

COLOR OF HONOR
VOX PRODUCTIONS
Loni Ding, Director

NARRATOR:

Montage (opening)- home
pictures, soldiers, Japanese
boarding trains

What was it like for you during the war,
I asked, to be liberators in Italy and
France while your families were prisoners
at home. What was it like to interrogate
Japanese prisoners of war in New Guinea
while wearing the same face as the enemy.
The silence was immense. No one had talked
of it these 40 years but everyone had things
they could not forget. Searching the memory,
the pieces of the past reveal their hidden
story.

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TRANSCRIPT THE COLOR OF HONOR

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Voice of John Kaneko:

Japanese paintings, record albums, photographs, Japanese prints...all these things which I really loved had to be buried or destroyed. We put in a crate and buried in our back yard.

I always wanted to go back and dig up that crate.

NARRATOR:

I asked them what it was like here before the war. They told me what they could remember, and what they could not forget. But all these things, the good and the bad, they have held inside, mostly in silence.

(Japanese voice in background: woman coaching child in piano-playing)

2nd Japanese voice: Kazuo is already in the Army; I think that war is coming, and Saburo is still there with you in Japan. He should come home now. Please try to book passage for him from Yokohama to San Francisco.

(Radio: "...Giants are winning, seven to nothing.....")

Child's voice reading Japanese lessons

Girl: Are you going away again?

Youth: Just for the summer; I'm going to Alaska to work in the cannery -- pay's pretty good; I'll be back soon.

Youth in Japanese: Hi, I'm back home

Mother: (in Japanese) Good, you're home...welcome back.

Radio: ...Giants are winning it seven to nothing, here's the whistle, a player comes up, he boots it, it's a long one, down the three-yard line, another player takes it, he cutting up to the front, nice block there by Lehman, Cub's still going, he's up to the 25, and now he's hit and hit hard on the 27 yard line...

Announcer: We interrupt this broadcast to bring you this bulletin from the United Press. FLASH...Washington, the White House announces Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Girl's voice: The day after Pearl Harbor, the FBI came and took Father away.

Tokiwa v/o: We found out we didn't have a name anymore, we had numbers... and we thought convicts were the only ones that had numbers.

Kochiyama v/o: But it was these older people, the issei, who would be of the same age as my father and mother, that I really took notice of. It was toughest on them. They lost all their personal property, their businesses, everything went down the drain for them.

Kaneko-san: Don't dig it too much...

John: OK

✓ Narrator: Some memories do not just go away. They lie in ambush and catch you when you least expect it.

John Kaneko: In our culture we always want that memory of the past, that root, and we want to retain those things, no matter what happens. I really want to dig that thing out. It's something that I've always wanted to do...but never seem to have the time to do it, or maybe

Her words were that the Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor. So I said, "Oh, is that so?" I said, "Where's Pearl Harbor?" And she said "It's in Hawaii." I said, "Oh, that's terrible..." And then she said, "I want you to go home." So I said, "Why?" And she said, "Well, this is a terrible thing that Japan did..." and she didn't think that I should continue working for them. And so I just...I left.

There isn't any such thing as a loyal Japanese.

✓ Narrator: Long before Pearl Harbor, inequality was a daily experience for Japanese Americans. Finding a neighborhood to live in was not an easy thing. Many jobs and entire occupations were closed to them. Their foreign-born parents were stopped by laws from owning land, or becoming citizens. Pearl Harbor gave license to open acts of continuing hostility. The overwhelming power of official authority, the Congress, the Army, governors, mayors, the press, were lined up against a small minority who were stripped of their community leaders, their very own fathers, leaving only the young, the American-born nisei to walk and meet their accusers as best they could. The news was full of Japanese victories. Frightened and unprepared, Americans wanted something done. They looked at their Japanese American neighbors and turned on them. The nisei listened to accusations from the Secretary of War, the Attorney General of the state of California, and the General in charge of the Western Defense Command.

Voice #1: The Japanese race is an enemy race. We cannot trust even the citizen Japanese.

Voice #2: Japanese farmers have infiltrated every strategic spot; on this map you can see: Japs adjacent to all dams supplying water to San Diego, Japs adjacent to Southern Pacific Railroad, Japs in the vicinity of Oakland Airport.

Voice #1: The very fact that no sabotage has taken place is a disturbing