

*FROM A VETERAN OF GUADALCANAL
PUBLISHED IN TIME, DEC. 27, 1943*

Sirs:

As a U. S. Marine, I am not in the habit of begging anyone for anything, but there is one thing I will beg for. I beg my fellow citizens to give the loyal Japanese Americans their God-given right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness that, I sincerely hope, is guaranteed by our Constitution.

I landed on Guadalcanal in August 1942, and have as much dislike for Japanese militarism as anyone, but please, let's give these fellows a chance. How about it, Americans?

SERVICEMAN'S NAME WITHHELD

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC"

Dear Mrs. T :

I have worked with Americans of Japanese ancestry at home and in battle here in the Pacific, and they are indeed doing a wonderful job. Out here where the war is right in front the prejudices that one hears so much about are absent. It makes a fellow feel pretty bad to see some people at home trying to destroy the very thing that we are fighting to maintain.

I only wish there was some way to make the voices of the fellows out here heard....

Very sincerely yours,

GLENN ABBOTT
Staff Sergeant
U. S. Marine Corps

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS"

Dear Assemblyman....

...Before I continue, I want to let you know that I am an American-Chinese, born in California, educated in California schools and firmly believe in American institutions.

I have been in the Army nearly three years. I was in the Battle of Attu and am now somewhere in the Hawaiian Islands.

To read your narrow-minded race hating campaign was a shock. This is a democracy. It is people like you who are leading the way to fascism--the very thing millions of people are fighting.

The opinion you expressed that returning soldiers and marines would slit the throats of Japanese if they were to be seen on the streets of California is utterly ridiculous.

Here in Hawaii the Japanese are everywhere. They are even permitted in army camps. In town, thousands of servicemen, men who have fought the Japanese, mingle freely with them. Not once--and this is important--have I seen or heard of any incident of fist fighting or throat-slitting. Here, if anywhere, bitterness against the Japanese should be at its height. Yet there is only tolerance and benignity.

We in this company have seen the horrors of war and the sufferings of humanity. We have seen violent death come to both Americans and Japanese. I have heard my buddies--Americans all--express time and time again, while gazing upon the dead, that they hope there will never be another war after this one is over. Yet how can (this) be if we have race-baiting fascists fomenting hatred at home.

From remarks of my friends, it appears that only men who have fought Japanese will be able to save Constitutional Americanism in California and to preserve decent democracy in the country.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM LEUNG,
Sergeant, U. S. Army

FROM BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
A LETTER TO THE FRESNO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, FRESNO,
CALIF.

Dear Sirs:

...I read the article which was entitled "Races" and appeared in the December 20, 1943, issue of Time Magazine and I felt that there were a few things that must be said.

I, along with many other servicemen here, was filled with horror as together we read of the activities of the professional flag-waving, super-duper patriots and other home-grown Nazis. It seems that in our absence these men are taking over and attempting to destroy the high ideals we are fighting for. Strangely enough they claim to do this in the name of patriotism and anyone of those few brave and clear-minded individuals who has the guts to defy them is promptly labeled a "Communist" be they Republican or Democrat....

We servicemen--those who are across and those of us who are preparing to go across--do not intend to fight this war only to lose the peace. The current anti-Japanese-American agitation now being sponsored by...and other armchair purveyors of hate is regarded with disgust and horror.

Col. Sekiya's letter in Volume 2, No. 1, of the Loyal Stater was proof of the things we have long believed, that our comrades in arms of Japanese extraction are fighting for the same ideals and principles that we are....You can imagine how we admire the men who are trying to drive them and their families PERMANENTLY from their homes. There is nothing so valuable to a soldier as his home and his family. We believe that our Japanese-American comrades-in-arms are getting the dirtiest deal ever perpetrated on an American soldier. What other group of real patriots has fought so loyally and gallantly for our country and its great ideals, while at home they are being systematically knifed in the back? When have any so cheerfully gone to battle and so bravely made even the supreme sacrifice and received so little gratitude at the hands of their fellow citizens....

Americans stand on trial before the world. We must prove to the world that we do believe in the ideals we preach. Every time there is a race riot, fuel is added to

the enemy propaganda machine. The State of California and the city of Fresno owes a debt to our Japanese-American citizens in the service who are paying the price of our common freedom with their lives....Fresno owes these soldiers a monument and not a stab in the back!

I hope you will forgive me for "blowing my top" in this manner, but I, too, look forward to coming back, and when I come back, I shall look forward to meeting my Japanese American friends of school days at F. S. C. on the streets of Fresno as they go happily about their tasks as honored and respected citizens. I don't want to see their homes broken up and destroyed any more than I would want to have it happen to my own. I want those boys to know that we other servicemen will back them up in seeing that justice is done.

Sincerely,

S. W. W.
Fresno State Alumnus

*FROM A VETERAN OF SAIPAN
PUBLISHED IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR*

Waikiki, T. H.

"Hel-lo," she said. "You've been gone a long time. You were back on the mainland?"

"No, the other way. Guam."

She went to the big refrigerator and got the fresh eggs.

"I suppose they don't feed you very well out there," she said.

"Oh, we get enough food." I picked out three tomatoes and a couple of grapefruit. "But no fresh fruit and vegetables like this."

"I will get your bread," she said. And when she came back, "I'm glad you're home safely. Some are not coming home any more."

"No."

"My husband is not coming home any more."

She rang up the sale on the cash register.

"In Italy?"

"Yes," she said. She smiled up at me. She is very small and has a small, round oriental face. Her dark brown eyes were bright with the pain of sudden yet familiar remembering.

That evening, I read in belated issues of the New Republic two articles by Carey McWilliams about race hatred on the west coast. According to Mr. McWilliams, there are a number of California organizations working for "mass deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry" from the United States.

I thought of the girl in the Waikiki grocery store. Like herself, her husband was a Nisei, and AJA, American of Japanese ancestry, as they are called in these islands. He died in Italy just as I have seen Americans of other ancestries die on the islands of the Pacific. Hawaii has sent many AJA's 8,000 miles away to fight in the European war. Nearly every day, the Honolulu papers carry the names of those who have been listed as casualties on the Italian front.

They are fighting and dying to help maintain America's traditional freedoms. Because of sacrifices in which they play their full part, the United States is being kept safe for organizations like the Home Front Commandos, Inc., of Sacramento, to spread poison pamphlets like "Slap the Jap Rat" and "No Jap Is Fit to Associate with Human Beings;" for certain misguided citizens of Colorado to attempt the passage of a state exclusion law; and for Los Angeles paper to falsify the Pacific war as "the World War, the War of Oriental Races against Occidental Races for the Domination of the World."

I talked to the girl in the store and read Mr. Mc Williams' articles just after returning from the Marianas campaign. In the fight for Saipan, Guam, and Tinian, American soldiers and marines killed close to 45,000 Japanese at a

cost to our side of 4,470 killed, 20,795 wounded, and 721 missing. The figures are complete to August 17

Anyone who has witnessed fanatical stubbornness, the the furious fatalism of Japanese opposition does not come back with any illusions about the necessity for a decisive United Nations victory. Nor does he make the mistake of lumping Nisei, who have grown up in the free air of democracy, with native Japanese, whose mentalities have been fettered by "thought control" and distorted by the lie of racial superiority. It is this same lie which certain groups are apparently now trying to spread in the United States...."

"Not coming home any more," said the girl behind the counter and she voiced the unanswerable personal tragedy of war.

But it would be a national--and a world--tragedy if the race hatred against which we are fighting on foreign fronts were to gain significant successes at home. Then the Nisei husbands from Hawaii and a thousand other American husbands, brothers, sons and fathers of all racial strains would have sacrificed in vain.

JOHN BEAUFORT

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
SEPTEMBER 16, 1944.

EDITORS:

I have a friend of Japanese ancestry and, I say it with pride, from the Pacific Coast.

A prisoner was taken during the mopping up on this island. My friend was our interpreter. He learned from this prisoner where a number of others were hiding; as we approached the spot, it was a covered slit trench with a small opening at each end. After failing to induce those inside to come out, our interpreter drew a trench knife, neatly decorated with brass knuckles, and crawled through one entrance to the trench. The enemy immediately started popping out of the other entrance with no desire to fight. From these prisoners our interpreter learned of more--but I think what I've told is sufficient. Just take it from this G.I. that our interpreters have plenty of nerve and their services are invaluable.

GLENN W. M'DONALD
Corporal
Marshall Islands

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