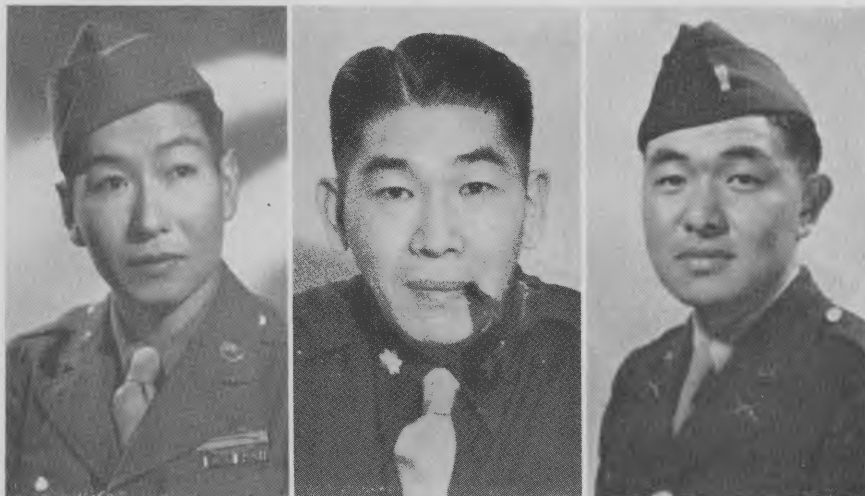


THERE ARE AMONG AMERICA'S FIGHTING MEN



JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SERVICE: Top row, left to right: PFC. TAKESHI YATABE, wounded in action; MAJOR WALTER TSUKAMOTO; 2nd LIEUT. KEI TANAHASHI, killed in action.



Lower, left to right: PFC. HACHIRO MUKAI, killed in action; PFC. PRISCILLA YASUDA; 2nd LIEUT. MOE YONEMURA.

first 29 days of fighting they lost 120 of their men. They were attached then to the 34th Division, which had a record of more days in the line than any other American unit.

On October 15 they went on into the Seventh Army front in France, where they led the rescue of the "Lost Battalion," and they were on the way to Germany.

And when Lieut. Col. Virgil R. Miller, executive officer of the 442nd was questioned regarding the unit, he said:

"What do you think of the Japanese Americans as fighters—that's what you want to know, is it? All right, then, you can quote me as follows: they're the best outfit in the United States Army." He paused, then he said: "You can go so far as to say that they're the best damn outfit in the United States Army!"

In the Pacific

Little news has come out of the Pacific area regarding Japanese American troops in that theater of war. But theirs is a striking and dramatic story. Several thousand of them are today proving that the Japanese American is as eager to fight the Japanese enemy as the German.

They have been at Bataan, in the Marshalls, Tarawa, New Georgia, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte and all those island points where American fighting men have struggled with the relentless Japanese enemy. In Burma, Sgt. Kenny Yasui, known as the "Baby Sergeant York," captured thirteen enemy Japanese on the Irrawaddy River. On Leyte Sgt. Frank Hachiya, on a special and dangerous mission, was shot by a Japanese sniper. He was barely able to return to headquarters, but he accomplished his mission and then died of his injuries.

S/Sgt. Shigeo Ito was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Ribbon in a ceremony on Leyte in the Philippines "for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy." Sgt. Ito fought in the Attu and Kiska campaigns in Alaska in 1943, served in Hawaii with the 28th Division, and then went on to join the 77th Infantry Division in the Philippines.

Many Nisei Americans served with Merrill's Marauders in that outfit's savage attacks upon the enemy. But all of the island outposts have known these Japanese American soldiers. A number of them have been decorated for bravery, some of them have died in action. And of them the radio commentator, H. V. Kaltenborn, has said: "American-born Japanese are doing one of the greatest services for our Pacific armies."

There was Sgt. Henry Goshō, called "Horizontal



Photo by
Signal Corps



Photo by
Signal Corps

THIS IS HOW IT WAS IN BATTLE



Photo by
Signal Corps



Photo by
Signal Corps

JAPANESE AMERICANS IN ACTION on the Western Front. **UPPER LEFT:** A team of Nisei GIs throwing 105 mm shells at Germans in support of an infantry attack. **LOWER LEFT:** A unit moving out of its old command post, which is holding a section of the front lines. **ABOVE:** Members of the 442nd moving up toward the front lines in France. **LOWER:** A Japanese American machine gunner keeps himself ready for the enemy.



Photo by
Signal Corps



Photo by
Signal Corps

REST WAS A MOMENT SNATCHED FROM BATTLE



Photo by
Signal Corps



Photo by
WRA

UPPER LEFT: Infantrymen of the 442nd attend church services outside their billet in France. LOWER LEFT: A camouflaged dugout provides a place to rest. UPPER: Col. Lee D. Cady congratulates Lieut. Howard Y. Miyake upon receiving the Silver Star during retreat ceremonies at the Peninsular Base Section Medical Center, Naples. LOWER: Sgt. Ben Kuroki is swamped by autograph seekers at the Heart Mountain relocation center.

Hank" by his comrades in Merrill's Marauders, because "he's been pinned down so often by Jap machine-gun fire."

"One of our platoons owes their lives to Sgt. Henry G.," a fellow soldier once wrote. "Hank guided the machine-gun fire on our side which killed every Jap on that side. The boys who fought alongside of Hank agree that they have never seen a more calm, cool and collected man under fire. He was always so eager to be where he could be of the most use and effectiveness and that was always the hot spot."

Hank, who killed his share of the Japanese enemy, always brushed aside talk on that score. "Honorable ancestors much regret meeting Merrill's Marauders," he would say.

* * *

In December, 1943, a Nebraska farm boy came home from the wars. He was Sgt. Ben Kuroki, top turret gunner, who participated in 25 heavy bombing missions over Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and then begged for more. He was granted another five missions with his Liberator crew, and then came home.

Ben Kuroki volunteered for Army service on the day after Pearl Harbor. Suspicion held up his enlistment until January 5 of the following year, but immediately following his enlistment he begged for duty in the Pacific area. He had a tough time getting onto a crew and into active duty. During his training period he was called "Keep 'em Peeling," because he peeled so many potatoes waiting for an assignment.

JAPANESE AMERICAN WAC Chito Isonaga, native of Koloa, Kauai, eats her New Year's dinner with 57 comrades who enlisted in the Women's Army Corps in the Territory of Hawaii.

Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps



He went finally to Europe, though he said, "I didn't join the Army with the intention of fighting in Europe. I joined to avenge Pearl Harbor."

This spring it was reported that Sgt. Kuroki had finally achieved his ultimate wish. He was reported in the Pacific theatre, and he wrote home to a friend, "I must concentrate on dropping some 'roses' on Tokyo Rose."

On February 21, 1945, a large audience at the Poston relocation center watched quietly as Brigadier General J. H. Wilson pinned the Distinguished Service Cross upon Mrs. Matsu Madokoro.

The award was a posthumous award to her only son, Pfc. Harry Madokoro, who was killed on the Italian front.

During the final assault on an enemy-held field near Molina A Ventoabbao, Italy, Pfc. Madokoro advanced ahead of his squad to a strategic position from which he could deliver effective automatic rifle fire. He dispersed a nest of snipers, neutralized another enemy nest and enabled his platoon to take a strategic hill. At Luciana, Madokoro occupied an advance position and proceeded to fire on the enemy entrenched on the outskirts of the town. With heavy fire directed at him, he held his position and provided covering fire when his squad was forced to withdraw. The following day, when his squad became separated from the remainder of the company within the town, he provided flank protection against enemy attacks. The enemy entered a nearby draw and threw hand grenades at him, but Madokoro crawled toward the draw, tossed a hand grenade into the enemy position and neutralized it.

He died in the line of duty on August 25, 1944. His citation noted that his Distinguished Service Cross was awarded "for extraordinary heroism in action" on two separate occasions.

* * *

War Department notifications of death or wounds received in action have gone to hundreds of Japanese American families throughout the nation.

Many families have sent two, three and more sons into the service of their country. Mrs. Haruye Masaoka, mother of six sons, has seen five of them replace civilian clothing for the khaki of the U. S. Army. By the end of 1944 one, Pvt. Ben Masaoka, was missing in action, and two more, Sgt. Ike and Pfc. Tad, were severely wounded in action. One other, Cpl. Mike Masaoka, still remained overseas.

They are good fighting men, these Japanese Americans.

And on January 21, 1944, the War Department announced that Selective Service procedures for the Nisei, temporarily suspended after the start of the war, would be resumed. Further, it announced in December, 1944, that aliens of Japanese ancestry would also be eligible for military service.

Both of these rights had taken proof of loyalty and ability, and Japanese Americans in combat had provided that proof.

"war production"

Many people ask, "When will this war end?" There is one answer to that. It will end just as soon as we make it end, by our combined efforts, our combined strength, our combined determination to fight through and work until the end—and the end of militarism in Germany and Italy and Japan. Most certainly we shall not settle for less.

—President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



TOOELE ORDNANCE DEPOT, TOOELE, UTAH

Photo by U.S. Army Signal Corps



UPPER LEFT: Hugo Kazato, left, and George Kudo load 2,000 lb. bombs at the Tooele Ordnance Depot. LOWER LEFT: Japanese Americans store howitzer shells in igloo at Tooele; left to right: Ed Nakano, Jack Chikami, Tony Kishi. UPPER RIGHT: The "spirit of Tooele" is typified by Captain Harley Kinney and Dickie Murakami, 4, whose father is a war worker at Tooele.



Photos by U. S. Signal Corps

LIKE THE WAR RELOCATION centers of the west the Tooele Ordnance Depot at Tooele, Utah, rose overnight from scrubland and waste. Within a few weeks the twenty-seven thousand acres comprising the project became one of the great munitions centers of the nation. Here in the warehouses, shops, office and administration buildings, in the rounded igloos and on the fields, men and women are working to keep ammunition on the move to the fighting fronts. They load ammunition, they maintain combat equipment in top form, and they reclaim artillery cases. Tooele, Utah, is a war city dedicated to the defense of the nation, and among its hundreds of residents and workers are many persons of Japanese ancestry.

Close to one hundred Nisei are already employed here as mechanics, munitions handlers, loaders, clerks, stenographers, and typists. Most of them live with their families on the project, and they are a part of the city's life, as well as part of the working personnel.

First Japanese American on the project was Tom Okamura, medically discharged veteran of World War II. Since he registered, ten more Japanese American war veterans have taken their place on the Tooele production line, taking on the clothes of the war worker for the khaki of the American soldier.

The Tooele Nisei are not only proud of their work for defense, they are proud too of the sons and brothers they have sent to the U. S. Army and for whom they are loading the munitions of war.



Photo by Aoyama for WRA

Japanese Americans at the Sioux Ordnance Depot, Sidney, Nebraska, unload "prop" charges from box car.



Photo by Aoyama for WRA

Proud and happy residents of the Sioux Ordnance Depot project are Japanese Americans Mrs. Taft Beppu and her two-year-old daughter, Penny.

PRODUCTION FOR VICTORY

Charles Nishikawa of Tooele produces for three brothers in Army uniform—for Pvt. Harry Nishikawa of Fort Snelling, Minn.; for Pfc. Masato Nishikawa, who was twice injured overseas; and for Pvt. Shigeo Nishikawa. Another Tooele resident is four-month-old Sandra Gail Okusu, whose father is a Tooele war worker. Sandra Gail's stake in World War II is a big one; seven uncles in the U. S. Army. They are T/3 Cosma Sakamoto, overseas in the Philippines; Sgt. Masa Sakamoto, with the 442nd in France; Cpl. Walter Sakamoto, with the 442nd in France, wounded in action; Pvt. Calvin Sakamoto, Fort Snelling, Minn.; Pvt. Ben Okusu, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Sgt. Masaharu Hata, with the 442nd in France; and Pvt. James Fujioka, Presido, San Francisco.

With such Army-record families, it is no wonder that the Tooele Nisei have run up amazing production records at this munitions depot, that their officers have pointed with pride to the cooperation, spirit and laudable good will of these Japanese Americans.

The Sioux Ordnance Depot near Sidney, Nebraska, too, has a large number of Japanese Americans working for victory. Some eighty Nisei are employed here, add-

ing their manpower to the greatest war effort in the history of the world. Thus at home and abroad, these young Americans work and fight and produce for the inevitable Allied victory.

BUT NISEI AMERICANS ARE NOT ONLY IN ORD-NANCE WORK, for their contributions to the war effort are many and varied. In small industries and large, in city and country, they are producing directly for the war effort.

The green Hawaiian Islands, Paradise of the Pacific, were, after the treacherous Pearl Harbor attack, weak and defenseless. Great hulking ships lay useless in the harbor. Hickam Field was torn by bombs and shells. The harbor was laid waste. Twelve men in a rowboat, it was said, could take the islands at any time.

But today the Hawaiian Islands have emerged as one of the strongest military posts in the world. The islands have been re-strengthened, rebuilt, refortified.

Ninety per cent of the carpenters, as well as most of the mechanics repairing construction equipment and a large proportion of equipment operators, plumbers, electricians and other workers were of Japanese ancestry,



Production For Victory

according to Remington Stone, civilian assistant to the army depot engineer for the central Pacific area.

"This preparation would have been virtually impossible without the aid of the many thousands of craftsmen and other workers of Japanese ancestry," he said.

Camouflage Nets

THE MAJOR WAR PRODUCTION CONTRIBUTION of the war relocation centers has been the weaving of camouflage nets for the U. S. Army. The development of aviation reconnaissance and the accuracy of aerial bombardment in present day military operations has made imperative the masking of troop positions from enemy observation.

The idea that nets for this use could be produced by the Japanese Americans apparently originated at the Santa Anita reception center, one of the centers operated by the Army to which the evacuees were sent prior to going to the war relocation centers farther inland.

Certain loyal citizens at Santa Anita, anxious to translate idle hours into positive production for victory, proposed the camouflage net program to the Wartime Civilian Control Authority, the Army authority under which the camp was run.

The offer was accepted, and operations began under the Santa Anita racetrack grandstand, which gave the height necessary for the suspension of the nets while work was in progress.

From five hundred to twelve thousand evacuees have been employed on this project during its existence. Army engineers were sufficiently impressed by the performance at Santa Anita to proceed with the construction of net garnishing plants at the Manzanar, Gila River and Poston, Arizona, relocation centers.

Each project included five garnishing sheds with 10 rigs in each, a cutting shed with 20 motor-driven reels, a warehouse, office space and other necessary space. Each rig could accommodate from eight to sixteen workers, depending on the size of the net being garnished.

Three blends of nets were produced—winter, summer and desert. *Different shades of burlap were used for each at ratios established by Army specifications. Nets

JAPANESE AMERICAN WOMEN WORK FOR DEMOCRACY: (Cover photo) Ruth Nishi, 21, operating a turret lathe making parts for gas valves in a Chicago manufacturing plant.

Photo by Parker for WRA

BELOW: War Worker Jeri Tanaka, employee in the Modern Lighting and Manufacturing Company in Des Moines, Iowa, a company now working on war contracts.

Photo by Iwasaki for WRA