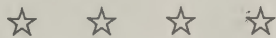


SERVICES

islands in the Marshall group; they are serving with the American forces in India and Burma. Wherever Americans are fighting, Nisei soldiers are among them helping to win victory for the United States and the Allied Nations. Many have been decorated for valor and meritorious service, and many have been killed or wounded.

Although the overwhelming majority of Nisei in uniform are in the Army, there are a few in the Marines and the Coast Guard. Furthermore, enlistments in the Army are not limited to men; since July 1943, a considerable number of Nisei girls have joined the Women's Army Corps. Others are serving as Army nurses. These Nisei WAC's and nurses are widely scattered, since no action has been taken to gather them into one unit or one locality. Some of the nurses are overseas.



U. S. Army Signal Corps

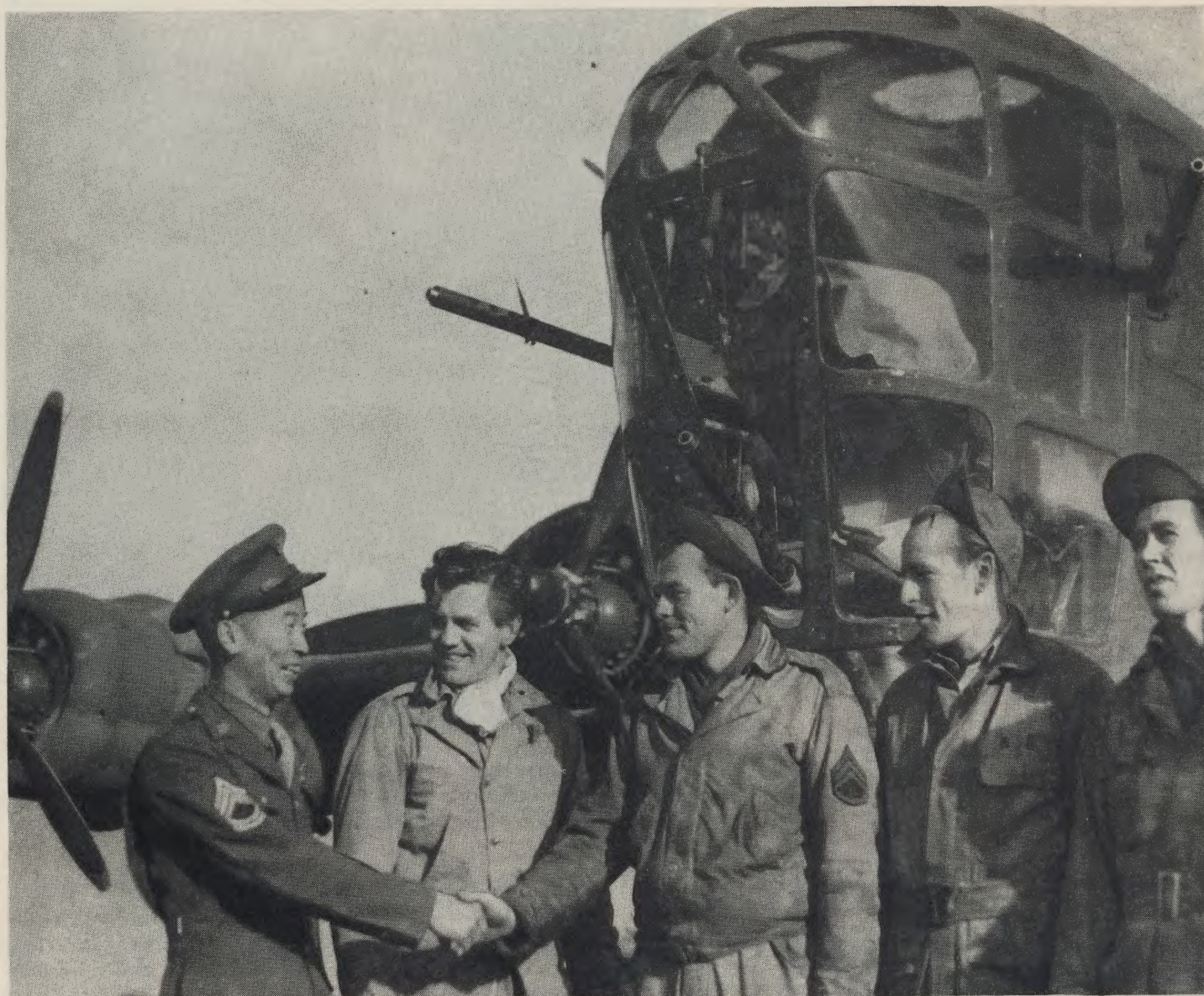
Pfc. Thomas Tsuyuki was one of the first Nisei to earn the right to wear the silver wings of a United States paratrooper. He enlisted from the Colorado River Relocation Center in western Arizona.

Pvt. Shizuko Shinagawa joined the WAC from the Colorado River Relocation Center. Assigned to recruiting, she considers it "an opportunity to help my country and my people."



Pvt. Alice Shimoyama, a native of Kent, Wash., carries the guidon at the head of her WAC company at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. She has a sister who is also in the Women's Army Corps, and a brother in the United States Army.





Press Association, Inc

Sgt. Ben Kuroki, veteran of 30 bombing missions over Nazi-held territory, bids good-bye to his ground crew before returning to the United States for new assignments.



TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

February 7, 1944

HEROES

Ben Kuroki, American

West Coast draft boards got orders last week to start reclassifying their U. S.-born Japanese for induction into the armed forces. The announcement was not even of academic interest to one member of the Nisei, 25-year-old Ben Kuroki.

Ben Kuroki is a technical sergeant in the U. S. Army Air Forces, a qualified turret gunner in B-24 Liberator bombers, veteran of 30 heavy bombing missions against the enemy, survivor of the ruthless, costly raid on the Ploesti oilfields of Rumania, winner of two Distinguished Flying Crosses, wearer of the coveted Air Medal with four oak-leaf clusters.

Ben Kuroki may have been the first person of Japanese descent to watch the Pacific surf curl on the beach of Santa Monica since the great evacuation of Japanese from California after Pearl Harbor. He was

there last week, with several hundred other battle-weary U. S. airmen, resting in the luxury of the former Edgewater Beach Club, now an Air Forces redistribution center. Like his comrades, he slept late, guzzled orange juice and fresh milk, tried to unwind and get toned up.

Earned Repose. He had earned his rest. Few men can ever have gone through more plain hell trying to find a place in the special hell of battle. Ben Kuroki's father was a seed-potato grower in Hershey, Nebr., a town of about 500 people. Ben and his kid brother Fred (now overseas with an

engineer outfit) volunteered for the Army two days after Pearl Harbor, were accepted a month later. Ben landed in the Air Forces and started to run his personal gauntlet at Sheppard Field, Tex.

"It seemed like everybody was cold," Ben remembered. "Maybe I was self-conscious but it kind of got to working on my mind."

He was isolated in a barracks corner. Other soldiers stared at him glumly. He feared the drunks most; they always wanted to fight. Ben tried first for air cadet, then for mechanic. He was sent to clerical school in Colorado, then shipped to Barksdale Field, La., one of 40 new clerks. As usual he was the last to be assigned, spent a miserable 15 days on the dirtiest of K. P. jobs.

Then he got his first break: assignment as communications clerk in one of four Liberator squadrons in Brigadier General Ted Timberlake's group, now famed as "Ted's Flying Circus" (TIME, Oct. 18). Ben kept his fingers crossed, never even went to nearby Shreveport for fear of getting into trouble. Twice when the squadron moved (to Florida, then England)

they talked of leaving him behind. Both times he begged to go, made it.

Earned Action. In England he volunteered for gunnery training. Once trained, he coaxed a strictly temporary training assignment. He was good. A month later he was taken on as waist gunner by 23-year-old Major J. B. Epting. On their first combat mission, over Bizerte in Tunisia, the tail gunner was wounded and Ben moved aft. Steady behavior and crack gunnery in combat had done the job. He belonged.

Ben earned one D. F. C. for 25 combat missions, another for the Ploesti raid.

"We went in at 50 feet into terrible anti-aircraft fire," he remembers. "Our planes would crash and we could see our buddies burning in their planes. Our group commander's plane was hit and he gunned it up so his men could get out. I saw three chutes leave, but I don't think two of the men landed alive. Then the commander dove his plane right into the biggest building in town. No man who went to Ploesti will ever forget it."

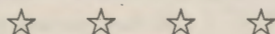
Only two of the nine Liberators in Ben's

"Eager Beaver" squadron came back. The sight of empty bunks and mess lines haunted him; he could not sleep for three nights. Yet when his prescribed 25 missions had been fulfilled, he turned down a chance to fly home, volunteered instead for an extra five.

Four of them were over Germany, and on the last one his luck almost ran out. He was flying as top-turret gunner over Münster when a flak burst hit the turret dome, shattered his goggles, tore off his oxygen mask. Copilot and radioman pulled him down and revived him with an emergency mask. After that, Ben got his orders for home.

When he is ready for combat again, Ben Kuroki hopes to go to the Pacific theater. His roommate at Santa Monica now is Tail Gunner Edward Bates, who lost a brother in the Pacific. Says Ben: "I promised him the first Zero I get will be for his brother."

Editor's note: During the spring of 1944, Sergeant Kuroki received ovations before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco and in three relocation centers.



Wounded in battle with the Japanese enemy in the South Pacific, Sgt. Kazuo Komoto was returned to the United States for hospitalization. On a visit to his family at the Gila River Relocation Center, he displays his Purple Heart to an admiring younger brother.



WRA

Four stars are in the service flag of Mr. and Mrs. Ichimatsu Matsushita of the Colorado River Relocation Center. They have three sons and one son-in-law, all volunteers, in the Army of the United States. They are former residents of Watsonville, Calif.



NISEI SOLDIERS SERVE IN ALL THEATERS OF WAR

A Selection of Newspaper Clippings

PACIFIC CITIZEN

General Reveals Japanese Americans Took Part In Capture of Kwajalein Atoll

Japanese American soldiers from the United States and Hawaii participated in the invasion of the Marshall Islands and the successful capture of Kwajalein, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett, whose Seventh Army Division participated in the invasion, declared in an Associated Press interview dated February 17 from the U. S. Army Headquarters in the Central Pacific.

General Corlett, whose troops are veterans of Attu, praised the work of Japanese Americans with the invading American forces.

This dispatch, published widely in U. S. newspapers, was the first official Army report of the role of Japanese Americans in the Pacific fighting, although previously published reports have indicated that Japanese Americans are fighting in the South Pacific and took part in the successful recapture of Attu and Kiska.

KLAMATH FALLS HERALD & NEWS

Jap-American Volunteer From Tule WRA Center Fights Nips in India

A Japanese American volunteer from a WRA center is today fighting in the India-Burma theater as a member of the U. S. Army's First Air Commando group, according to an army-censored "dispatch" to the Pacific Citizen from "somewhere in India."

The soldier is Staff Sgt. Tom Taketa, who volunteered for the Army in 1942 from Tule Lake relocation center.

Following is the army-censored "dispatch" from Staff Sgt. Tom Taketa of the First Air Commando group:

"The First Air Commando group—that name would strike a familiar chord in your minds. Surely you have read about the great doings of this outfit. I don't know what the newspapers have said about the First Air Commando group and its undertakings, but whatever was written must have made good reading material. I may be prejudiced because I happen to be one of its members, the

only Nisei with this group, but I assure you that whatever I say about this outfit is with the deepest sincerity, and is shared by each and everyone of us.

"A year and a half ago, I was one of the evacuees in Tule and little did I realize at the time of my enlistment that I would be fortunate enough to join such an outfit as the one I'm in now.

"Our 'old man' the C. O., incidently, he isn't very old, and in his thirties—is a hard-fighting leader. He's a go-getter, and that's one of the main reasons that we've accomplished so much in such a short time. Our men are taking the war to the enemy, and I am more than certain that the enemy is feeling the might of our punches. I know it may sound incredible when I say that we're fighting a war of our own, but that's exactly what we're doing; that is, with as much free-wheeling as we're allowed."

PM

Japanese-Americans

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading Harold Lavine's article on West Coast prejudice against Japanese-Americans in the Jan. 21 issue of PM.

I have had constant dealings with Japanese-American boys serving in our Army. When I first arrived in this theater of operations, I was an enlisted man and I shared a tent with one of these boys. There were a number of other Japanese-Americans in the company and there wasn't a single man in that outfit who didn't like and respect these boys. They are all courageous, sincere, loyal and swell fellows.

At my present station where I am serving with a Marine unit, we have a group of these Japanese-American boys. They are, like the previous group I mentioned, good Americans and well liked.

If there are any groups of Americans who have reason to hate and distrust Japs, they are the Marine and Army units who have been in combat with them. Yet, all of these Marines and Army boys will swear by the integrity and loyalty of the Japanese-American soldiers.

Many of these boys have parents and sisters and brothers in relocation centers. They are there not because they aren't loyal Americans, but because the Government has seen fit to put them there as purely precautionary measures. Though they are not happy about it, the Japanese-American soldiers understand and appreciate the necessity for such action under the circumstances.

My own sentiments and that of others with whom I have discussed Mr. Lavine's article are that Japanese-Americans should have the same rights guaranteed to them as are guaranteed to any other Americans—the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I would like to see jailed and convicted for making murderous threats the members of those organizations who wrote District Attorney Houser of Los Angeles County that they have "pledged to kill any Japanese who come to California now or after the war."

2D LT. MORRIS KRITZ

Somewhere in the South Pacific

P.S. Just as I was on the last paragraph of this letter, one of our Japanese-American boys walked in to see how'm I doing.

AMARILLO NEWS

Japanese-Yanks Prove To Be Poison to Germans in Italy

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, July 9 (Delayed) (AP)—Built up from a single battalion to a full-sized regiment, Japanese-American doughboys are back in the line operating against the Germans with the motto, "go for broke," the craps-shooter's equivalent of shoot the works or bet the roll.

This is the 442nd Regiment, complete with engineers and artillery, which was created by a special War Department order after Selective Service had refused to induct Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The first of these soldiers in action was the now famous 100th Battalion, which made the first actual contact with the enemy in Italy as part of the 34th Division, then distinguished itself at the Anzio beachhead and has continued the same sort of fighting farther north.

For instance, there was the youngster from this outfit who was out with a bazooka the other day, just north of Castellina. A Jerry tank came along and the bazooka went off a couple of times. The score was one kayoed tank, with 20 dead Germans in the neighborhood.

Then there was the outfit consisting of two squads that Lt. Jim Boodry, Clinton, Mass., took out into the red-hot action around Bolgheri, where the enemy put up a blazing battle to keep the doughboys from taking Highway 68. Three Hawaiians went to a ridge from which the Nazis had been throwing a lot of fire.

When the shooting was over the lead trio and their mates had run up a total of some 30 Nazi dead, 46 captured and had a collection of enemy material including 5 machine guns, 30 machine pistols and a few hundred "potato masher" grenades, according to Lieutenant Boodry.

All in all, the regiment charged some 50 miles in 4 days after going into the line. Some of them averaged as little as two and a half hours sleep a night, and some were so far out ahead of the supply lines they were without food for 24 hours.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN FOUGHT NIPS ON ATTU

**U. S.-Born Sergeant, Home From Alaska to Take
Bride, Tells of Fighting on Visit to Parents
At Heart Mountain**

Heart Mountain, Wyo., Oct. 13.—(I. N. S.)—Japanese soldiers of American birth, in addition to fighting Nazis in Italy, have fought against Nipponese soldiers in the Pacific theater of war, it was disclosed Wednesday.

Sergt. Kunihiro Nakao, a Japanese-American formerly of Sacramento, Calif., arrived at the war relocation center at Heart Mountain as a veteran of hand-to-hand combat at Attu.

Sergeant Nakao and his bride of a few days, the former Kuni Muto of San Fernando, Calif., spent part of their honeymoon at the WRA camp visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kamjiro Nakao, recent transferees from the Tulalake, Calif., camp of the WRA.

Despite his reluctance to talk of his experiences, Sergeant Nakao revealed to fellow Japanese that he had been stationed in Alaska for about a year, and that he was among those who landed on Attu where he said he was frequently under fire.

CLEVELAND PRESS

Reveal Husband of Cleveland Japanese Saved U. S. General

A 26-year-old Japanese-American sergeant, whose wife and brother are living in Cleveland, today was credited with helping to save the life of an American general in hand-to-hand combat with Japanese forces in the South Pacific.

Sgt. Tomas Sakamoto, whose wife is a civil service employee of the War Department, has been mentioned in dispatches from the South Pacific as the first of his race to be cited for action against the Japanese. Mrs. Sakamoto, 23, lives at 11102 Lorain avenue, while Sgt. Sakamoto's brother, Frank, 22, lives at 1906 E. 93d street.

Sakamoto was the only non-commissioned officer in an assault party led by Brig. Gen. William Chase. The party was attacked by a Jap group, headed by the Japanese island commander.

In the ensuing fighting the entire Jap group except two were killed.

Sgt. Sakamoto is a native of San Jose, Cal. He has been in the Army three years and met his wife in Minneapolis, Minn., while he was at Camp Savage.

"Captured Japanese rations proved a welcome addition to the emergency fare on which Sergeant Nakao and his buddies were existing, and the Caucasians learned to relish enemy delicacies," the camp newspaper reported, in disclosing Nakao's return to the United States via plane to become a bridegroom. The marriage took place at Salt Lake City. Following the honeymoon, Sergeant Nakao will return to his army post in Alaska.

WASHINGTON POST

On the Line

With **CONSIDINE**

We were down here to appear on the Army's radio program which is called "Vising Hour"—written by our old pal, Sergt. Jerry Lewis, and produced by Maj. Andre Baruch, one of the better men of radio. The program, one of the best on the air, we think, is the idea of Maj. Gen. Norman T. Kirk, Surgeon General of the Army. General Kirk is using this program to introduce the wounded veteran to the public. He is doing just that.

There was one boy on the program who started even the legless, armless boys in the audience. He was (and is) a Japanese-American, born in Honolulu.

His mother and father were born in Japan. His name is Wallace Y. Hisamoto. We asked him what was on his mind—one of the lively stock questions of the program.

"Well," he said, "Tomorrow is 'I Am An American Day,' and I'd like to say that despite the fact that both of my parents were born in Japan, I'm an American, too."

Wallace lost his leg in the battle that followed the crossing of the Volturno River, in Italy. He served with the 100th Infantry Battalion of the Thirty-fourth Division, composed mainly of Japanese-Americans. Wally yesterday was carried on to the stage, as a baby is carried, by Corpl. Mark Austaad of Ogden, Utah.

"When my people tried to settle down in some places in this country they were driven out," the legless boy protested. "I went to war because the Japanese rulers and the Nazis were trying to prove that there is a super-race. America doesn't believe that, and yet my people, who are American like me, can't stay put because their skin isn't white. It doesn't make sense."

The inconsistency of it all reminded him of his favorite athlete, Sergt. Joe Louis.

"Our people feel just like Louis does," he said. "When the heavyweight champion landed in England, somebody said to him 'Why are you so happy to be in uniform, your country isn't so nice to your people.' Joe looked at the man and said, 'Mister, I know that there are things wrong with my country, but it's nothing Hitler can fix.' We Americans whose parents were born in Japan feel the same way. Maybe there is something wrong in America, but it's nothing Tojo can fix, either."

SUN (Baltimore, Md.)
November 20, 1943

JAPANESE TELLS OF PACIFIC WAR AT RIVERS CAMP

One Jap sniper who tried his best to kill a Japanese American "doughboy" never lived to tell of his failure.

The Japanese American soldier, Staff Sgt. Kazuo Komoto, is back in America after a slug from the sniper's machine gun had shattered his knee. He visited his parents at the Rivers Relocation Center last week.

The sergeant in recounting his experience in the "toughest fighting in the world" said that he had been without sleep for a week, and had climbed out of his fox hole behind the front lines to rest. Some twenty minutes later the sniper, who had infiltrated and camouflaged himself in a tree, opened on him and several other American soldiers near him. A few seconds later the sniper was riddled by American fire.

Later, on a hospital ship, his commanding general presented him with the Purple Heart award. With a soldier's disdain for what he terms a "cripple's medal," Komoto shrugs off congratulations. Completely recovered from his knee wound, he is ready for action again.

DES MOINES REGISTER,
March 24, 1944

High Praise for Doughboy and the Nisei

By C. C. Clifton.

Maj. James J. Gillespie, 32, who fought with the famous 34th Division from the beach landing at Algiers to the mountains before Cassino, came home Thursday singing the praises of the infantry and the Hawaiian Japanese he commanded in Italy.

Landed at Salerno.

Major Gillespie, who went into Italy at Salerno beach in the battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Lloyd Rockwell of Council Bluffs which took the key road center of Benevento, was placed in command of the Hawaiian Japanese battalion after Benevento.

These Hawaiians, all of Japanese descent and American citizens came in to replace a battalion which was removed from the division before the North African invasion.

They were flanked in all their fighting, which included two crossings of the Volturno river and the mountain fighting before Cassino, by two battalions of Iowans.

On one side was Rockwell's third battalion of the 133d infantry and on the other was the first battalion of the 133d.

"These Hawaiian Japanese," Gillespie said, "call themselves Hawaiians or just plain Americans. They've earned the right to call themselves anything they damn well please. I've never been so mad in my life as I have been since I returned to the United States and have heard cracks made about Japs fighting on our side in Italy.

Loyal Americans.

"Anybody who calls these doughboys Japs is the most narrow minded person I know of. These kids, so far as I'm concerned, are just as much Americans as I am. I'd like to hear anybody foolish enough to disparage them do it when the two Iowa battalions that fought with them and got shot at with them could hear it.

"The men of these battalions will tell anybody what good men they are and how extremely loyal they are. They're as good as any outfit I've ever been with."

The Hawaiian battalion was organized in Hawaii, trained 15 months in the United States, and joined the 34th Division at Oran, Africa, before the division went to Italy. At the front they were under constant fire, day in and day out, battling mud and rain and terrific terrain.

PURPLE HEART IS GIVEN WIDOW OF JAP-AMERICAN

Kuroki, Hero of Nazi Bombings,

BULLETIN, Philadelphia, U.S.-JAP GIRL HERE JOINS THE WAC

Japanese Troops in U. S. Army Are Playing Heroic Role In Italy

U. S. JAPANESE WIN PRAISE AT CASSINO

Japanese-American Captain Wounded Seriously Abroad

Americans All

Japanese-American Hero

U.S.-BORN JAPS FIGHT IN ITALY

LOYALTY IS DEMONSTRATED

Jap-American Soldiers Prove Worth in Combat

Japanese Doctor Is Given U. S. Army Commission And Leaves Rivers Camp

Hunt Japanese Is Purple Heart Hero

Real Americans

Jap-American Gets 'Chutist Wings At Post

Japanese Americans

Italy—Where Japs Fight Germans

Jap Wearing U. S. Uniform Glad He's In

Nisei Ready To Serve As Draftees

American-Born Japs Fight With 5th Army

JAPANESE-AMERICAN WACS

Army to Draft Loyal Japanese Citizens of U. S.

Nisei Passes WAC Tests

SERGEANT KUROKI—AMERICAN

AMERICAN-BORN JAPANESE TO FIGHT JAPS

Japs Good House-to-House Boys in Cassino Fighting

NISEI TROOPS

AMERICAN-JAP PLOESTI HERO VISITS DENVER

JAPANESE TO GET PRE-DRAFT EXAMS

Japanese-American Combat Unit

U. S. Japanese Are Excellent In Combat

Japanese-Americans Aid Italy Battle; 'Glad of the Chance'

Japanese-American Girl Enlists For Service In WACs

American-Born Japs Fight for U. S.

Jap-American Hero Proud to Fight for U. S.

JAPANESE GIRL IS MEMBER OF WAC

They Fought as Americans