the heaviest applause. Her classmates wanted her to know that she was welcome in their midst.

Rockford, yes the whole middle west, may be proud of its record of acceptance of loyal Japanese-Americans, which shows an appreciation of the spirit as well as the letter of the constitution.

MADISON, WIS., STATE
JOURNAL

December 3, 1944

Making Progress

Headlines recently proclaimed that 47 states now are open for relocation of Japanese-Americans.

News reports also reveal that one of these 47 states, Colorado, went much farther in a referendum last month. The people of Colorado rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to bar Japanese aliens from owning land in that state.

All of which deserves the emphasis of repetition here as evidence of progress in Americanism.

TUCSON, ARIZONA, STAR
June 6, 1944

The Constitution and Japanese-Americans

...If our Constitution means anything, if protection of minorities is to continue to be a principle of American life, it is up to all duly elected officials to stand by their oath of office to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, even to the extent of seeing, once peace comes, that those unfortunates of Japanese ancestry are defended against those hot heads who must be cowards to fear what have been law-abiding, industrious people.

OMAHA WORLD HERALD
November 28, 1944

Home Is Where the Heart Is

"I have the face of a Japanese but my heart is American," said T. Sgt. Ben Kuroki in revealing here that the War Department has granted his request for assignment to combat duty in the Pacific.

Speaking before a group of transplanted Nisei (Japanese-Americans shunted from the West Coast) this modest soldier from Hershey, Neb., who flew with the first Liberator squadron over Europe, told of his ambition to fly over Tokyo in a bomber.

His words might well be pondered by some, perhaps well-intentioned, who have the face of Americans but the hearts of bigots so far as Ben Kuroki and his minority group of Americans are concerned.

CITIZEN NEWS
Hollywood, Calif.
November 7, 1944

Concealed

Though there are many people who express fears about the return of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to California, it hasn't yet become apparent to this writer what they are afraid of.

Certainly there are no fears that returning Japanese would lessen our war effort by contributing their labors to the raising of crops or the manufacture of war supplies. Perhaps it is not fear that is bothering some people. Perhaps it is both prejudice. Perhaps it is simply being admitted, for that would be admitting that the fundamental rights of American citizens are not recognized.

WASHINGTON POST
July 13, 1944

Exclusion Test

...If the exclusion is based on nothing more than racial hostility, then it raises an ugly threat to the fundamental principles of American life. It bears, as Mr. Justice Murphy pointed out elsewhere in his opinion on the curfew case, "a melancholy resemblance to the treatment accorded many and other parts of Europe." If the freedom of citizens can be restricted because of the spelling of their names, then none of us can claim more than a temporary and illusory hold upon freedom.

SANTA ANA, CALIF.,
REGISTER
August 22, 1944

The Sooner the Better

Real democracy, Christianity and Americanism means that people must live a dangerous life. They must have faith in other people and be willing to take risks. We should have been willing to take the risk that possibly a few Japanese might have caused a disturbance.

But since we have made a serious mistake, the sooner we correct it the better. There is no excuse whatever now for keeping the Japanese in detention camps. They are entitled to the same protection by the government as every other citizen, no matter what race or color.

PHILADELPHIA RECORD
May 28, 1944

Our Japanese-Americans Deserve Fair Play

...They have bought war bonds, given to the Red Cross, joined in war volunteer work. Some 8000 Japanese-Americans are in the United States Army. They fought bravely in Italy. Many are interpreters in the Pacific theater. Some of the women have joined the WAC.

Some 80,000 are still in relocation centers, afraid of "the outside," profoundly hurt that other Americans so stigmatize them. Their problem is not of their making.

We imposed it upon them. We—the Government and the people—must solve it generously and with understanding.

Otherwise democracy is but an idle word.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., NEWS
October 11, 1944

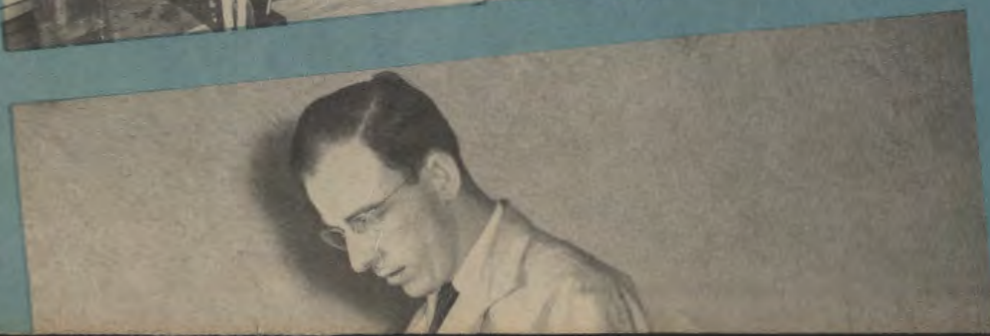
OF VALOR— It Is Not Limited to Any One Group

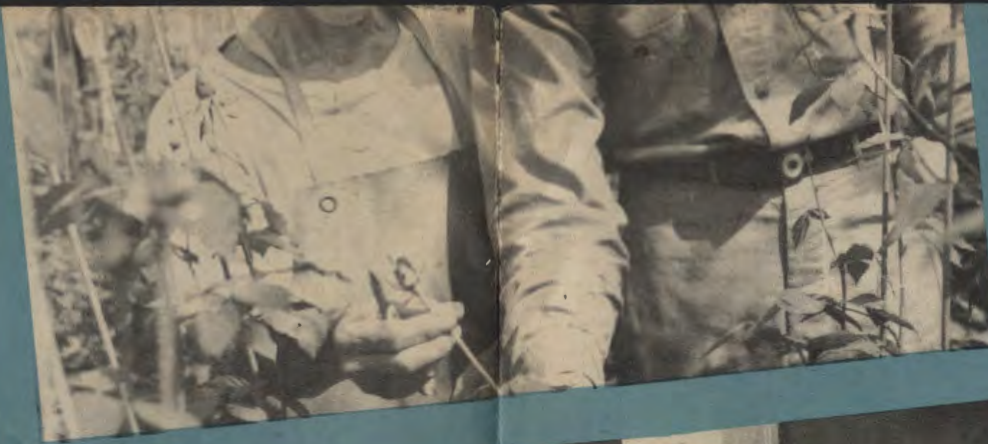
...It was last spring that a young Marine, a Guadalcanal veteran, returned to this country and found vicious discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry in California—and in a nationally-circulated letter accused the California Department of the American Legion of actually sponsoring the movement.

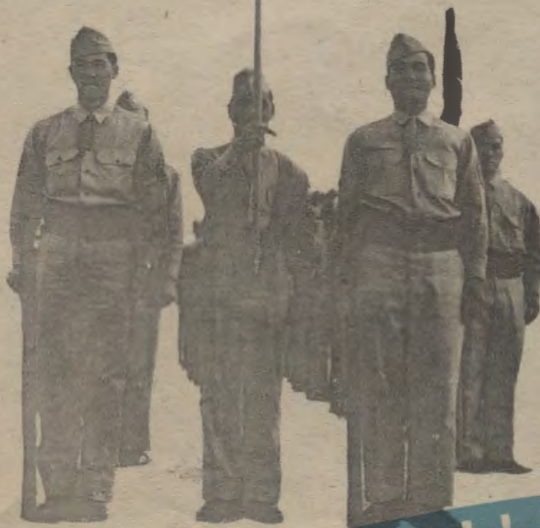
We rejoice in the increasingly distinguished battle records of these troops, and consider their deeds under fire sufficient answer to irresponsible critics and idle talk of the prejudiced. Response in battle, after all, is the final evidence, and adequate testimony to the loyalty of these men to the American ideal—regardless of their stakes in this country's future.



THE PEOPLE
PRACTICE IT







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