

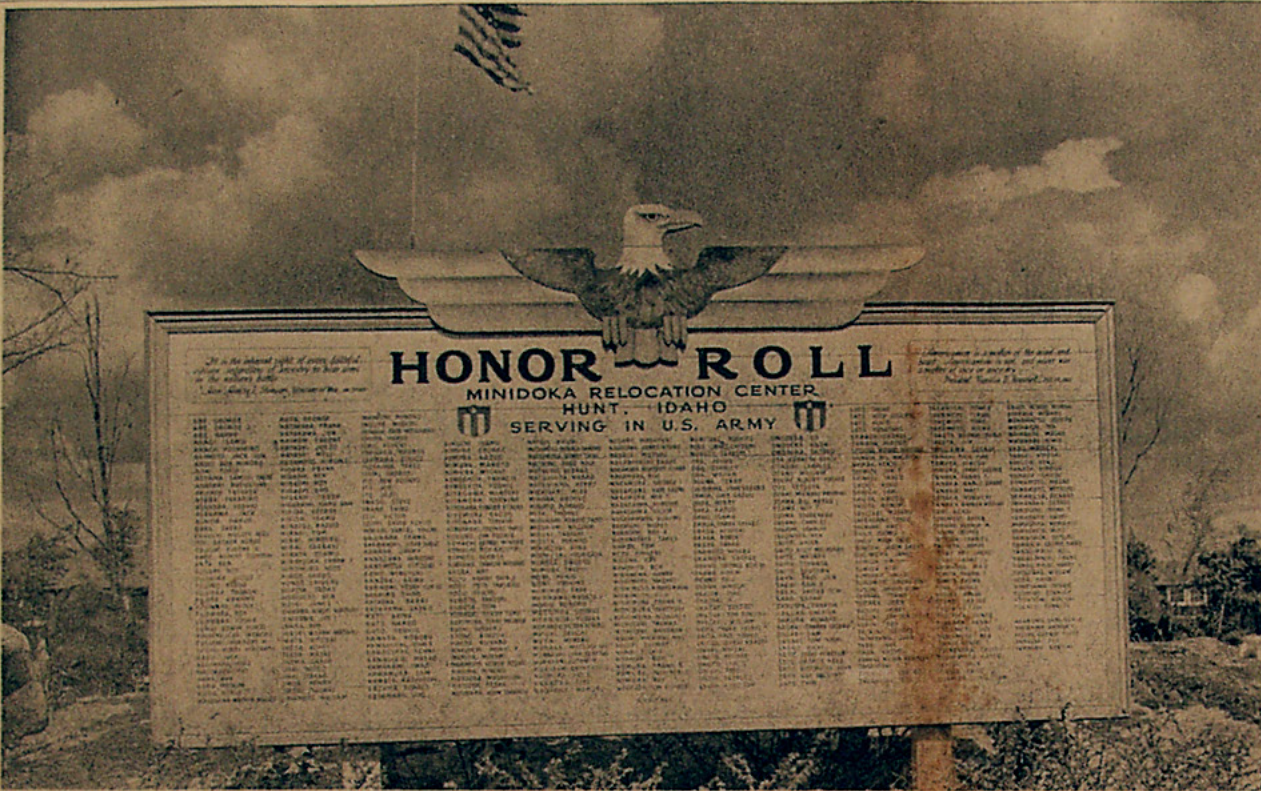
The MINIDOKA Irrigator

Published in two parts. Part I.

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 28

HUNT, IDAHO

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 1944



Stafford Sends Message On Second Anniversary

Big Labor Adjustments, Segregation, Selective Service, Added Impetus to Relocation

STATUS OF SITUATION CHANGED

On occasion of the second anniversary number of the Irrigator, one may pause to think over the changed status of our situation at Hunt. I'm inclined to think that we have been confronted with continuous change. Several important phases of change have taken place since the first anniversary number of the Irrigator. Among these were wholesale labor adjustments, segregation, selective service, and added impetus to relocation. We have instituted machinery for community government.

The labor adjustments brought about much confusion and doubt. They represented an abrupt trend toward economies which at first made no sense to the evacuees. Segregation was difficult to understand and extremely difficult to accomplish. Attendant rumors kept our people upset for months.

The sudden applicability of selective service brought about new fears, new rumors, new problems of adjustment. Relocation offered a baffling and turbulent prospect for many who had chafed under precarious treatment during periods of seasonal leave employment. It is a difficult decision to make, yet courage prevails in most cases as more and more people have relocated.



Harry L. Stafford

Community Government is new at Minidoka and, like many other innovations, is looked upon with suspicion. If the leaders work on the Administration, they are politicians. If they work with the Administration, they are stooges. Minidoka fosters these notions in common with most American communities. In this respect, we can claim normalcy. Time adds weight to my convictions.

There are other observations I want to make in connection with this second anniversary of the Irrigator. I thought so a year ago. I am convinced now that Minidoka folks have privation, idleness, and poverty. The great rank and file of our Minidoka people hate relief in any form. To become a ward of the government is the lowest level to which one may descend. This trait of character could well be taken into account by tribes of a fairer complexion. The American Japanese wants an unrestricted chance to help himself; he wants no dole or handouts.

This second year proves another point. Our gates are open to any decent-looking visitor who claims citizenship and honesty of purpose. Evacuees of Minidoka have been exposed to all the propaganda anyone else gets. They have been, in my opinion, offered inoculation by all the usual rashes and political plinks, who have been identified in this country. Yet the pigment of their political complexion hasn't gone red and it hasn't gone pink. Considering all that has happened to the evacuees up to now, the group earns special consideration on this point.

Three Hunt Boys Among First To Reach Pisa

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY—Privates First Class Jim T. Suzuki, Yasuo Pete Fujino and Ken Higashi from Hunt were members of a reconnaissance patrol of the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team believed to have been the first Allied troops to reach the historic city of Pisa, according to a War Department release.

Many times the number needed volunteered for the patrol. Finally 12 men were selected.

Mrs. Roosevelt Expresses Hope For Nisei Future

Expressing her hope that all Nisei will resume their normal existence and be regarded as American citizens by the general public after the war, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote to the Anniversary Edition of the IRRIGATOR as follows:

"I am sorry I cannot write an article as I am so very busy. I hope all Nisei will resume their normal existence and be American citizens with no other connections in anyone's thoughts when the war is over."

"Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) ELEANOR ROOSEVELT."

Canadian Evacuees In Six Camps

The total number of persons of Japanese origin in British Columbia affected by the evacuation order, according to the figures available, was around 23,000. Of this number, Japanese Canadians, 7,200, naturalized Canadians, 2,400, and those claiming Canadian citizenship by birth, by far the largest group, 13,400. Some hundreds were given permission by the Minister of Justice of the Canadian government to remain in the "prohibited areas" during the later stage of the process of evacuation by reason of marriage with Occidentals.

During the earlier phase of evacuation, all single men between the ages of 18 and 60 were sent to the road camps in the interior of British Columbia and Ontario. Some 6,000 were removed to sugar beet work in Alberta and Manitoba. There were some who voluntarily moved out of the Defense Zones before the actual order. Some set up self-supporting communities in once-prosperous but now deserted areas in the hinterland of the province. The balance, numbering some 15,000 were accommodated in several interior towns, where vacant hotels and empty houses remained as reminders of yesterday's mining boom, and some hundreds of small match-box houses were built, measuring 16 feet by 24 in government-leased adjacent areas.

SIX CENTERS
These "relocation centers" numbered six, each accommodating from several hundred to three thousand persons. One, Sandon, in a little corner of Kootenay country, has since been closed and the remaining centers consolidated.

These housing centers are under the jurisdiction of a body known as British Columbia Security Commission under the Minister of Labor. The Commission has its head office in Vancouver. Each center has a supervisor, having a general administrative capacity, and a welfare manager and a medical officer with supervision over their respective fields. The office is largely staffed with young Nisei evacuees. The school system is (Continued On Page Four)

Editorial . . . OUR THIRD YEAR

Once again we are standing on the threshold of another period in the history of this center. Two years, short in record but long in time, have now passed by since the beginning of Hunt.

The first year was a year of fear and insecurity. No matter how much we protested our honesty, sincerity and loyalty, many people were not convinced of our intentions. It was a year of the beginning steps in the relocation program. Uncertain of the future and reception in the various locales, many residents preferred to stay put in a relocation center. Only those brave and adventurous souls braved the unknown and ventured into the world beyond the barbed wire and the armed sentries.

Distrust and fear is born of ignorance. They did not know us. We did not know them. However, at the beginning of the second year, the residents began to stream out of the gates in steady numbers, and though at first, the relocates kept one foot in the center and the other foot on the outside, as the number increased, more began to settle in the Mid-West and Eastern areas.

Then again, the Army began to accept Americans of Japanese ancestry. A year later these same young men who poluted their services in the Army of the United States are backing up their statements concerning their loyalty and integrity with Army rifles and machine-gun bullets on the blood-soaked fields of Italy.

By this time the American people were beginning to realize the fact that such a thing as evacuation had taken place. An evacuation of people who had committed no crime (Continued On Page 6)

The Democratic Principle: "Evacuation Was Harsh Measure But It Gave New Liberty Concepts"—McWilliams

By Carey McWilliams

While mass evacuation was a harsh measure, it should be recognized that the relocation program does carry democratic possibilities. The concentration of most of the Japanese-Americans on the west coast in ingrown communities was by no means a healthy situation.

The American born Nisei were experiencing great difficulties in finding employment opportunities to which their skills entitled them. They had not succeeded in outgrowing the dominance of their elders or in breaking away from the strong social ties which held them in Little Tokyo.

For many of these younger and more enterprising Nisei, relocation has been a genuinely liberating experience. They have found opportunities in areas outside the west coast for which they had been seeking for years prior to their removal. They have moved out of the narrow, airless world of Little Tokyo into the mal stream of American life.

The experience they have undergone has shattered some of their illusions, but it has given a new

D.S. Myer Sends Congratulatory Wire on Edition

National Director Encouraged Deeply By Progress Made in Relocation; Cooperation in Government

HOPE LIES ALONG "ROAD-BACK"

Every issue of the Minidoka IRRIGATOR has impressed me with the high standards of journalism you have maintained under trying conditions. Reading each issue I have noted that it is an accurate and faithful chronicler of life in the center, reflecting its interests and hopes. The IRRIGATOR has been a strong educational force and I do not hesitate to say that the fine cooperation which exists between the evacuees and the administration has been reinforced by your publication's forward-looking editorial policy. It is my hope and belief that this cooperation, with the help of all the evacuees, all members of the center staff, and with the continued support of the IRRIGATOR, will grow greater in the future.



Dillon S. Myer

As you enter your third year, I note that your pages are given over more and more to two newsworthy facts of 1944. They are, first, the heartening reports from the battle fronts which tell of the devotion and bravery with which Japanese Americans are fighting our enemies; and second, the ever growing number of relocated individuals and families finding homes throughout the length and breadth of the United States.

Your young men on the battle fronts and your industrious friends and relatives on the "outside" both have shown the hope that lies along the "road back" for all Japanese Americans. As Minidoka rounds out its second year, I am deeply encouraged by the progress that has been made in relocation and by the increasing evidence of cooperation between the residents and the administrative staff.

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Watts Proud To Be C.O. Of 171st Bn.

I am happy to make a statement regarding my men for the second anniversary edition of the Minidoka Irrigator.

This battalion was formerly the First Battalion of the 442nd Infantry and is well along in its training. The men are physically in excellent shape and they are thirsty for information to further their military knowledge. Training results today far exceed expectations.

There are several reasons for it. Many of our men receive mail from friends and relatives in the 442nd Combat Team who offer bits of advice. Our men apply this advice to their everyday scheduled training. The men spend many hours of their own time practicing what they learned during the day and preparing for the next day's work.

Every man in this battalion is a qualified rifle shot, most of them are experts. Each man is thoroughly familiar with his own weapon, its characteristics, and capabilities, and has a working knowledge of every weapon in the battalion.

Their field exercises involving the use of cover and concealment under simulated battle conditions reflect their earnestness. It is often difficult to see a man, even when he is moving from place to place. As a result in a very short period of time, they can take their place shoulder to shoulder with the men now on the fighting fronts.

Quite a few of our men have reported from Minidoka and we find that without exception, they are willing, eager to learn, and generally make fine soldiers.

I am proud to be the Commanding Officer of this Battalion and can assure you that all of us will do our level best to make this the finest unit of its kind in the whole American Army.

Former Reports Officer, Writes

Since the first Irrigator emerged from a cloud of dust in Dec. 22 two years ago, there have been many changes at Hunt, but the barracks, the sagebrush, the dust and the project newspaper's name have remained the same in spite of everything.

The changes have been in the people. Hundreds have turned an unfortunate situation to their advantage by going out to meet and work with fellow Americans who never before had a chance to know them.

In a class by themselves are the courageous soldiers. With inspired vision these Nisei forewent their actions and sacrifices would sink the roots of loyal Japanese Americans so deep in this nation's soil that never again could they be uprooted and imperiled by storms of prejudice.

The Irrigator staff, past and present, has written today's news and tomorrow's history with creditable objectivity and perseverance. Nobody knows how many more Irrigators remain to be printed and read before Hunt becomes a memory. Congratulations on your second birthday, but not "Many happy returns of the day."

Loyalty, Patriotism Manifested by 442nd, 100th Units

The present issue of the IRRIGATOR has been dedicated to the Japanese American soldiers who have fallen in battle; to those who are, even as this is written, locked in mortal combat with the enemy; to those who are training for their coming baptism of fire.

The loyalty and patriotism of the Nisei in general and of the Nisei soldier in particular has never been seriously questioned by the government. But to the nation shocked by Pearl Harbor they had to be proven.

Nisei Volunteers
After a temporary suspension of the Selective Service Act during the evacuation process, the Army, on January 28, 1943, announced the reopening of military service to the Nisei, on a voluntary basis. In Hawaii, where the normal life of the Japanese population was not disrupted by evacuation, some 10,000 Nisei, comprising 40 percent of the eligible population, responded to the call for volunteers. On the mainland, more than a thousand volunteered from the relocation (Continued On Page Seven)

THE ALL-JAPANESE COMBAT TEAM

The most constructive step taken by the government in dealing with the Japanese-Americans was its decision, in January, 1943, to form an all-Japanese combat team. Previously, the Nisei had been classified as ineligible for military service. Today this stigma has been completely removed.

The Nisei now have an opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty, and they are doing so in the most concrete manner. Today there are over 5,000 Japanese-Americans in the Army. They were among the first troops to land on the beaches of Salerno, where their conduct was singled out for special praise by General Mark Clark. Casualties in the 100th Infantry Battalion, made up entirely of Nisei, amounted to more than 40 percent.

In addition, Nisei soldiers are serving as interpreters and as intelligence officers with our units throughout the Pacific and in India. As interpreters, they have played, according to Lieutenant Colonel Karl Gould, "an indispensable role" in the war. Over two hundred Japanese-Americans are

REVIEWING THE ARMY PROGRAM

H. Stimson Quoted in Momentous Announcement of Volunteer Program for Nisei

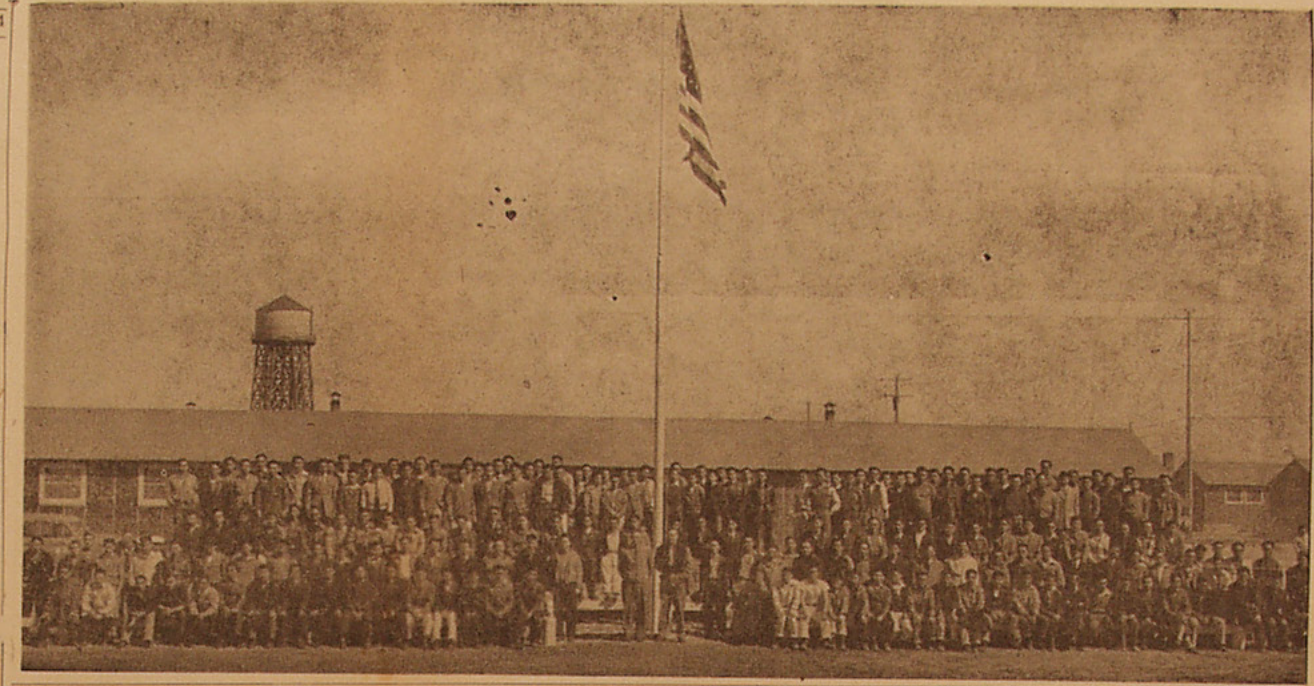
INHERENT RIGHT OF CITIZENS

By John Kanno and Eugene Uyeki

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the Nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations, those barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war." So spoke the Hon. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, in announcing the War Department's momentous decision to form a combat team composed of Americans of Japanese descent slated for active duty in some theater of war. Many disapproved of it because it was racial segregation. Others heartily endorsed it because it gave ammunition to fight the articulate and biased race-baiters.

Let us go back and review briefly the many steps that were involved in the issuing of such an announcement. The constitutional rights and duties of American citizens of Japanese ancestry have been and is still curtailed to quite an extent in this wartime. Whether or not they were curtailed necessarily yet remains to be seen. But the fact remains that never before in this country have American citizens with the sanction of our government been deprived of the rights we hold to be inalienable. And at the time of the evacuation, Nisei were neither drafted nor permitted voluntary enlistment. Even those who had carried I-A cards were given 4-C, the classification of an enemy alien. This denial of the right to fight, along with forced evacuation and the attendant incarceration left deep marks on the mind and spirit of these young men, seriously affecting their morale. Like results followed, due to the transfer inland of those retained in the Army, to occasional demotion at the time of transfers, or again, assignment of others in uniform to serve as bartenders at officers' quarters. And if this deplorable situation, out of the clear blue sky,

unheralded, yet expected, came the startling announcement that Americans of Japanese ancestry were again to be accepted into the armed forces of the United States. True, it meant that Nisei were only to be admitted to a special battalion which was slated for active combat duty as front line troops. Yet it meant that at least the War Department had finally seen fit to entrust its faith in the loyalty of the Nisei. In Hawaii, where there had been no general evacuation nor confinement in Centers, 10,000 offered their services against an expectancy of 1,500. In Centers, against an expectancy of 2,000, 1,300 volunteered. However, even here the ratio was as high as it had been for the country as a whole where volunteering had been for the gaining of certain advantages—securing officer commissions, to get into the Signal Corps, or in the air service—whereas in this case volunteering was permitted only for admission into a special Japanese American combat unit, disapproved by many as involving racial segregation to which they were militantly opposed.



best interests of the few must sometimes be temporarily sacrificed or disregarded for what seems the good of the many. It is not necessary for me to appeal to the loyalty of those who are loyal. That his words did not fall on deaf ears was borne out by the fact that Minidoka with 300 volunteers, numbering 20 percent of the eligible, led all other centers in the number of Japanese Americans seeking service.

First it was the three Onodera brothers, Ko, Kaun and Sat—the latter, Sat, who has since given his fullest measure of devotion in the service of his country—whose volunteering was the talk of the camp. And then more spectacular, the four Sakura brothers—Chet, Howard, Kenny and Ted—also indicated their desire to serve their country in one of its great moments of crisis.

A VOICE IN THE NIGHT

By Pvt. Satoru Onodera

(Written during a lull in battle somewhere on the front lines in Italy, "A Voice In The Night," penned by a soldier who gave his life for his country a few days later, echoes the deep hopes and thoughts of the men in the bloody trenches. Pvt. Satoru Onodera, one of the three Onodera brothers who volunteered last year, and was killed in action on July 7, is the author of the poem. The stirring verse was first published in the Renton Daily Reader, Renton, Louisiana, on August 8.)

I heard a whispered voice last night
Which floated through the battle's might.
It sought to ask of God above
The way of men below:
"Weren't they meant to trust and love
Instead of thinking each as foe?"

To enjoy as Thou the gentle rains,
That wash Thy cheeks so clean;
Sweeps o'er field of waving grains,
And makes the grasslands green.

Stars that light the traveler's way,
Winds that cool the fevered brow—
The sun that brightens each new day,
The smell of heather—the song of plow.

Do I speak of these in vain?
Must they live in greatest of sins?
Must they fight and curse the rain?
Knowing the while that no one wins?
Then midst the angry cannon's roar,
The voice for living spoke no more.

commenting on the formation of this unit, the President said: "No loyal citizen should be denied the right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart. Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry."

"The excellent showing which the combat team has made in training and the outstanding record achieved by the 100th Battalion, a former Hawaiian National Guard Unit now fighting in Italy, were major factors in the present plan."

Following the decision of the War Department, Dillon S. Myer, National War Director, made the ensuing declaration: "The announcement by the War Department that Nisei are to be inducted into the Army through the Selective Service system marks another significant step forward for American citizens of Japanese descent. It means that Japanese American soldiers now in the Army have performed their duties with high skill and courage, and that the valuable services rendered by such soldiers have been recognized."

"The obligation to bear arms in defense of the Nation is one of the essential elements of American citizenship. As increasing number of Nisei are called upon to assume that obligation, I feel confident that soldiers of Japanese ancestry in the Army will acquit themselves with distinction and that here will be widening public recognition of the status which all loyal and lawabiding residents of Japanese descent can and should enjoy in our national life."

Hope for Better World Through Men On Battlefronts Voiced by Bonus

Albert D. Bonus, friend and indefatigable champion for the Japanese in the United States, has long fought in defense of the evacuated people. His kind letters, contributions to funds and undertakings, frequent packages of candy, and sincerity has won for him a host of friends among those who were bitter about the faith their country had in them.

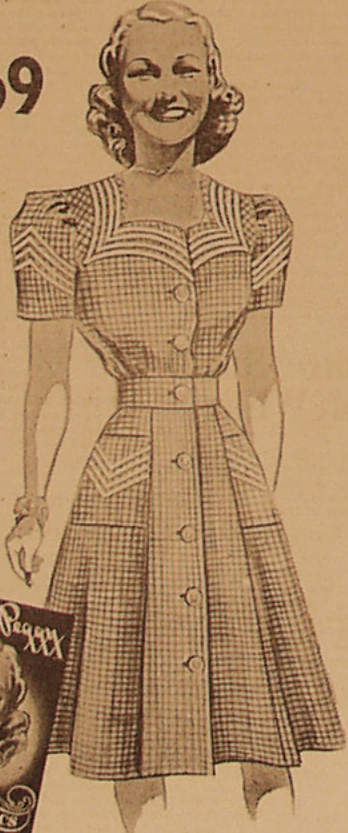
In an article he wrote especially for the Anniversary Edition, Mr. Bonus expresses a firm belief that the men who fell in the battlefronts helped to establish a post-war world, free from petty prejudice. "In comparison with this time last year, the status of Japanese ancestry people in America has vastly improved. "For although the blatant and hideous voices of race-baiters and other correlative species of un-American mobsters continue to shout that these lovely people should be deprived of their rights, there is an unmistakable, growing perception of ultimate and crushing defeat for those ignoble, selfish schemers. "This writer believes that the most potent factor which is contributing to the frustration of their evil designs is the distinguished accomplishments of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion, both composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry, who with sublime courage and skillful achievements, have won momentous victories on the battlefields. "Many of these have made the supreme sacrifice. "Their names, illustrious and imperishable are etched on the pages of history. For they gave their lives for America, for the security and welfare of their loved ones, and to help establish a postwar world where liberty, equality, and fraternity shall become a living reality for all mankind.

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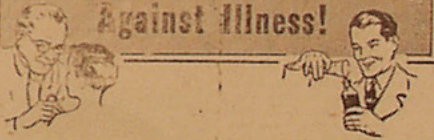
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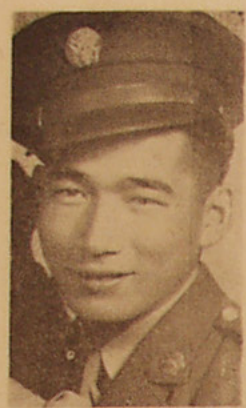
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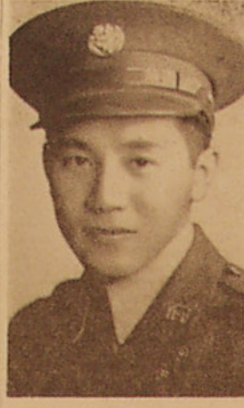
THAT THESE MEN MIGHT NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN



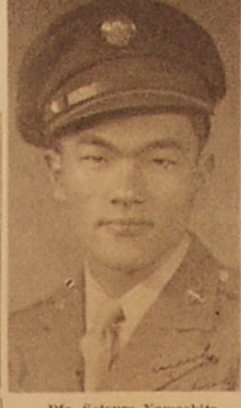
Pfc. Bill Nakamura



1st Sgt. Tom Takemoto



Pfc. Matt Tanaka



Pfc. Setsuro Yamashita



Sgt. George Sawada



Pvt. John Kyono



S/Sgt. Francis Kinoshita



Pvt. John Kawaguchi



Pvt. Pete Fujino



Pfc. Shigeki Nezu



Pvt. Satoru Onodera



Pvt. George Tsutsumi



Pfc. Yukio Sato

Besides the twelve men pictured above, who were killed in action, cuts were unavailable for Pvt. Isao Okazaki, Pvt. Tomoyuki Kikuchi, Pvt. Jim Takeda and Pvt. Bill Mizukami, who also gave their lives in the Italian campaign.



Prisoner of War

MEN WOUNDED IN THE FRONT LINES

- The following men were wounded in action on the Italian front. The names are listed according to War Department notices.
- YASUI, Pfc. Hideo—Masata Yasui, father, 16-4-A. (Olympia, Wash.)
 - TOCHIHARA, Pvt. Yukio—Kaguro Tochihara, father, 15-5-B. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - WAKAMATSU, Pvt. Joseph—Harugo Wakamatsu, mother, relocated to Chicago, Ill. (Fife, Wash.)
 - OMURA, Pfc. George—Family relocated. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - SHOJI, Pfc. Mack—Otojro Shoji, father, 1-12-F. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - MIYOSHI, Pfc. Masaru—Tachi Miyoshi, father, 44-8-D. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - TSUBOI, Pvt. Saburo—Sentaro Tsuboi, father, 13-10-B. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - HAGIWARA, Sgt. Michael—Chokichi Hagiwara, father, 7-12-A. (Ketchikan, Alaska)
 - ODA, Sgt. William—Sadalehi Oda, father, 29-7-F. (Portland, Ore.)
 - ISHIDA, Pvt. George Nobu Ishida, mother, 37-11-D. (Salem, Ore.)
 - OHKA, S/Sgt. Kazuo—Yoshino Ohka, mother, 25-4-F. (Portland, Ore.)
 - SAWADA, Pfc. Hiroshi—Shinsaku Sawada, father, 6-6-F. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - HATA, Pvt. George—Sunao Hata, father, 37-9-E. (Gresham, Ore.)
 - OKITA, Pvt. Fred—Family relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - SETSUUDA, Pfc. Richard—Hatsue Setsuuda, wife, 8-3-F. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - MATSUDAIRA, Pfc. John T.—Tokuhisa Matsudaira, father, 8-5-A. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - HIROMURA, Pvt. Kozo—Kikuo Hiromura, father, 32-5-E. (Portland, Ore.)
 - NAKASHIMA, Pfc. Walter—Kikutaro Nakashima, father, 21-6-B. (Sumner, Wash.)
 - TSUJIMOTO, Pvt. Ben—Wakitsu Tsujimoto, father, 12-9-D. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - EUSAOKA, S/Sgt. Shigeo—Sakichi Sumioka, father, 29-1-H. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - HIRAI, Pfc. Hiroshi—Sekichi Hira, father, 10-9-D. (Fife, Wash.)
 - HIRAI, Pfc. Takao—Ryuhio Hira, father, 13-4-B. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - NOMURA, Pvt. Ray—Mrs. Ray Nomura, wife, Cincinnati, Ohio. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - OKITA, Pvt. Frank—Mrs. F. Okita, mother, Cincinnati, Ohio. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - UCHIDA, Pfc. Kimimoto—E. Uchida, father, 38-4-C. (Seattle, Wash.)
 - NAGAOKA, Pfc. Minoru—Mume Nagoka, mother, 6-1-E. (Seattle, Wash.)
- The following men were wounded or killed in action in the South Pacific War zone. Their names are listed according to the date of War Department notices.
- OMURA, Sgt. Ken—Family relocated to Des Moines, Iowa. March 26, 1944. (Seattle, Wash.) Killed.
 - YOSHINO, Cpl. Stanley—S. Yoshino, father, 3-2-C. Jan. 19, 1944. (Seattle, Wash.) Wounded.

NISEI'S STARS AND STRIPES

By James Sakamoto

(The following poem is dedicated to the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team and to all Japanese Americans in the Armed forces of the United States and to their buddies killed and wounded in action.)

In Old Glory's Stripes of Red
Now flows the Nisei blood,
In struggle great they fought and bled
Stemming the en'my flood;
In unison they forged their might
With others of this land,
Bright'ning sheen of Freedom's light
On yonder foreign strand.

In Old Glory's Stripes of White
Dwells their spirit pure,
Accepting challenge for the right
Justice to insure;
All mankind shall know its peace
As God's own handiwork,
When souls of men shall find surcease
From tyrants' will at work.

In Old Glory's Stars on Blue
Shines their fealty,
On foreign soil they plight anew
Their hearts to victory;
Nisei's blood, as Freedom's toll,
Shall now, in banner brave,
Consecrate to God their soul
In every fold and wave.

A Tribute: TO NISEI VOLUNTEERS

By L. H. Tibesar, M. M.

Casualty lists have come to bring home the fact of war to us as nothing else could. Some of our boys who volunteered for the Army dead, many more are injured, some are missing in action, possibly prisoners of war. Memorial services are the order of the day for the residents of Camp Minidoka. What does it all add up to?

The cynical will say: Why did they do it, especially under these circumstances? They could still be alive.

We admit they could have taken a course different from the one they did. Possibly many would say they would have been justified in taking another course from the one they did. They could not have done so and remained the boys they were, is our rejoinder. They were the pride, the cream of our Nisei young manhood. This they will remain.

No American citizen's loyalty was ever tried as was theirs. They rang true under the test. Whatever befall us, that record has been written indelibly in their very life-blood into the history of the United States, yes, into the lives of everyone of us.

Patriotism so pure, so true, is rare in the records of any country. That our Nisei could rise to such heights will answer forever the critics whose favorite them was the worthlessness of the younger generation. They were worthy of their forebears and of the training they received.

In addition, it is hardly possible that these young men who volunteered for Army service under the circumstances, could have been ignorant of the fact that they were an obligation for the entire community so cruelly tried since the outbreak of the war. They must have known that some or many of them could not return. War is played for keeps.

It is not stretching facts therefore to interpret their volunteering for the Army as an act of immolation for the civil redemption of us all. Jesus Christ speaks of such an act in terms we can but quote: "Greater love no man has than to lay down his life for his friends."

Those boys did not think of themselves as heroes. That is left for us to do for them. Their action was heroic. The country for which they died will inevitably recognize it. So must we. We must carry on for them and in their spirit of devotion and inspired high resolve.

"We Fight for Our Rights," Says Hunt Inductee

By Pvt. Yutaka Hirano

Sab was stationed at Camp Shelby, one of the Army Training Centers, and was now an infantry man of the United States Army. He trained along the side of fellow Japanese Americans from all parts of America. Joe was from a relocation center, Hank from a metropolis in the East, and Bill from the Islands. Here was the life he had always visualized as a soldier fighting for Freedom.

Bugle calls . . . mess lines . . . field tactics . . . reveille . . . taps . . . K. P. and drilling . . . Yep, this was life!

What a change from the peaceful days back in the great Pacific Northwest. Sab's folks cultivated a truck gardening farm back on the coast and had done prosperous business. But with December 7 and Pearl Harbor, everything had gone black and gloomy . . .

Came evacuation and Sab found a new home at some deserted fairground . . . from there, the life in the midst of the sagebrush . . . a relocation center.

Even with such hardships, Sab had always longed to don the olive drab uniform of Uncle Sam. He believed in the principles of America and Democracy . . . He was fighting for the future of the Nisei, so that the struggles of the Nisei would not have been in vain.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness can not be denied a group of people because of ancestry, and Sab has confidence in the land he called Liberty—America.

The American Way . . .

★

We join in the acclaim to the boys of Japanese ancestry who are serving in the American armed forces and especially to those boys who have made the supreme sacrifice. And we trust that when fighting service is no longer needed the boys from Hunt will come home more assured than ever of a proper place in the American way of life and more determined than ever that the American way shall be their way—that way which exalts the individual man and which holds that government is a servant of the people.

★

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“St. Lou-ee! Calling Future Relocateses”

By John Matsushima

And oh, yes . . . we're expecting a "Reflections from St. Louis" from you, Flat Top, "our dear editors smiled sweetly as they bade us fond adieu. Here we thought that relocation to some remote section of this turbulent globe would end the continuous grind and torture of deadlines, copy and interviews." Sweet dreams and tearful farewells to the staff quickly ceased with those orders! Darn it, they (the editors) must think we write for our health . . .

"So this is Saint Lou-ee!" We gasped hoarsely as we stumbled into the bony arms of our faithful friend at the station. Caked with layer on layer of sweat and grime, we had spent four long, torturous, dirty, dusty, hot days in a coach (you know, a coach is another Turkish bath with windows). The first thing we did was to execute a "center plunge" through the milling crowd to the baggage room where we claimed our baggage now beaten beyond recognition, called a taxi, and zoomed to our rooming house.

"Oh, it isn't such a bad place," our landlady's cranky, the floor's dirty, the stairs squeak, the windows stick, there's usually no hot water and the mosquitoes are as big as B-29's, but otherwise it is fine."

After we had resigned ourselves to our fate we decided to look over the city.

The street car system here charged \$1.25 per week for a pass and with it one can ride anywhere and at any time and as often as he pleases. It is a real saving. Another opportunity for the man with a strain of Scotch ancestry is the cafeteria in the heart of the downtown section. For a nominal fee one can partake of an inexpensive and delicious meal in a friendly atmosphere. The waitresses are nice, too. There isn't any need, dear reader, to inform you that yours truly takes full advantage of the situation. (The food, I mean!)

As for recreational facilities, Forest Park seems to afford the best opportunities for a good time. One section of the immense tract of velvety green is occupied by the amusement park—St. Louis' version of Coney Island. A zoo, too, brings back fond memories of pre-evacuation-and-center days.

Then the theaters located conveniently throughout the town beckon invitingly to us on boring afternoons.

Have you heard of racial discrimination? Sounds absurd, but out here in St. Louis we have yet to experience one act of racial discrimination against us—the Nisei.

We mention the Nisei specifically because that statement isn't true for all nationalities. The colored folks have it pretty tough out here. They have a "Little Harlem" just as we used to have "Little Tokyo" during pre-evacuation days. There is discrimination prevalent everywhere, but we're told that it is much worse further down South.

Well, getting back to the point, all Americans—Negro American, Japanese American or Caucasian American—all get together at the Cathedral every Saturday evening for a delightful time. We swim, play games, sing and dance. It really does us evacuees a world of good to mingle once again with friendly kids of other races.

"Hi, there, friend! My name's Jim—Jim Larson, what's yours?" Expressions of true friendliness such as this did our cautious, skeptical selves a world of good.

Firstly, we slipped, or rather, struggled into our Jantzens and dived into the clear, green water. It was swell to feel the water rushing past our eyes and ears again in a regular pool. We swam and swam to our heart's content. We had water-fights with Caucasians and Negroes alike.

Later, everyone formed a semicircle and sang together—and we really mean sang! Everyone straddled their chords giving their best. No room for shyness or restraint. Old favorites such as "Old Black Joe" and "The Old Gray Mare" were sung. The closing tune was appropriately, "God Bless America." Everyone sang that tune just a trifle louder; they sang their hearts out—and meant it. It was great to see all of these different races singing together arm in arm. It was a scene that struck home.

Readers, this is America, beyond the Rockies! This is your America, Minidokans. The America of friendliness, hospitality, good-will; the swaying trees; wide, smooth boulevards, a place where every man is his own boss; where freedom, citizens' duties and citizens' rights go hand in hand. The America of laughing children, towering mountains, green grass, trolley cars, ice-cream sodas, hamburgers, ball games, real schools. Where one can walk for miles without being stopped by an M. P. for a pass. Where yellow, black, white, brown and red men can shake hands in understanding. This is the "outside" this is the world beyond the barbed wire—this is the real America.

Minidoka Proves Peaceful for Internal Security

Succeeding Captain C. D. Lee, Kenneth Barclay, internal security chief, was promoted to his position in April 1943. He has been connected with the IS division of the WRA since October, 1942. Formerly of Iowa Barclay was a resident of Idaho for many years establishing residence in Jerome and Twin Falls, and attending the University of Idaho. Before becoming attached to the WRA, Barclay held the position of Assistant Police Chief in Twin Falls.



Acting in the capacity of Captain of the Internal Security, Sanjoe Kaneko has held his position since the beginning of this center. A graduate of Broadway High School, he has attended the Northwest School of Criminology in Seattle for two years. He is working in conjunction with Captain John Furnal.



Although it is one of the most unappreciated jobs in the project, the 47 evacuees and four appointed personnel comprise the Internal Security force. Formerly handled by the 107 evacuees, Chief Kenneth Barclay is the present appointed personnel head.

During its period of organization, the Internal Security division faced serious problems. It was necessary to build up the force rapidly to take over the guarding of restricted construction areas within the center from the military police. Out-of-bound areas were in the process of being posted, lumber piles had to be watched, and the new residents needed guidance in their movements from one end of the three-mile-long area to the other. First, the lack of definite students who desired to resume interrupted studies, and a good many have been able to attend minor colleges affiliated with different churches.

And yet, the over-all picture of the program of relocation is effect since the completion of evacuation, more as a re-allocation of man-power needs of a war-time Dominion, than specifically a policy of resettlement of evacuees with any degree of permanence in view, is not at all encouraging. The explanation perhaps is two fold. First, the lack of definite students who desired to resume interrupted studies, and a good many have been able to attend minor colleges affiliated with different churches.

The government and secondly, a nurtured distrust of the Government on the part of the evacuees.

From Across the Border: 23,000 Japanese in Canada Affected by Evacuation

(Continued From Page 1) Sale of evacuee properties, and at this date perhaps the entire lot has been disposed of. The proper owners organized and initiated steps to question the rights of the Custodian to sell, and the case was heard at the Exchequer Court in Ottawa in May, 1944. The decision was reserved and is still pending.

RETURN TO COAST It is not that many are thinking of returning to their homes and businesses of 1941. Even those seem quite reluctant to relocate in the East doubt frankly that they can go back and resume where they left off. They are undecided and are confused in the situation that does not seem to offer any adequate solution. They realize they cannot forever be wards of the Government. Few talk of "going back" to their homes on the coast; most have a vague notion that sometime or other they will have to start life anew somewhere.

RELOCATION And what of relocation? Up to the present the Security Commission has made some attempts to offer the evacuees opportunities to obtain employment in the East. Here the officials have been handicapped by local prejudices, heightened by war-time tension, as well as some what limited range of occupations available. Nevertheless perhaps some 3,000 have forsaken the limited life in the camps to begin life anew in Eastern Canada. These comprise more ambitious groups of young people, seeking employment in the industrial areas of Ontario and Quebec sorely beset by swollen war-time needs. Some have been placed in the rural districts of Southern Ontario. Among them, too, were students who desired to resume interrupted studies, and a good many have been able to attend minor colleges affiliated with different churches.

CANADIAN POLICY And yet, the over-all picture of the program of relocation is effect since the completion of evacuation, more as a re-allocation of man-power needs of a war-time Dominion, than specifically a policy of resettlement of evacuees with any degree of permanence in view, is not at all encouraging.

The Government of Canada, at the outset went into agreement with the provinces that the Japanese moved to fill the depleted man-power needs will be once more re-located. The agreement ranged from elaborately drawn legal documents to merely implied contracts that they were to be placed there temporarily to fill in the local needs. Aside from this blanket insecurity for the day when the guns will cease to roar, there are in force a large number of limitations that are deterrent factors. A person of Japanese ancestry cannot buy or lease business premises or farm lands without the permission of the Minister of Justice. Even out of British Columbia he must obtain a joint permit of the British Columbia Security Commission and R. C. M. P. for travel beyond a certain specified limits.

LACK OF FAITH A good portion of lack of faith may be traced to the failure of the Government to accept enlistments of the Japanese Canadians. A large number of the Nisei have felt in the hour of their country's need they will have the supreme opportunity to show their worth and vindicate their position. The mistake has been made, and it becomes more apparent as magnificent battle records of our cousins across the border are publicized, especially since Canada cannot deviate from the policy of the United States in the post-war disposal of the problem of its Japanese.

Perhaps the most important source of distrust is found in the liquidation of the property. When complete evacuation was announced, the Custodian of Enemy Property was given control of the Japanese property as a "protective measure only." In the spring of 1943, Ottawa authorized the

A VOLUNTEER'S OPINION

From the Front.

Dear Editor:

We overseas, especially those of us from Hunt, have been reading with great interest the latest issues of the IRRIGATOR, especially now with so much of the war news affecting our own centers. I know we overseas have no cause for alarm for the attitude of our people, with so many firsts to our credit in any good cause, and even

Procurement Unit Keeps Center Going on Supplies

Kenneth Merrill, prior to his position of Procurement Officer in August 24, 1942, had been the purchasing agent for the Central Supply Company in Watsonville, California. His experience covered a wide field of merchandise and purchasing in lines of building materials, hardware, lumber and the construction field.

Under the general supervision of the supply officer, the Procurement unit is given the responsibility of securing all the necessary supplies, material and equipment required for the project operation. The appointive personnel are Kenneth G. Merrill, procurement officer; William E. Roden, assistant procurement officer, and James W. Niven, procurement clerk. In addition, there are nine evacuee positions for clerical and stenographic work.

Due to the stringent requirements of wartime, problems of securing adequate supplies were a great deal more complicated than for an institution that had been operating for a time past. Not only was the Procurement division confronted with equal problems of maintaining adequate services, but were also faced with the bigger problem of the initial supply in its entirety.

It has been extremely fortunate in such times as these that the privilege of using the facilities of the U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps, the U. S. Army Medical Dept., the office for Emergency Management and others has been granted. The above departments, and other co-operating agencies have been most helpful in the adequate supply of the center's needs.

The personnel of the Procurement unit has deeply appreciated the cooperation it has been accorded by everyone in the understanding of today's problems of supply.

We are never going to build a warless world until we first build a hungerless world.—WILLIAM AXLING.

more so now with so many sons in the service at home and overseas. We volunteers from Hunt are proud to say we are from Hunt, because Hunt is known among the fellows as the center that had the most volunteers on the mainland. It's not uncommon for our Hawaiian buddies to say—"it seems most of your Mainland 'kotankas' are from Seattle or Portland." That in itself is a tribute to the patriotism and broadmindedness of our center residents, coming from the boys of Hawaii, who mustered so many thousands when the call came for volunteers.

The war has struck hard in Hunt I know. Harder than it has in any other single community on the mainland as far as the Nisei are concerned. It has a sobering effect on us all, and one begins to wonder why? For what feasible reason did they have to give up their lives? I guess no one but himself can answer that. But he had his reasons for volunteering even as we, who are still carrying on hand and still have, I thought it was my duty as a citizen and because it was the only way to truly demonstrate our pledges of loyalty—and too, that never again will a minority be put behind barbed wires like common prisoners.

It's easy for us who are living to say these men died for a good cause. They are heroes, that their memory will always live on. That won't bring them back. But we who are left have still a difficult job ahead of us—we must carry on where they left off. We, you and I must carry on, we owe it to those who died that it may be so.

We will do our part—you at home, too, must do your part. Walk the streets with your head up, confident in the knowledge that you are doing your part and with a grim determination that all we have suffered for will not have been in vain.

For many weeks and days now I've seen battle, where men were wounded and maimed, yet while sorely wounded, there is always something in their faces that makes you feel they'll come back to carry on. It's that kind of will that is needed to attain any goal. I know we have that will, that you at home have that will. With that, how can we help but reach that goal we set out to attain when our loyalty was questioned at the outbreak of the war? Our dead will not have died in vain when that goal is reached.

The war is approaching a climax now that can't result in anything but victory for the Allies. We're looking forward as I know you are, when we will all be together again as we used to be. What a glad day that will be—but we know there's still a long bear-breaking trail yet to be covered. So bear with us, pray for us, and pull for us till the day we come home.

Sincerely, SGT. TAK HIRAI, Overseas.

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The MINIDOKA Irrigator

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Nisei Novel: Events in Issei, Nisei Lives Makes Fascinating Yarn

(James Sakoda was graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, California, in 1942 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Psychology. At present he is the Executive Secretary for the Fair Employment Practices Board here.—Ed. Note.)

The great Nisei novel has yet to make its appearance, but when it does what will it be like? All of us know of incidents and episodes in our own lives which might be woven into such a novel. Which ones would you say are worth weaving together into a fascinating drama?

Before someone objects to our preoccupation with our own lives, I should declare that a good novel can make the problems of a group intelligible to the rest of the world. THE GRAPES OF WRATH, for instance, helped to explain the plight of the "Okies" in California. A skilful novel of the Japanese in America can do the same for us.

In comparing the lives of Issei and Nisei, it would seem to me that a Nisei novel should draw much of its material from the experiences of our parents. Their struggle in this country, which runs into about 50 years, is replete with adventures and misadventures. Also, it is they who started the Nisei on his career of cultural conflict. Without an understanding of the first generation, the predicament of the second generation cannot be adequately explained.

As with many adventure stories, the pioneering career of the Issei began with a dream. When he crossed the Pacific, he was drunk with the dream of gold on the streets of San Francisco or Seattle. He was only about 20 then, and he was confident that he could soon wrest Success from the fabulous wealth of America with his bare hands. In three years—at most in five—he hoped to be able to retire. He discovered, however, that Success could only be reached by years of laboring.

The quest of Success was the dominant goal of the male Issei. Throughout his stay in America, which lengthened from five to ten, to 20, 30, 40 years, this was his main preoccupation. While he was a laborer he saved what he could. When he bought a farm for himself or opened a little shop, he toiled equally as hard as before. He usually did not have the time to think about a beautiful house with a lawn or to become better acquainted with his Caucasian neighbors. He did not even divert much interest from his ambition to his bride.

Romance in the lives of our parents, as we Nisei understand it, is lacking. Instead we find in its place a repressed and twisted sort of thing, which might well be woven into a tragedy. Many a blushing bride accepted the offer of marriage from a supposedly rich immigrant, expecting a luxurious and exotic life. Instead she discovered that a squalid hut was her home, and that toil from early until late was her lot. If her disappointment in the economic condition was great, in some cases the lack of loving attention from her husband was more upsetting. But there was nothing else that she could do, but to make the best of her predicament.

The confession of an Issei woman comes to mind: "My family was not rich, but from a good line, and I had had a little more than just grammar school education. When a close friend of the family suggested marrying someone from America, everybody in my family objected. I thought of the wonderful things America would be able to offer me. I also had some foolish notions of being able to help everybody with the wealth my husband was supposed to have. But even when I was coming over I realized my mistake. I found out that he was not interested in me or my ideas, but only wanted me to work for him and bear him children. And that's exactly what I've done."

It was the children—who served to keep the Issei parents together. Even when they disagreed on other topics, they usually agreed where their children were concerned. Where parents had failed to attain



James Sakoda

Success, they hoped that their children would succeed for them. Since they themselves were able to work only at menial tasks, they hoped that by giving their children a good education they would get decent jobs. Even if they were unable to attain financial security for themselves, they relied upon their children for support in their old age.

But as the children grew up the parents were bewildered to find them growing up different from themselves. The inability of the Nisei to use the Japanese language skilfully was only one of the barriers between the first and second generation. He preferred to play basketball rather than to attend a Japanese language school. He liked to go out on dates and attend dances upon which parents frowned. When he was sent to college he returned with curious ideas. The cultural conflict can be one of the main cornerstones in the Nisei novel.

The war between Japan and America seems to offer material for the climax of the story. The bombing of Pearl Harbor and evacuation into relocation centers is a story in itself. It is the effect on the Issei-Nisei family of these events brought about by the war which seems to offer the best material. Because of evacuation many families lost whatever economic security they had taken so long to build. They were so old that they did not have the energy to leave camp to create another economic foundation for themselves. The life of a government ward only taught them to rely upon someone else to look after them rather than to depend on themselves.

The consequences of the war had also served to free the Nisei children from the control of the Issei. The Nisei left the centers in large numbers to seek their fortunes in the cities, thus leaving their parents behind. Many Nisei volunteered for the Army, and others were drafted. Some parents attempted to cling to their children and keep them close by—but usually it was in vain. For many of them their last source of security and consolation was snatched away from them. For many this was the end of an adventure which had begun with a beautiful dream.

Then what of the Nisei? That, perhaps, is the sequel to this novel. When our parents started their adventure from a village in Japan, we shall begin ours from the front gate of a relocation center. Our story has yet to happen. And when it does there will be time enough to discuss another Nisei novel—this time about the Nisei himself.

I will not allow one prejudiced or million or one hundred million to bight my life. I will not let prejudice or any of its attendant humiliations and injustices bear me down to spiritual defeat. My inner life is mine, and I shall defend and maintain its integrity against all the power of hell.

—James Weldon Johnson,
Negro Author.

The Evacuation: AS AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

By Elmer R. Smith

Two years in a relocation center—these words bring to mind hardships, sweat and tears, but mingled with these were experiences of pleasure and the discovery of new friends and a new world. Evacuation and life experiences in a relocation center have become part of an educational experience never to be forgotten.

Education, in its broadest meaning involves all the "influences of the environment upon the individual to produce a permanent change in his habits of behavior, of thought, and of attitude." The experiences made possible by evacuation from the Pacific Coast have become the educator in the process of living.

Essence of Happiness

The life made possible in a relocation center has given to many the chance to know one's self, which after all is the real essence of all possible happiness. "Knowledge of ourselves includes an acquaintance, not only with the things we think or believe but also with the mind that thinks and believes them."

The implications of this statement can best be exemplified by quoting two statements from letters received by the author from residents of two different relocation centers. The first quotation is taken from a letter by a 17-year-old Nisei and is as follows:

A Nisei's View Of Americanism

"The orders (for evacuation) came just upon my reaching my 13th birthday. That is quite young, but not young enough to be ignorant of the bitterness that I had the privilege to hold. I came to think of how much irony there is in 'over the land of the free,' and 'liberty and justice for all.' I just couldn't see how these words could mean so much to other Americans.

"Then inevitably, I realized that for that against which I held bitterness because of losing what was 'home' to me, others were giving their lives because of their belief and love of that very doctrine, whatever it was. It was all very confusing. And obviously it required a great deal more thought than I had given it. After a short time, however, I came upon a wonderful meaning of Americanism. It is not necessarily freedom and justice for all, and 'over the land of the free,' but rather the fact that here in America there is an opportunity for every individual to help bring about a more stronger meaning of those words.

Land Of Equality and Justice

"I realize now why in grammar school they taught me that this is the land where people are equal so-

cially, politically, economically and so forth, and that this is the land of inflexible justice; they were giving me a conception of what Americanism could and should mean and that along with that is the opportunity or rather the challenge to pick up the weapons of American Principles and fight for what you know it right.

"I have heard it said among the Nisei that they would like returning to Japan, because there is so little opportunity for them here in America. It doesn't seem to me that they have the right conception of an opportunity. I believe I have had or will have is that of being a Nisei of Japanese descent, living in America, with American Principles to fight this 'race problem'."

The following extract was written by a 21-year-old Nisei awaiting induction into the U. S. Army:

"I am not embittered by this evacuation and neither do I take it as a matter of fact. Soon I shall be drafted, and when I fight, I shall be fighting for the idea that the majority of the people in this nation still believe in the American ideals instituted by the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence, and that they act accordingly in the present and in the future.

"I am not going to fight just to prove to the others that we are good Americans, because if the people believe in the American ideals and principles they will know that since we have been endowed with a good American education, living with the people acting in accordance with the fundamentals of good government, then we must be good Americans, and to those people that do not believe in the American ideal no matter how much or how hard we fight to prove ourselves it will be no avail."

Two years in a relocation center can and has become an educational experience. A brave people, by using their experiences constructively, can contribute generously to a free culture in a free world for themselves and for their posterity. We can still hope for a future, and work for a future of freedom, liberty, and justice.

other than the fact that they possessed the same physical characteristics as the hated enemy. The uprooting of a group of people and concentrating them in enclosed areas subject to government regulations and surrounded by a military guard seemed the most logical thing to do at the time of evacuation. However, no amount of reasoning and explaining will ever convince the majority of us that evacuation was a military necessity.

Now reports are streaming in from the Italian front concerning the bravery and efficiency of both the 100th and the 442 Combat Team composed entirely of men of Japanese ancestry. These men are fighting because they believe in the future of a democratic America. They are fighting because they believe that eventually people of Japanese ancestry in the United States will have the same opportunity as any one else. They are fighting because they are Americans.

All of the members of the 442 Combat Team are volunteers. In Hawaii where no wholesale evacuation took place, nearly 10,000 males volunteered. On the mainland, many young men volunteered from the relocation centers where they and their families had been detained by the government for more than a year, among them a group of some 300 from Hunt. They volunteered because they felt that their future was linked with America no matter what came. They volunteered not for any particular ideal except the democratic ideal. Now that they are actually on the fighting front, they are showing, not intentionally, but as a matter of course, that they are as good fighting men as the next man. As a returned member of the famed 100th Battalion once said—"We're no better than any other unit, man for man, we're just like brothers on the battlefield." And they are as homesick for home as any other American soldier. On the fields the soldier thinks of his family, his friends, home-cooked food, swaying palm trees and Diamond Head and the Statue of Liberty, because the sight of that exalted and revered lady will mean that they have really come home for good.

And because of the excellent record of the 100th and the 442nd, the people of Japanese ancestry in the United States are now being looked upon with a little more respect, a little more courtesy and a little more equality by others of more fortunate racial stock. Because now, we are in common with the rest of America. Daily, we receive word from our fighting men on both the Pacific and Italian fronts. And sometimes, though it is regrettable, a yellow telegram comes, the message conspicuous in its starkness and its tragic implications. Now, we too, know how it feels to lose a loved one in the heat of battle, now we know the anxiety and uncertainty when one soldier is listed as missing in action, now we can share with other mothers all over the world the agony of suffering when someone is listed as seriously wounded in action. And because through publicity, the newspapers, the radio, the general American public is beginning to realize that we are backing up our "lip service" of a year ago with actual facts. Through the worry and suffering they, themselves, are undergoing, the public is beginning to realize that we, too, must be suffering.

Sometimes, it takes a great crisis or a great suffering for people to come to a common understanding. Such is the time now.

However, evacuation had its good points. Never before had the majority of the Japanese in America done so much traveling in such a short space of time. Never before did a young college woman or man ever dream of fulfilling his or her ambition to obtain a particular position. No matter if a person possessed all the talents necessary to fill a particular position, he or she must eventually return to the slums.

New York City, Chicago, Boston, Washington, D. C. were mere names or dots on the road maps in pre-evacuation days. Now everyone speaks of those and other cities as if they were a stone's throw from the center gates.

And no one can ever forget the companionship and friendships formed behind the barbed wire fences during their confinement in a relocation center. Friendships with both Japanese and Caucasians. And it took evacuation and its subsequent results to help us to discover many friends we still had on the outside—even on the West Coast. In the loneliness and despairing attitude of a relocation center we valued the overtures of friendship made by anyone more than anything else. The aid given by the many Christian Churches and other organizations in material and spiritual aid bolstered our spirits as nothing ever did before or ever.

Now, as we look back over those two years, we cannot regret too much that such a thing as evacuation ever occurred. Deep down in our hearts it will be the hardest experience to ever forget or reconcile ourselves to, but we will also never forget the deep experiences we shared with each other because of such an incident. Little things build into big things. Each tiny incident in the past two years have added step by step toward a truer understanding between persons of Japanese ancestry and the rest of the American majority. Each has done a little give and take and in doing so have come to appreciate each other's true feelings.

And as the days pass by, we shall be able to return to normalcy—perhaps not as we used to know in the pre-evacuation days—but normalcy nevertheless, where we too, shall be able to enjoy some of the privileges of a democracy as well as share its duties.—KT.

EDITORIAL (Continued From Page 1)

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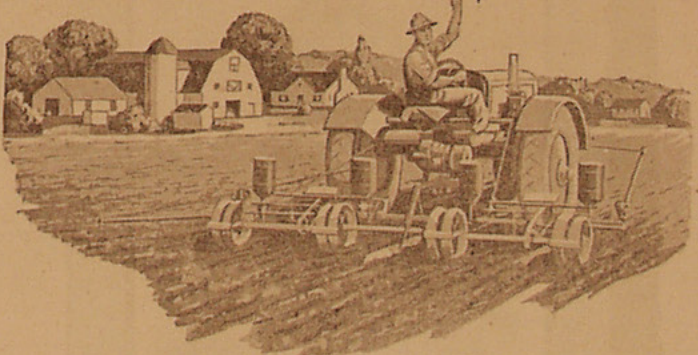
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To feed our armed services and civilians as well as the entire hungry world, the AMERICAN FARMER is today one of the most vital cogs in the winning of this war.

Charles Barlow's Warehouse

HAZELTON IDAHO

100th and 442nd:
Nisei Battalions in Italy Prove Worth;
100th Infantry Most Decorated in Army

(Continued from Page One)

centers, Minidoka leading the rest with more than 300 volunteers. In April, 1943, 2,500 volunteers from Hawaii commenced their training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. They were soon joined by another 2,500 from the relocation centers and elsewhere on the mainland. The two groups constituted the original nucleus of the new famed Japanese American Combat Team. At Camp Shelby, and at other army camps where Nisei soldiers trained, their intelligence, ability to comprehend modern warfare, innate Americanism, and exemplary conduct were soon recognized by their superior officers—and by the neighborhood residents. But aside from the isolated instances of Nisei heroism in North Africa, South Pacific and over Nazi skies, conclusive proof of their mettle under enemy fire was not yet. To the nation at war, when its very existence hung on a balance, the offer to fight, nay, not even the willingness to fight and die, was not enough. Only the ability to destroy enemy men and material by actual physical force counted. The confident War Department and the tolerant public waited.

(The following article was contributed especially for the Anniversary Issue of the IRRIGATOR, by a resident here. In this article he gives a graphic story of the Nisei men in uniform from the time of evacuation up until the present time. He writes of the deeds and results of the heroic action of the Nisei soldiers. The writer for personal reasons remains anonymous.—Ed. note.)

Quality Not Quantity

It was the quality, not the quantity, of their contribution that was unique. Those evacuated from the coast can never be led to believe, no matter how ingenious the argument, how flattering the explanation, or whatever the courts may decide, that the evacuation was an actual military necessity. It is from these evacuees and from the nine relocation centers that came a large portion of the soldiers comprising the Japanese American Combat Team.

100th In Action

The famous 100th Infantry Battalion first met its decisive test in Italy last autumn. Composed almost entirely of Hawaii Nisei, acting at times as a spearhead of the Fifth Army, these men immediately won the praise of their superiors and the respect of fellow American soldiers. Their succession of brilliant performances culminated in the presentation of the Presidential Citation last July for the entire unit. In addition to an array of individual decorations. Thus the 100th became the "most decorated" unit in the United States Army.

Even as the 100th, with ever-mounting casualties, continued to win position after position, objective after objective, the 442nd Infantry Regiment also of the combat team and composed mostly of mainland Nisei, entered into action a few months ago. War Department telegrams began to trickle into relocation centers and the war suddenly came close to us. The gallant performance of the Nisei soldiers did not go unnoticed by the American public. Over the air, on the screen, and in the press, the bravery and fighting skill of the Japanese American soldiers were unstintingly acclaimed. It would not detract from their glory to say that perhaps more radio time and press space have been devoted to Nisei military exploits

Faith In America

The time has come to renew our faith in America, and in our own future. The year of 1942 was a year of mass upheaval, with its concomitants of economic loss, disillusionment, despair and fear of the unknown. The ensuing year was one of confusion, highlighted by racial hearings and a legal battle. But 1944 has been the year of action—action under fire. Wit hit, the verbal protestation of 1943 have become no longer necessary, the rantings of patrioters less audible. Battle deeds of the Nisei soldier have begun to roll back the engulfing tide of misunderstanding; a cornerstone of Nisei participation in postwar American life has been laid.

Housing Division Keeps Busy Providing Shelter

Under the direction of the senior counselor, Miss A. L. Fite, the Housing Division handles the distribution, inventory, and collection of housing equipments such as cots, blankets, cleaning utensils, etc. Also, the necessary adjustments in the housing of all residents of the center are fulfilled by the Housing department.

H. Miura, housing supervisor, designates barracks to be partitioned into small units for the accommodation of families decreased in size, and in the preparation for mass transfers. He and C. Hashiguchi of the Housing Assignment Board, share the interviewing necessary for the assignment of apartments, the adjustment of housing problems.

The standard duties of the Housing division is only completed when the residents are reasonably well-adjusted in their housing arrangements, when all residents have the prescribed equipment, when movings are done promptly and efficiently, when government property is collected and protected, and when the files and records of assignments of apartments and issuance of equipment are complete and accurate.



The above cartoon was drawn by Takanaki Hirai, former IRRIGATOR artist, while he was recuperating from a shrapnel wound in his left arm suffered in action. He is in an army hospital in Italy. Through the courtesy of the receiver of the cartoon the IRRIGATOR brings to you the fighting man's version of meal time.

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THEIR PRICE

By Yuji Mochizuki

In the far flung foreign fighting fields,
Where Nisei Yanks drove hard,
White crosses glisten in the sun,
To mark our heroes' fall.

They wanted to live but they died to give
Equality as their plea.
They fought for you and me to live
In common decency.

They went through hell to keep you well
And build anew your dreams,
They gave no ground for their citadel,
Though bleeding, torn, and worn.

Let's cherish those that went beyond,
Their spirit is our common cause,
Let's pray for them! Let's not forget!
Our kind so far away.

As taps resound their call to rest,
Pray God he lie in peace.
They lost their love, their lives, their land,
To keep our records clean.

Though they will sleep forever,
On desolate, distant dirt,
The ideals for which they gave their lives,
Must carry home with force.

Best Wishes . . .

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**NISEI BLUEPRINT OF RELATIONS
WITH PEOPLE IN PACIFIC AREA**

(Continued from page 1)

crosscurrents and tendencies. A Challenge to America Many of the basic issues of the war and of the peace to follow are bound up in the ten relocation centers, from California to Arkansas, in which some 80,000 people of Japanese ancestry are living today. "If," as John Embree has said, "administrative problems involving a hundred thousand people can not be intelligently and democratically solved, how are we to solve the complex post-war problems of, say, Southeast Asia with its mixed population of a hundred million?"

The welfare of the center residents actually becomes of minor importance when measured against the vastly greater issues that are involved in this seemingly unimportant wartime "episode."

"It is doubtful," writes Dr. Robert Redfield, "if any deprivation of civil rights so sweeping and categorical as this has ever been performed under the war powers and justified by the courts." The very center of the problem, he points out, lies in the fact that the evacuation and confinement were done on a racial basis.

The ultimate effects of this action will be felt outside our country—in Asia, in the Pacific, throughout the vast area around the rim of the Pacific where a new world is emerging from this war. Whether we are to save these "young Americans with Asiatic faces" for the democratic way of life involves the vastly more important question of whether we are to extend and deepen this same way of life throughout the Pacific.

For our relations with this small group of 80,000 American citizens are, in miniature, a sketch or blueprint of our relations with all of the peoples in the Pacific area. It is the key to the complex problem of our relations with the people of a postwar Japan.

President Roosevelt's message to Congress of September 14, 1943, may be regarded as an official statement of federal policy on the relocation program:

"With the segregation of the displaced evacuees in a separate center, the War Relocation Authority proposes now to redouble its efforts to accomplish the relocation into normal homes and jobs in communities throughout the United States, but outside the evacuated area, of those Americans of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to this country has remained unshaken through the hardships of the evacuation which military necessity made unavoidable.

"In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war, it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate and equal treatment for the people of this minority, as of all other minorities."

This statement should be construed, not as a mere statement of policy by this administration, but as a solemn pledge spoken by the President in the name of the American people.

As long as the relocation centers are full of evacuees, we, as a nation, will be in a strange position: attempting to instill a respect for democracy behind barbed-wire fences; advocating principles that we fear to trust in action; trying to administer democratically a program that produces, in the centers themselves, antidemocratic

If, on the other hand, race bigotry gets the upper hand in this program, it can spell disaster. Already there is a dangerous tendency to regard the war in the Pacific as a racial war. Acts of reprisal toward the evacuees, harsh measures taken against them, only aid Japan in furthering her aim of racial war. Already Japan has made effective use of the evacuation program throughout the Far East, where it is constantly being cited as proof of racial bigotry in America.

As long as the relocation centers are full of evacuees, we, as a nation, will be in a strange position: attempting to instill a respect for democracy behind barbed-wire fences; advocating principles that we fear to trust in action; trying to administer democratically a program that produces, in the centers themselves, antidemocratic

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A POEM FOR A SOLDIER

You would not care to hear, if you could hear,
The phrases used by men to soften death,
The poet's fancies, orators' high words,
The sentiments that vanish with a breath.

You faced in death just as you faced in life
The final knowledge that some men must die
Because through death a nobler world is made—
It is not bought by men who sell and buy.

You now are one with those you knew and loved
Who died for men, who are by men forgot!
Their name is legion, but you little care:
Death did not fool you just as man did not!

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- Okawa, Takeshi
- Okazaki, Bill
- Okazaki, George
- Okazaki, Isao
- Okazaki, Keto
- Okazaki, Nobu
- Okazaki, Raizo
- Okazaki, Seiji
- Okazaki, Tom T.
- Okimoto, H. Yokimori
- Oki, Robert
- Okita, Frank
- Okita, Fred
- Okita, Kiyoto B.
- Okita, Morio
- Okita, Yoshito
- Okitsu, George
- Okubo, Howard Sunao
- Okura, George H.
- Okura, Hagima
- Okura, Paul Ralph
- Omaru, F. M.
- Omoto, Sadayoshi
- Omoto, Taketo
- Omura, George M.
- Onoda, Hideo
- Onodera, Satoru
- Onodera, Kaun
- Onodera, Ko
- Osaka, William Teizo
- Ota, Kenneth
- Ota, Shigeo
- Otagiri, George
- Otaki, Peter
- Ouchi, Albert
- OWada, Eddie Toshio
- Oyama, Kenny
- Oyama, Noboru
- Oyama, Takeo
- Oye, Tetsuya, Ted
- Ozaki, Masayuki
- Ozawa, Harry Hideo
- Ozawa, Roy T.
- Ozawa, Willim H.
- Ozima, Shigenobu
- Sadanaga, George
- Sadanaga, John Yoshito
- Sagami, Wakao
- Sagami, Yahachi
- Sagami, Yohei
- Saiki, Hideo
- Saito, Akira
- Saito, Billy
- Saito, George S.
- Saito, Isamu
- Saito, Isao
- Saito, Kasa
- Saito, Saburo
- Saito, Tsutomu
- Sakai, Paul J.
- Saito, Saburo
- Sakai, Sam Eiichi
- Sakai, Ted Tadao
- Sakai, Tom Shigeo
- Sakai, Toshio
- Sakamoto, Sunao Joe
- Sako, Sadao
- Sakuma, Atsusa
- Sakuma, George
- Sakuma, Isaac
- Sakuma, Satoru
- Sakuma, Shinobu
- Sakuma, Tsukasa
- Sakura, Chester
- Sakura, Howard
- Sameshima, Jack Makoto
- Sasaki, Eddie Takayasu
- Sasaki, Sam
- Sasaki, Thomas
- Sasao, Eiichi
- Sato, Bob Satoshi
- Sato, Hirofumi
- Sato, Hugh
- Sato, John
- Sato, Katsumi
- Sato, Kay M.
- Sato, Noboru Norman
- Sato, Roy
- Sato, Shin
- Sato, Tadao
- Sato, Tadashi
- Sato, Yukio
- Sawada, Fred H.
- Sawada, George
- Sekijima, Haruto
- Sekiya, Henry M.
- Semba, Ted
- Semba, Yutaka
- Senda, Kane
- Seto, Matthew
- Seto, Paul
- Setsuda, Richard H.
- Shibuya, Jack
- Shigehara, Ken
- Shimada, Bill
- Shimada, Mitsuyoshi
- Shimbo, Kenneth K.
- Shimizu, George
- Shimizu, Noboru
- Shimizu, Takeo
- Shimomura, Charles
- Shimomura, Michio
- Shimoyama, Alice (WAC)
- Shimoyama, Neba (WAC)
- Shimoyama, Seigo
- Shinoda, Michio
- Shiogi, Hood
- Shiohara, Frank
- Shiota Tokiji Frank
- Shirahama, Tadao
- Shirahama, Takeo
- Shoji, Mac S.
- Shoji, Shoji
- Shotani, Tamiji
- Soejima, Ben Jiro
- Somekawa, Carl K.
- Sono, Tom Fumio
- Sonoda, Jaxson
- Sugawara, Ben I.
- Sugimura, Jimmie Jitsuto
- Sugiura, James
- Suguro, Takeshi
- Sugawara, Ben
- Sumida, Hiroshi
- Sumida, Nobuyuki
- Sumimoto, Toshio
- Sumioka, Shigeo
- Sumita, Masaharu
- Sunamoto, Katsumi
- Sunamoto, Satoru Tony
- Suyama, Tome
- Suyetani, Shigemitsu
- Suzaka, John
- Suzuki, Jim
- Suzuki, George T.
- Suzuki, Masaharu
- Suzuki, Roy M.
- Suzuki, Yukio
- Tada, Kazuo
- Tada, Koji William
- Tada, Tatsumi
- Tahara, Willie
- Tahara, Yoshio
- Takagi, H.
- Takahashi, George E.
- Takahashi, Mitsuru
- Takahashi, Noby
- Takatsuka, August
- Takayoshi, Saburo
- Takeda, Jim
- Takekawa, Yutaka
- Takemoto, George Sadao
- Takemoto, Michel Y.
- Takemoto, Minoru
- Takemoto, Teruo
- Takemoto, Tom
- Takenaka, Fred
- Takenaga, Masami
- Takenaga, Sakon
- Takenaka, Fred Tetsuro
- Takeuchi, Robert Saburo
- Takeuchi, Shigeru
- Takeuchi, Shiro
- Takiguchi, Robert
- Takizawa, George
- Takizawa, John
- Tamaki, Paul Isamu
- Tambara, George Kazuna
- Tambara, Yoriaki
- Tamura, Harry
- Tamura, Hiroshi