

than two-thirds of the entire population of California lived in these same counties.

In 1940, these seven counties were inhabited by more than 75 per cent of the foreign-born Germans in the State, and 79 per cent of the German aliens. In the same counties lived 68 per cent of the foreign-born Italians, and 67 per cent of the Italian aliens.

Two communities are frequently cited to support the allegation that the Japanese chose important military sites for colonization: (1) Terminal Island, and (2) the San Francisco-Oakland bay region.

The settlement of Japanese fishermen on Terminal Island began in 1901 and increased until 1907 when it was rather abruptly halted by the "Gentlemen's Agreement." Thereafter, the colony grew mainly as a result of the immigration of the parents, wives, and minor children of the fisherman already there. By 1917, it had arrived close to its maximum development. Roosevelt Naval Base and Reeves Field, which have given military significance to the island, were not established until long afterward.

The total population of foreign-born Japanese in the San Francisco-Oakland metropolitan district in 1940 was 4,676. In the same area lived 24,387 foreign-born Germans and 42,861 foreign-born Italians.

6. Myth: There is no way to distinguish loyal Japanese Americans from the disloyal. Even those who profess loyalty may be secretly disloyal.

Fact: There is no way to distinguish the loyalty of any person, regardless of ancestry, except by his words and deeds. Unquestionably, loyal words sometimes mask disloyal hearts. Gerhard William Kunze, the notorious German Bund leader who was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for obtaining military information for Germany and Japan, stoutly proclaimed his loyalty to the United States. "We're one hundred per cent American," he declared, referring to the Bund. "The only purpose of the Bund is to make better Americans of those of German blood." (Under Cover, by John Roy Carlson, p. 46.) William Dudley Pelley, equally notorious leader of the Silver Shirts who was also sentenced to fifteen years in prison, consistently maintained that he was heart and soul for America.

John S. Farnsworth, who received a four year sentence for giving aid to Japan, was a former Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. (Betrayal from the East, by Alan Hynd, pp. 62, 91.) Harry Thomas Thompson, sentenced to fifteen years, was a former yeoman in the United States Navy. (Ibid, pp. 51, 86.) Ralph Townsend, also convicted, was a former American consular official. (Under Cover, pp. 413, 414.) Joseph Hilton Smyth, sentenced to seven years, was a scion of an old Puritan family of Plymouth, Mass. (Betrayal from the East, pp. 246, 255.) Mrs. Velvalee Dickinson, sentenced to ten years, had been born, raised, and educated in California. (N. Y. Times, July 29, Aug. 15, 1944.) These persons were all convicted of giving aid to Japan. Others convicted of the same offense were Walker Grey Matheson, David Ryder, Frederick Vincent Williams, and Arthur Clifford Read. All had posed as good Americans

before they were convicted. None of these names has a Japanese origin. There is no comparable case involving any person of Japanese descent.

There have been notably few convictions of Japanese Americans for violations of any of the provisions of the wartime national security laws. In July, 1942, six months before the evacuees were questioned regarding their loyalties, Tsutomu Obama was sentenced to serve from two to six months for failing to comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act; and in August, 1944, three Japanese American girls (the Shitara sisters) were convicted of aiding two German war prisoners to escape in Colorado. The light sentence given to Obama is evidence that the court did not consider him a serious offender. In the latter case, Federal Judge J. Foster Symes declared that, after listening to all the evidence, he "did not believe that the defendants had any intent to harm the United States or help the German government." (Denver Post, Aug. 11, 1944.) The only other convictions have been in cases involving the National Selective Service law, or testing the constitutionality of the evacuation and military curfew orders.

On the other hand, thousands of Japanese American boys have proved their loyalty to the United States by serving against the enemy in every theater of war, and no unit in the Army of the United States has won higher praise than the 100th Infantry Battalion, composed almost entirely of Americans of Japanese descent. The 442nd Combat Regiment of Japanese Americans, which joined the 100 Battalion on the battle front in June, 1944, has also set a remarkable record for excellent performance and gallantry in action. In March, 1945, the War Department reported that a total of 17,600 Japanese-Americans had been inducted into the Army. In the United States, other thousands of Japanese Americans have proved their loyalty by buying War Bonds, giving blood to the Red Cross, salvaging scrap iron and paper, and helping to save vital wartime crops.

7. Myth: A large percentage of the people in the relocation centers have refused to swear allegiance to the United States.

Fact: In February and March, 1943, the War Relocation Authority and the Army conducted a joint registration at the relocation centers, which involved asking every resident, eighteen years of age or older, to answer a series of questions. Question No. 28 was phrased for the citizens as follows: "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and foreswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese Emperor or any other foreign government, power, or organization?"

It was recognized that the question could not be worded in the same manner for the aliens, who are compelled to remain aliens by our naturalization laws, without asking them to become men without a country. Therefore, for them it was worded as follows: "Will you swear to abide by the laws of the United States and to take no action which would in any way interfere with the war effort of the United States?"

Of the 74,466 persons who replied to the question in one form or the other, 87 per cent answered it with an unqualified "yes."

The experiences of evacuation, loss of property, and several months

in relocation centers had embittered many of the people and made them highly suspicious of the motives of the Government. Many of them suspected that the registration was some sort of a trick to put them to further distress. This sentiment was especially evident in the qualified answers to Question No. 28 -- answers such as "Yes, if my civil rights are restored", "No, not until the Government recognizes my rights under the Constitution."

As the purpose of the procedure became better understood, many people who had answered "no" to Question No. 28, or who had qualified their answers, expressed a desire to change them. These changes were permitted, and on April 25, 1944 (when the last tabulation was made), more than 90 per cent of all registrants had answered "yes" to Question No. 28, without qualification.

8. Myth: Less than 2 per cent of the Japanese American population of the United States mainland and Hawaii has been inducted into military service, while more than 10 per cent of the total population has been inducted.

Fact: This myth, given currency by the Hood River (Oregon) Post of The American Legion, is discredited by the following figures:

<u>Population</u> U. S. Mainland and Hawaii Census of 1940	<u>Inducted into Army</u> U. S. Mainland and Hawaii War Department records March 13, 1945	Percentage
Japanese Americans...284,852.....	17,612.....	6.2
All ancestries...132,092,605.....	9,500,000 (Approx.).....	7.2

Actually the difference is only one per cent, in spite of the fact that the Nisei were almost wholly excluded from induction under Selective Service procedures for a period of more than two years following Pearl Harbor.

9. Myth: Nisei soldiers are not used in the Pacific theater because the Army does not trust them to fight against the Japanese.

Fact: Japanese Americans are serving with the United States Army in every battle area of the Pacific and in Burma. The news items, listed below, have been selected from many newspaper accounts of Nisei service in the Pacific, to indicate how widely they are scattered.

IWO JIMA

"WITH THE MARINES OF IWO, Feb. 28,..Two groups of Nisei landed with the Marines on Iwo Island -- one each with the 4th and 5th Division."
(Chicago Sun, March 3, 1945.)

LEYTE, KWAJALEIN, ENIWETOK

"UNITED STATES ARMY PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS, Feb. 16 (AP), Frank T. Hachiya, one of the 16 Japanese whose names have been stricken from the

county memorial roll by the Hood River (Oreg.) American Legion Post, died while performing a dangerous volunteer mission, the Army reported yesterday.

"Hachiya, attached to the 7th Division, was wounded fatally on Leyte. Dec. 30. He died January 3 after most of the men in this regiment volunteered to give him blood transfusions...

"He had served through the Kwajalein and Eniwetok invasions."

* (Washington Star, Feb. 16, 1945.)

NEW GUINEA, ADMIRALTY ISLANDS, LEYTE, MANILA

"MANILA....Ernie is a Japanese, a Nisei born in Los Angeles...One of the first 26 Nisei to be sent to this theater, Ernie has been overseas for 26 months...He has been through the New Guinea, Admiralty Islands and Leyte campaigns." (Los Angeles Times, March 5, 1945.)

SAIPAN

"WITH THE UNITED STATES 3rd FLEET IN THE PACIFIC....I'm reminded of one [Japanese American] named Kubo, a sergeant in the Army of the United States who served on Saipan...There came a time in those cruel, heart-breaking and incredible days, while the Americans were trying to round up Jap civilians, when Kubo proved his Americanism." (Milwaukee Journal, Jan. 28, 1945.)

BURMA

"Ten thousand American-born children of Japanese immigrants fight now in the United States Army and some in this Theater. Their presence in CBI was for a long time a military secret. For their own protection they were not publicized...there always was and still always will be the possibility of capture by the enemy, which for the Nisei would mean no picnic.

"Under the veil of protective secrecy, however, stubborn, sturdy fighting Niseis grew to the stature of heroes."

(C.B.I. Roundup, a weekly newspaper of the United States Army Forces, published by and for the men in China, Burma and India, Sept. 14, 1944.)

BOUGAINVILLE, SOLOMON ISLANDS

"The Soldier's Medal is awarded to Master Sgt. Susumu Toyada for heroism and bravery near Torokina, Bougainville, British Solomon Islands, on June 29, 1944." (Extract from War Department citation.)

SOUTH PACIFIC

"These Japanese are Americans - American-born Nisei and soldiers in the U.S. Army, who have been serving with Marine detachments in the Pacific islands...

"They have the respect of the Marines because they are good American soldiers and we realized the risks they are exposed to, in event they are captured by the enemy," said Lt. Newell..."

(Chicago Daily News, April 19, 1944; interview with Marine Lieutenant Robert J. Newell.)

ATTU, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

"Japanese soldiers of American birth, in addition to fighting Nazis

*Ed. Note: Hachiya's name was not among those stricken from the roll, although he is a native of Hood River and attended High School there.

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." (Denver Post, Oct. 13, 1943.)

NEW GUINEA

"T/3 Ken Omura, Seattle-born Japanese, was drowned in New Guinea, March 19, while on active duty in the Army."

(Seattle Post-Intelligencer, April 15, 1944.)

10. Myth: After the war began, not a single Japanese American gave information against any member of his race to the United States Intelligence agencies.

Facts: This charge has been refuted many times by authorities in full possession of the facts. The Fourth Interim Report of the Tolson Committee (p. 152 et seq.) contains various references to the assistance given by Japanese Americans to the FBI, Naval Intelligence, and Military Intelligence. The truth about the charge is well presented in a statement by Dr. Galen Fisher in the Christian Century of August 18, 1943, P. 937.

"It has been loesely charged that the Nisei have not aided the authorities in discovering dangerous Japanese residents. The falsity of these allegations have been proved by intelligence officers both in Hawaii and on the mainland, as well as by informed civilians. It is true that the great majority of the Nisei did not give such aid, and the same could presumably be said of German-Americans. The chief reason is that most of them had no information to give, any more than most white citizens....Let some of the intelligence officers speak for themselves. On August 10, 1942, one wrote me:

"I personally know at least fifteen intelligence officers who have received continual aid from the group of loyal and patriotic Nisei attached to each, and have in consequence been of great service to the United States in obtaining information regarding disloyal and suspicious Japanese. There are innumerable cases that I could give you."

.....

"Many of the Nisei voluntarily contributed valuable anti-subversive information to this (intelligence agency) and other governmental agencies. The Japanese consular staff, the Central Japanese Association, and others known to be sympathetic to the Japanese did not themselves trust the Nisei."

(An anonymous intelligence officer in Harper's Magazine, Oct. 1942.)

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"Common gossip out here was that not one Japanese had informed on another. On the highest authority I was assured that the contrary was true, and that many patriotic Japanese have turned in suspects of their

own race and even of their own families."

(Joseph Driscoll in the N.Y. Herald-Tribune, Jan. 31, 1943.)

11. Myth: During the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Hawaiian Japanese blocked the roads, signaled the attackers, and engaged in numerous other activities to assist the enemy and hamper the defenders.

Fact: "There were no acts of sabotage in the city and county of Honolulu December 7, nor have there been any reported to the police department since that date. Police department had charge of traffic on Pearl Harbor road from Pearl Harbor to Honolulu shortly after bombing started with several officers on duty there. There was no deliberate blocking of traffic during December 7 or following that date by unauthorized persons."

(Cablegram from Honolulu Chief of Police Gabrielson to Tolson Committee, March 14, 1942.)

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"There have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage or fifth column activity committed by the Japanese in Hawaii either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941."

(Col. Kendall J. Fielder, Chief of Military Intelligence, Hawaiian Department; the Christian Century, Aug. 18, 1943, p. 937)

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"Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has informed me that there was no sabotage committed there (in Hawaii) prior to December 7, on December 7, or subsequent to that time."

(Assistant Attorney-General Rowe, April 20, 1942; Tolson Committee, Fourth Interim Report, p. 49)

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The War Department has received no information of sabotage committed by Japanese during the attack on Pearl Harbor."

(Hon. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, March 30, 1942; Tolson Committee, Fourth Interim Report, p. 48).

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"There were the Japanese on that Sunday (December 7), if they were not sabotaging? Hundreds of them were actively helping defend the territory, as members of the Oahu Citizens Defense Committee. Volunteer truck drivers, they rushed to their assembly points, stripped their delivery trucks of their contents, inserted frames prepared to hold four stretchers, and went tearing out to Pearl Harbor to take the wounded to hospitals. Some of these Japanese got there so promptly that their trucks were hit by flying shrapnel or machinegun bullets from the road-strafting Jap planes. The presence of the Japanese drivers and their scarred and pock-marked trucks undoubtedly gave rise to the rumor that guns had been employed to clear the highway of Japs who were blocking the road to Pearl Harbor."

(Nelson Pringle, CBS broadcaster, Oct. 5, 1942.)

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"All the indications are that there was no sabotage at Pearl Harbor, according to all the evidence..."

(Hon. John M. Costello, former Congressman from California and member of the Dies Committee; Bulletin of America's Town Meeting of the Air, July 15, 1943, p. 19.)

12. Myth: The Army evacuated all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast because they were considered, as a group, to be disloyal and dangerous to the National security.

Fact: This charge is most effectively answered by the action of the War Department in lifting the West Coast exclusion orders, on January 2, 1945, and clearing the great majority of the evacuees to return to their homes without further investigation or hindrance of any kind. Regardless of the reasons which made mass evacuation appear to be a military necessity in early 1942, the rescinding of the exclusion orders is indisputable evidence that the War Department, after careful study, arrived at the conclusion that only a small number of the evacuees were questionable from the standpoint of the national security.

13. Myth: The Japanese race is fundamentally dishonest, secretive and generally untrustworthy.

Fact: In 1933, Stanford University Press published the results of an extensive study, supervised by Dr. E. K. Strong, Jr., Professor of Psychology, to ascertain the "educational and occupational opportunities offered to American citizens of Oriental races." This study was financed by a \$40,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and it included the only thorough, scientific investigation ever made into the honesty of the Japanese in California. The conclusion drawn from the study reads as follows:

"As far as these results go..., they give no warrant for claiming that the Japanese as a class are more dishonest than Americans. There are undoubtedly rascals in both groups. The most extreme conclusion which could be based on these data would be to claim two or three per cent more dishonest Japanese than Americans, on the ground that poor credit ratings mean dishonesty. The more conservative conclusion is that the differences in credit ratings represent inexperience far more than dishonesty, and that, all in all, the differences between Japanese and whites are too slight to be considered significant." (Vocational Aptitudes of Second-Generation Japanese in the United States, p. 154.)

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"Adaptability is an important trait, possibly the most important, in earning a living. The two rough measures of it, in terms of delinquency-crime and honesty, indicate that the Japanese are superior in this respect to many immigrant groups who have come to this country." (Ibid, p. 177).