

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, March 11, 1944

Wounded Japanese-American Officer Returns



Group of Japanese-American girls looking at campaign and medal ribbons of Capt. Taro Suzuki yesterday. Left to right: Audrey Fujita, Ruth Otsuji, Capt. Suzuki, Ryo Kunitatsu, Nobuko Ishida, and Midori Makimoto.

[TRIBUNE Photo.]

NEWS, Washington, D. C.
March 9, 1944

Fruity Story

U. S.-Japanese in Italy Pin Up Pineapple Labels

By United Press

WITH FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, March 9—Pin-up pictures of pineapples have replaced portraits of movie queens in some of the bivouacs in Italy.

The new pin-ups are in quarters used by the only Japanese-American troops fighting for the United States. Most of them are from Hawaii and the West Coast and volunteered for Army service.

They had been missing their regular diet of canned pineapple so badly that when a large case of the fruit arrived they stripped off the labels for pin-ups which they admire with the same sense of anticipation the ordinary G. I. gets in staring at leg art.

One Distinguished Service Cross and 13 Silver Stars have been awarded the Japanese. Most recent to receive a Silver Star was Lieut. Young Kim, whose mother lives in Los Angeles. It was awarded for gallant action around Santa Maria where he deliberately drew German machine gun fire while other Japanese sneaked around the side and wiped out the nest with grenades. Four nests were destroyed in this manner.

Resident of Hawaii

Capt. Taro Suzuki, 39, of Honolulu, believes his company of Japanese-Americans—members of the 100th infantry of the 34th division—deserves its share of credit for helping the American 5th army to establish its Salerno beachhead in Italy, but doesn't want any for himself.

Wounded in the arm and leg, he is in Chicago for medical treatment. Yesterday, telling how his battalion, which came from Honolulu, trained at Camp McCoy, Wis., and then was sent to Italy, where it routed the enemy from a tough position on a hill, he said it had suffered more than 40 per cent casualties, including 96 killed, 306 wounded, and 17 missing.

Capt. Suzuki, holder of the Purple Heart award, is a graduate of the University of Hawaii.

TIMES-NEWS

Twin Falls, Idaho
March 12, 1944

Hunt Japanese Is Purple Heart Hero

HUNT, March 11—Pfc. Hiroshi Sawada, an American-born citizen of Japanese ancestry, was wounded in action in Italy in January, according to word received by his father, S. Sawada, a resident of the Minidoka relocation center.

He has been awarded the purple heart and is believed to be the first nisei soldier from the state of Washington to receive this decoration. The family formerly lived in Seattle.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, March 10, 1944

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, Utah
March 1, 1944

Hero Tells How 'Jap' Yanks Rescued 15 Trapped in Italy

BY ADELE HOSKINS.

Capt. Taro Suzuki, an American infantry officer of Japanese descent, has just returned to this country, a veteran of the Italian campaign, and feeling just as strongly against his dishonorable ancestors as any other American citizen.

As commander of a Japanese-American unit, most of whom came with Suzuki from Hawaii and are second and third generation Americans, he said:

"They showed up very well in action. I believe the Japanese-Americans are fighting harder to make up for their background. Whether the German prisoners we took were chagrined at seeing Japanese in American uniforms, I wouldn't know. We couldn't understand them, and they didn't understand us. We were too busy to bother, anyway, and passed them on back of the lines as soon as possible."

Rescue of 15 Yanks 'Routine.'

Asked about his being credited with the rescue of 15 American Paratroopers, beleaguered in a German-occupied town "somewhere near Salerno," Capt. Suzuki commented that the action was only "routine."

"My company occupied a certain hill," he related. "I sent out a patrol to the town on the right and they came back with 15 paratroopers who had been sheltered by the Italians for 22 days. They even had a wounded German prisoner with them. The paratroopers had landed behind the German lines and the Germans hadn't moved out until we arrived."

Reserve Officer for 13 Years.

The 39-year-old officer, a graduate of the University of Hawaii, held a reserve commission for 13 years. A member of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 34th Division, he participated in the landing at Salerno and is back to recuperate from wounds in his right leg and arm. His right arm is still in a sling.

"I think it was a 'screaming meemie' (rocket gun) that got me," he said. "The Germans threw the book at us that day. I would just like to say that if it weren't for blood plasma, I wouldn't be here today."



Capt. Taro Suzuki.

[Daily News photo.]

Wife, Two Children in Honolulu.

He has a wife and two children in Honolulu. A second generation Japanese himself, he worked for one of the big sugar companies prior to joining the regular Army four years ago.

"We don't have any so-called 'home ties' to Japan. Most of the Japanese in Hawaii lived peaceful lives as Americans. A lot of them were killed at Pearl Harbor and others saw their friends killed. They saw the devastation. They got plenty sore at the Japanese. That was how we got a whole unit from the islands."

Yanke Japs Sell \$15,000 In War Bonds

Upper Snake League Leaders Report Success in Contacts

Tribune Intermountain Wire

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho—Idaho Falls Japanese-American citizens' league members were credited Tuesday with having sold a total of \$15,000 worth of bonds in the fourth war loan drive that concluded Tuesday in Bonneville county.

The league's activity in promoting war bond sales was directed by Yukio Inouye of Shelley, chapter president, and one of the leaders of the Japanese colonies in the Upper Snake River valley.

Fred Ochi of Idaho Falls, former president of the Japanese-American league in San Mateo county, Cal., made 150 contacts and sold \$8000 worth of bonds. A decorator by trade, he erected patriotic displays in the lobby of the Paramount theater on A street.

A former resident of Palo Alto, Cal., and an employe of the Fox west coast theaters 14 years, he said he had only one rebuff, and that was his concluding contact the day formal solicitations ended February 15.

He called upon a woman on Basalt street, who asked, "Are you Japanese or Chinese?"

"I am a Japanese-American," the solicitor said.

"I am sorry," she replied. "I have a son in the south Pacific war zone, and I am prejudiced."

Mr. Ochi said, "We Japanese cannot blame her. We do not know her circumstances."

"As for myself," he added, "I have had a number of business rebuffs, and I hold no grudge whosoever. It is natural for people to feel that way. I am finding the experience character building, and am making a determined effort to put out better work than ever. I try to put my best into every display I build."

Besides his theater work, Mr. Ochi had done work in recent weeks for civic organizations and private concerns.

CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, Colo., March 10, 1944

Japanese-American WAC

Miss Alice M. Kaneko, of the Amache relocation center, signs enlistment papers to become the first Japanese-American woman to join the WACs at the local recruiting station. Looking on is Lt. Margaret Jane Young, recruiting officer.



Miss Alice M. Kaneko, American-born Japanese, is now one of Uncle Sam's fighting nelces, the Wac recruiting office in Pueblo revealed Thursday. Her father is deceased.

A "third generationer," she felt that she wanted to do something real in helping this country on its road to victory. Her enlistment last week was the result of that desire.

Her grandfather became a naturalized citizen in 1896 and her parents have voted for the past 22 years and have always taken a great interest in public affairs, the recruiting office said. She has a brother in the Army.

Her mother lives at the Amache relocation center. Originally they

EAGLE, Cheyenne, Wyo.
February 29, 1944

Jap Girl at Cody Camp Joins Wacs

Heart Mountain, Wyo., Feb. 28. (U.P.)—The first Japanese-American from Heart Mountain to enlist in the Women's Army corps left today for Ft. Des Moines, Ia., with a group of Wacs who were inducted at Butte, Mont.

She is Akiko Mikami, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matsusuke Mikami of Heart Mountain.

A native of Orilla, Wash., Miss Miami is the second member of her family to join the army. A brother is a sergeant stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss.

She volunteered in August, 1943, and was inducted into the Wac Feb. 16.

TUCSON STAR, Arizona
March 5, 1944

JAPANESE GIRL IS MEMBER OF WAC

RIVERS, March 4.—Another Japanese-American girl joined the WAC this week. Diane Moriguchi from the Gila River War Relocation Authority camp here, was inducted in Phoenix and left for the training station in Des Moines, Ia.

Miss Moriguchi has worked as an assistant pharmacist in the community hospital in Rivers and will join the medical unit of the WAC. Before evacuation of Japanese from the west coast, she lived at Gardena, Calif.

N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE, February 17, 1944

POST-INTELLIGENCER
Seattle, Washington
March 7, 1944

Anti-Jap Prejudice

To The Post-Intelligencer:

With growing concern I have noted the wide circulation of so-called facts to prejudice us against the resettlement of our citizens of Japanese ancestry.

As to the loyalty of Americans of Japanese ancestry let us start with Pearl Harbor and reported sabotage in Hawaii. According to Attorney General Biddle and Hawaiian Delegate King, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investi-

gation agent, "There has been absolutely no evidence of fifth column or sabotage." Again, while the Dies committee reported the Japanese had taken up residence adjacent to important defense plants, the truth is, defense plants were placed where Japanese had begun settling decades ago. California's attorney general reported, February, 1942, "We have had no sabotage in this state."

A naval intelligence officer who went carefully into the matter of Americans of Japanese ancestry stated that the entire problem has been magnified out of its true proportion largely because of physical characteristics. "It should be handled," he said "on the basis of the individual, not on a racial basis."

These Americans, like other immigrants, have contributed to our progress, industry, thrift, artistry, improved methods, sanitary precautions. Their family life is wholesome. Shall we treat them with antagonism as Hitler does his minorities?

Again I ask: Are my Bonds buying a reign of peace or a Nazi paradise?

S. G. CHUBB, Seattle.

Germans Feel Deserted Bewildered as Japanese-American Soldiers Capture Them in Italy

FORT DEVENS, Mass., Feb. 16 (AP).—When the 100th Infantry Battalion of the American Army, made up of Japanese-Americans, captured German prisoners during the Italian invasion, the Germans thought their Axis partner had forsaken them.

The bewilderment of the Germans was told today by the only New Englander to serve with the

100th, Lieutenant D. Chasse, of Millinocket, Me.

Lieutenant Chasse, who is at Lovell General Hospital recovering from shell wounds inflicted while crossing the Volturno River, praised the Japanese, calling them "damned good Americans who are fighting for a little bit more than the other guys. After all, their homes in the Hawaiian Islands were blown up in many cases, and in addition they were out to redeem their race."

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE
Salt Lake City, Utah
March 2, 1944

Nisei Passes WAC Tests

Tribune Intermountain Wire

POCATELLO, Idaho — Idaho's first nisei volunteer in the W A Cc awaiting assignment to Fort Des Moines, Iowa, training center, is Toyone Murakami, 21, 534 North Fifth avenue.

A member of Pocatello Japanese-American Citizens' league, Miss Murakami, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Murakami, is a graduate of Pocatello high school. Novo Kato, Pocatello J A C L president, said she is the first Idaho resident Japanese-American to enter the W A C. He did not know of any Hunt relocation center Japanese women enlisting.

Miss Murakami passed her entrance examinations at Fort Douglas, Utah, Monday. She will be the twentieth Pocatello J A C L member to enter the armed forces. Kazuo Endow, volunteer, expects to be called into the army this month. A Pocatello high school graduate, he has also been an active league member.

CASA GRANDE DISPATCH
Phoenix, Arizona
March 3, 1944

Japanese-American Girl Enlists For Service In WACs

A Pinal County woman, Mrs. Kate Morris Gillespie of Coolidge, and Miss Shizuko Sue Shinagawa of the Poston Relocation Center, who enlisted recently in the Women's Army Corps, left this week for Fort Des Moines, Iowa, to begin military training.

Pvt. Gillespie enlisted as an Air Wac and will be assigned to an Army Air Forces installation for duty in the communications section. She had lived in Coolidge several years and for the last two years had been employed as a telephone operator at the Italian prisoner of war camp north of Florence.

Pvt. Shinagawa, a Japanese-American, evacuated the Los Angeles area about 10 months ago and since has been teaching in the nursery school at Poston. She chose to serve in the Army Service Forces and will be assigned to the ASF on completion of her training at Fort Des Moines. Pvt. Shinagawa has a brother, Harry, in the Army. He is stationed at Camp Savage, Minn.

POST, Washington, D. C.
March 12, 1944

PM, (Undated)

'They Were Homesick'

By CARL SANDBURG

A professor of civics and political history in a Texas State college had one of his former students at his home for dinner. The boy had seen service on a tanker that arrived in the Aleutians just after the action on Attu. Of the Japanese force only 12 prisoners were taken, he said. Then he hesitated. The professor's wife remarked she believed the men in this war somehow talk more freely about what they have seen than they did in the last war. The reply came from the tanker crewman, "I can tell you if you can take it while we're eating." The professor's wife: "Go ahead. We can take it."

So he told of seeing the bodies of Japanese soldiers scattered about, scores of them. He saws arms and legs lying separate, "twitching like a chicken that take its time to die." Days later he saw like fragments "filled with maggots." He learned that a considerable number of the Japanese soldiers had each placed a grenade to his abdomen, pulled the fuse and blown his own body to pieces.

He saw a copy of the New Testament found on the body of one Japanese trooper. Inside the front cover was an inscription, a father writing to his beloved son the message that he did not expect to see him again "yet I have faith that we shall meet again in eternity in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ."

This seems to be one of the few, and possibly the first and only one, of a Japanese soldier of the Christian faith killed in the line of duty...

At Kenilworth, Ill., a northern suburb of Chicago, an Episcopal church has in its yard, not far from the tomb of the poet Eugene Field, a plaque brought from Japan. It has a sixteenth century date and serves notice, under the signature of the Mikado, that any foreigners found to be teaching Christian doctrine will be put to death. Also any native of Japan teaching Christian doctrine will be put to death. Also any native of Japan who houses, harbors or holds fellowship with any one teaching Christian doctrine shall be put to death.

Since that century there came changes. Japan modernized and adopted American industrial production methods and sales systems and gave wide leeway to Christian missionaries. The word meaning "propaganda," we are told, is improved on in Japan. There they frankly say their purpose is "thought control."

The Nisei (pronounced Neesay), American-born Japanese whose tongues are more facile in the American than in the Japanese language, who have been pressed mainly in American culture molds, whose thought control has been predominantly American, prize the battle wounds taken by Nisei in Italian fighting. They say, "We have sunk 25 Japanese ships in two days." They say, "What's buzzin', cousin?" or "What's knittin', kitten?" and they can make like any native born telling what mairzy doates is and how to cook it.

Some ten years ago the first groups of American-born Japanese began coming to Tokyo, a missionary writes. "We called them 120 per cent Americans, because they made the 100 per cent Caucasian Americans seem mild! These young people whose parents could afford it were sent back to the country of their ancestors for much the same reasons that Americans of German, Italian or British parentage are sent back to study and to visit relatives who are still residing in the 'old country.' . . . The lot of the Nisei in Japan was not wholly a happy one. Their relatives and friends were bewildered and annoyed by these strange young people who looked like Americans. . . . In general, the attitude of most was one of wanting to get things over so that they could go home. They were homesick."

In Honolulu I heard the same from a professor of anthropology. He had sought out some of his former students, born and schooled in Hawaii. Everywhere in Japan he found them suspect. They were openly rated non-Japanese and suspected of being anti-Japanese.

Of course there may be treacherous Japanese working under cover, whose records, if known, would look as slimy as that of the Caucasian Charles Bedeaux. But it may count in favor of the Nisei that so far there seem to be no cases of treason or espionage or sabotage. What cases may have developed have been withheld from the public.

The known pro-Japanese are in the prison camps. Reports are that no attempts have been made to educate them or propagandize among them. It might be that the system used by the Russians with their German prisoners would bring measurable and definite results here as in Russia.

Piscator Revives 'Nathan the Wise'

Nathan the Wise, Gotthold Lessing's 18th century plea against intolerance, as adapted into English verse by Ferdinand Bruckner, was revived Monday night by the Studio Theater of the New School, whose director is Erwin Piscator. The present production, staged by James Light, is scheduled for a two-week run.

Current intolerance—"the little signs on street corners and in subways against Jews," Mr. Piscator explained at the close of Monday's performance, have given Lessing's dramatic sermon timely significance. The theater must be a fighting force, he added, not mere entertainment or a medium for escapism.

Following Monday's performance, H. V. Kaltenborn, radio commentator, speaking from the stage, said that those who believe in tolerance and understanding must fight for it, especially in wartime when the spirit of intolerance comes to the fore. Kaltenborn criticized the detention of Americans of Japanese extraction in concentration camps as "unworthy of the United States."

Gilbert Seldes, director of television for CBS, said that believers in tolerance must get beyond mere tolerance. Men, he added, are "various," and America's strength is this variety.

NEWS, Lamar, Colorado
March 3, 1944

MANY AMACHE H. S. STUDENTS DRAFT AGE

Eighteen students in the Amache high school were among the first group of Amache draftees to receive their draft notices and pass the physical examination. These boys will probably report for induction at Fort Logan, Colo., within the next 21 days.

According to Herbert K. Walther, principal, about 120 boys who are now enrolled in school are eligible for the draft. Of this group, several boys have asked for deferment until they have completed their school year.