



Charge Wounded Nisei Treated Like PWs

Japanese American Veterans Forced to Travel in Hold of Navy Transport Hayes

Investigation in Washington of Charges Started By Sen. Downey; Nisei Returning to Hawaii Declare Civilians Got Staterooms on Ship

WASHINGTON—An investigation of charges by 44 wounded American veterans of Japanese ancestry that they were "treated like prisoners" and forced to travel in the hold of the Navy transport President Hayes from San Francisco to Honolulu has been started here by Senator Sheridan Downey, D., Calif.

Senator Downey was informed that the Nisei veterans, nine of whom were amputees, were forced to travel in the hold of the ship while civilians occupied staterooms and cabins.

It was reported that investigation also was asked of charges by the Japanese Americans, all of whom are veterans of the 442nd Infantry's campaigns in Italy and France, that they were given only inadequate medical care while at Camp Stoneman, Calif., while awaiting shipment to Hawaii.

HONOLULU, T. H. — Forty-four wounded American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, combat veterans of campaigns in France and Italy, said on March 19 they were forced to travel to Hawaii in the hold of the transport President Hayes while civilians occupied staterooms and cabins.

All of the veterans wore the Purple Heart and nine had lost arms or legs.

One of the Nisei veterans was paralyzed from the waist down. A spokesman for the wounded Nisei soldiers expressed the hope that Congress would investigate the conditions under which they were forced to travel from San Francisco.

The soldiers asserted their troubles started when they arrived at Camp Stoneman, Calif., from Army general hospitals throughout the United States.

Sgt. Glenn Nakasone said that in 19 days at Stoneman he saw a nurse only twice and that patients were required to perform most of the chores themselves.

"Ward boys were not sufficiently trained to give the aid needed," said Nakasone, who lost a leg in Italy and expects to undergo another operation this week.

"The Army treated us like troops going overseas and the Navy handled us like prisoners," said Cpl. Robert Ikeda, another of the Nisei veterans who returned aboard the Hayes for final medical treatment and discharge in Hawaii.

Ikeda said conditions at Stoneman improved gradually. Other Nisei said they were given adequate medical attention, but that the food was far below the quality customarily given patients.

Sgt. James Mizunaka, who lost one leg, said the 44 veterans were ordered to Hawaii as a detachment of patients, not as troops, but that no provisions were made aboard the Hayes for their care.

The majority of the 44 wounded Japanese Americans were volunteers for the infantry combat team with which they fought in Italy.

Also aboard the President Hayes were 600 Navy replacements and 56 wives and 38 children of Navy personnel stationed in Hawaii.

Army officials in San Francisco said the men had been awaiting transportation to Hawaii for a month. One ship assigned to them proved on inspection to be unsatisfactory.

According to the Navy, Army transportation officers asked the Navy to provide room on a Hawaii-bound ship for a number of "ambulant patients, all capable of providing self-assistance." The Navy officials said the Army specified "troop class" travel for the patients.

"Troop class, which involves sleeping in canvas bunks and eating standing up, is customary for 'Class 4' patients, the Army Port of Embarkation declared.

Army POE officials said that eleven of the Nisei—including the

JACL Protests Treatment of Nisei Wounded on Ship

WASHINGTON—Mike M. Masaoka, national secretary of the Japanese American Citizens League, filed a protest with the War Department on March 20 regarding the treatment of 44 wounded veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who were forced to travel in the hold of a Navy transport between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Masaoka, who served overseas with the 442nd in Italy and France, requested an official War Department investigation and urged that other Nisei veterans being returned home to Hawaii be given the consideration due them as veterans of overseas action.

nine amputees—were assigned to sick bay while the others were put in a troop class hold with a 76-man capacity. Arrangements were made for them to eat at any time instead of having to stand in the chow line, the Army official declared. He also said that sheets, mattresses and pillow cases were provided for the men.

The Nisei complained bitterly about shipboard conditions upon their arrival in Honolulu, charging also they were kept below deck as the Hayes steamed into the harbor.

"If it hadn't been for buddies who helped me carry my tray I couldn't have eaten," said Pfc. Tsutomu Toyofuku, who had to remain in the hold although he had lost the use of his left arm.

The Nisei boarded the Hayes at noon on March 9 in San Francisco harbor. Shortly afterward a Navy lieutenant from the Navy's outbound passenger section made a routine inspection.

According to San Francisco reports, the lieutenant was "surprised" at the physical condition of the Nisei—so surprised he telephoned a friend who in turn called an Army doctor.

(The San Francisco Chronicle said on March 20 "it is not certain whether the 11 men sent to sick bay went there on orders of the ship's surgeon or those of the Army doctor who arrived in response to the call." Neither is it certain, the Chronicle said, whether the mess privileges and extra beddings were given the others on Army request or as an independent action of the Hayes' Navy commander.

(The Chronicle said that Army and Navy officials in San Francisco declared that the Army doctor interviewed and examined the men individually on the day of departure. It was reported that "all were found physically fit for the trip and all were determined to stay aboard the vessel in their eagerness to return home.")

In Honolulu, Pvt. Yoshita Yokono, one of the 44 wounded Nisei, had a comment.

"The war's over," he said. "Nobody gives a damn about soldiers."

Sgt. Tadao Hamamura, who lost a leg in Italy, said all originally were assigned to the hold, "but when we kicked up a fuss, the captain put all amputees in the sick bay. There still were men in the

As Mother Received Son's Medal of Honor



FORT MACARTHUR, Calif. — Mrs. Nawa Munemori is shown receiving the nation's highest award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor, which has been awarded posthumously to her son, Pfc. Sadao S. Munemori, Los Angeles,

who was killed in action with the Japanese American 442nd Combat Team in the final campaign of the war in Italy. Pfc. Munemori threw himself on a grenade to protect his buddies.—(Acme photo.)

Tule Lake, Last of Centers, Closed By Relocation Agency

KEO NAKAMA RULED INELIGIBLE FOR SWIMMING MEET

HONOLULU — Keo (Kiyoshi) Nakama, national AAU champion swimming star, was this week declared ineligible to compete in the Hawaiian AAU aquatic championships this weekend.

Nakama was disqualified because he is a paid physical education instructor at Farrington high school in Honolulu.

Clark Reveals Santa Fe Camp Will Be Closed

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Tom Clark announced on March 20 that the alien enemy internment camp at Santa Fe, New Mexico, would be closed on April 19.

Closing of the Santa Fe camp, following upon the closing of other Department of Justice camps at Bismarck, N. D., and Missoula, Mont., will leave only the Crystal City, Tex. camp under the department's jurisdiction.

Before the closing of the Santa Fe camp some 700 Japanese who have been interned there will be deported to Japan. The remainder of the persons now interned at Santa Fe will be transferred to Crystal City, a camp where the internees may live with members of their families. The 700 deportees include 500 persons of Japanese ancestry from Peru.

hold who should have been top-side."

The veterans took their complaints to Honolulu newspapers upon arrival in Hawaii.

"We want our buddies who'll return later to get better treatment than we did," Sgt. Nakasone stated.

New Interior Secretary Notes "Substantial Completion" Of Four-Year Resettlement Job

WASHINGTON—The closing of the War Relocation Authority's Tule Lake center at Newell, Calif., this week "marks the substantial completion of that agency's four-year wartime job," Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug declared on March 20.

Mr. Krug announced that the Tule Lake camp was closed as a place of residence with the departure of a final group of detainees and their family members who are being moved to a Department of Justice internment camp pending further review of their cases and possible deportation to Japan.

Dillon S. Myer, who has directed the WRA through all but the first three months of the agency's life, noted that the WRA was created by Executive Order four years ago on March 18, 1942, "to provide maintenance and useful employment for the people of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the West Coast military zone."

Mr. Myer noted that the WRA has exercised jurisdiction over a total of some 120,000 individuals. The peak population of its ten centers, however, was a little less than 108,000 in February, 1943.

The center at Jerome, Ark., was the first to be closed, shutting down operations in 1944. The ninth center was closed on Nov. 30, 1945, eleven months after the Army lifted its exclusion orders and the residents again became free to settle anywhere in the country.

It has been announced that certain of the WRA field relocation offices, particularly on the West Coast, will be maintained for another four to eight weeks to assist the more recent resettlers in making more permanent readjustments to life outside the centers. The Washington office of the Authority will complete its disposition of property and records and will

be closed by the end of the fiscal year.

Reviewing the history of the WRA, Secretary Krug indicated that before construction of the ten centers was complete, the WRA had already launched its program of relocating eligible individuals from among the group of persons who were evacuated from the restricted areas. Under that program, WRA assisted more than 109,300 individuals to leave the centers and resettle in normal American communities. This total includes 2,300 men who went directly into Army service from the relocation camps.

The WRA's records show that at the present time about 51,000 of the 109,300 relocated persons have settled away from their former home and that 57,500 are back in the West Coast states. Approximately 12,500 of those who have resettled east of the Mississippi are in Illinois. Other states which received substantial numbers of the evacuees include Colorado, 5,700; Utah, 5,300; Ohio, 4,200; Idaho, 3,600; Michigan, 2,900; New York, 2,400; New Jersey, 2,300, and Minnesota, 2,000.

The original group was swelled to 120,000 by evacuees from Hawaii, persons paroled to the centers from internment, births, and persons discharged from institutions.

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

EDITORIALS: Segregated Veterans

The wisdom of isolating American war veterans of minority race groups through the formation of separate posts of national veterans organizations like the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans is to be seriously questioned. During recent weeks the American Legion has chartered six separate Chinese American posts on the West Coast while Chinese American posts of the VFW and the DAV already have been formed. Similarly, the organization of Mexican American units of the American Legion have been announced. As for Negro Americans who face the terrible reality of Jim Crow in the Army itself, the Legion and the VFW already have set the pattern of segregation through the chartering of separate posts.

Up to this time there has been no activity toward the formation of separate Legion or VFW posts among Japanese Americans although the subject is high on the agenda of problems which Nisei veterans must one day consider. The subject currently is being debated in Spokane where wounded Nisei veterans have been denied membership in Post No. 51 of the VFW, although this post's attitude has been in opposition to views expressed by National VFW officers. Those in the Spokane VFW who do not wish to admit the Nisei have suggested that the Japanese Americans form a separate post in Spokane. Spady Koyama, who was seriously wounded on Leyte and who is one of the many Nisei rejected by the Spokane VFW, has described this suggestion for a separate post as an attempt by bigots in Post No. 51 to achieve the permanent segregation of Nisei veterans. "My answer is that if Post 51 can discriminate against us as individuals, they most certainly can hold the same view against us a segregated VFW post," the Nisei veteran declared.

It is a notable fact that not one of the new organizations of World War II veterans, which include the American Veterans Committee, the Amvets, the Veterans League of America and similar groups, has suggested the segregation of Nisei veterans. If the two major veterans organizations, the Legion and the VFW, prove hostile to the desire of Nisei and other minority veterans to join these groups and to participate in their activities, the Nisei may be forced to turn to the new World War II groups as many already have done on grounds of overall liberalism of the new organizations as compared to the Legion and VFW which often have espoused reactionary courses of political action.

The fate of the two Japanese American posts of World War I in the American Legion in California at the time of Pearl Harbor illustrates the vulnerability of segregated posts. With the outbreak of war the Legion's California department inactivated the charters of the two Japanese American posts, the Commodore Perry post in Los Angeles and the Townsend Harris post in San Francisco. These Japanese Americans who had fought in the First World War were literally kicked out of the Legion. It was not till after V-J Day that the California Legion reactivated the charters of the two Japanese American posts. There has been no indication up to this time that membership of these posts wish to revive the former organizations.

At this time those Nisei veterans who are joining veterans organizations have been signing up with the regular Legion and VFW posts and with the American Veterans Committee and other new World War II

groups. In most instances the eligibility of the Nisei for membership in the Legion and VFW has not been questioned but the recent activity of these largest groups in chartering separate posts for Chinese American and Mexican veterans indicate that the Nisei may soon be called on to face the question whether they, too, want to be segregated into separate posts.

The acceptance of segregation by minority groups can easily lead to further isolation of the group and the activation of restrictive standards in fields outside of veterans affairs.

GI Protests

"The war's over. Nobody gives a damn about soldiers."

With this cryptic comment, a Nisei American was home this week in Hawaii where he and forty-three other wounded American servicemen had returned aboard the President Hayes under what appeared to have been disgraceful conditions of neglect.

According to charges made after they arrived in Honolulu, the servicemen were given accommodations in the hold of the ship, were even kept below deck as the ship came into harbor. It was only after complaints were made that those among them who were amputee cases were put in the sick bay.

If these charges are true, and there seems no apparent reason for doubting them, the Army is guilty of gross neglect in its care of those servicemen who have already served their country, some so well that they will never again be whole.

The Japanese American Citizens League this week wired its protest to the U. S. Army, but not merely because these men are of Japanese ancestry. There can be no excuse now for a single case of neglect or ill-treatment of America's wounded servicemen. And whatever charges or complaints that such men make must be investigated thoroughly and not glossed over, as was apparently done by embarkation authorities in San Francisco when the treatment of the men became an issue.

Evacuation Reasons

Drawing its conclusions from a Federal Bureau of Investigation report for the past four years, the Sacramento Bee has declared in an editorial that "relocation was necessary."

The report, says the Bee, "ought to silence completely those people still inclined to question the wartime necessity of evacuating Japanese from Pacific coast states."

One thousand persons were arrested shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, says the Bee, quoting from the FBI report, and an additional 4500 others were arrested later, "thus bringing the score to approximately one of every 20 Japanese in the area either apprehended on the basis of actual evidence or subject to suspicion."

But two points the Sacramento Bee, and presumably the FBI also, fail to bring out are these:

No report is made on the number of the total 5500 Japanese arrested who were released after hearings were held. Actually, the great majority of these persons were released after hearing boards had thoroughly investigated them.

Nor does the Sacramento Bee point out that in not one single case was any of these persons brought to trial for treason or for any acts inimical to the interests of the United States.

But the major point in the entire sorry story of the evacuation is still missed by the Sacramento Bee.

If 5500 were arrested by the FBI, if not on evidence but on suspicion, at least, then certainly the possibility of Japanese sabotage was well in hand, and there remained no reason for the wholesale evacuation that followed.

Later evidence has shown that neither the FBI nor the Department of Justice itself favored the evacuation. It has been pointed out again and again that between the time of the December 7 attack and the evacuation there was an interval of four months, during which no acts of sabotage were attempted or occurred.

Accumulative evidence, mounting in the years after Pearl Harbor, shows conclusively that the evacuation was a costly process in men and money and that it was wholly unnecessary in view of the demonstrated loyalty of the citizens of Japanese descent.

Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

Hollywood and the Nisei

John T. McManus, film critic of the New York daily, PM, suggested last week that a story of the Nisei in the war would make "a swell movie." Mr. McManus took as his text an article written by Col. Wallace Moore of Army Intelligence for the current issue of Screen Actor, monthly publication of the Screen Actors Guild. In this article, written for motion picture players, Col. Moore told of the important part played by Nisei G-2 personnel in the Pacific war and the indispensable role of Japanese American language specialists in the occupation of Japan.

With perhaps a single exception Hollywood's references to the Nisei in films made during World War II and after have been derogatory. The exception is the recent Pine-Thomas production, "Tokyo Rose," which shows Nisei working as American agents inside Japan. On the other hand Hollywood has produced films which have been instrumental in the circulation of false charges of sabotage and treachery by Japanese Americans through such pictures as "Air Force," "Across the Pacific," "Little Tokyo, U. S. A." and "Betrayal from the East."

Although Hollywood has pictured the activities of scores of Nisei saboteurs who have had no real-life counterparts, the movies have yet to present the picture of a Nisei in uniform. (The newsreels, however, have had good coverage of the Nisei soldier in training and in combat.)

Of all of the mediums of information the movies have presented the most distorted picture of the Nisei, just as Hollywood film-makers have constantly refused to disregard racial stereotypes in their portrayal of members of many other racial groups. The press which long ago accepted the responsibility which is theirs in the shaping of community attitudes has presented much of the material which has been used to combat anti-Japanese American hysteria on the West Coast. Even the Hearst press, which played a race-baiting role during the anti-evacuee campaigns of 1943 and 1944, has published news stories of Nisei valor and the Los Angeles Examiner of the Hearst chain last week carried a big story on the award of the first Medal of Honor to a Japanese American.

Among information media the radio has done the most consistent job of fair reporting on problems affecting the Nisei. In addition, such radio programs as Arch Oboler's "The Family Nagashi" and Millard Lampell's hard-hitting script on "The Boy from Nebraska" indicate the job which the films could do in fighting against the sort of un-American hoodlumism which is typified by the many attacks on the homes of Nisei soldiers in California in 1945.

If some Hollywood producer were looking for a script for a production which would bear out Mr. McManus' idea of "a swell movie," the Oboler and Lampell radio plays are undoubtedly available. Arch Oboler's drama, presented last fall over the Mutual network, concerns the return of a veteran of the 442nd Infantry to his home in California. On the first night Ben Nagashi is home hoodlums attack the house. From this opening, Oboler uses the playwright's device of dramatic flashbacks to tell of the struggles of Ben Nagashi's immigrant parents, of Ben's own experiences in school and his love for his girl. In the end Ben, who is embittered by the attack, learns that his friends and neighbors also condemn the hoodlumism which has made him feel unwelcome in his own home town.

Millard Lampell's radio drama was one of a series sponsored by the Army Air Forces on the problems of returning servicemen. Using the story of Ben Kuroki, it tells of the problems of the Nisei GI come home. Incidentally, Ben Kuroki is working with Ralph D. Martin on a book which also is titled "The Boy from Nebraska" and which will be published this fall by Harper's. This book may be submitted to Hollywood studios, if any are interested in a film about the Nisei.

A feature film about a Nisei seems somewhat unlikely since Hollywood usually chooses its

stories to fit its stars and there are no outstanding Oriental stars in the movie firmament at the present time, although there are any number of featured and bit players, most of whom have been playing Japanese villains in the films produced since Pearl Harbor. If Sessue Hayakawa were thirty years younger and enjoyed the fame which was his a generation ago, Hollywood producers would welcome a Nisei story. Mr. Hayakawa who has been on the side of democracy throughout the war, according to reports, and living quietly in Paris, is expected to re-enter the film field in France where he has starred in such pictures as "The Battle" and "Yoshiwara." At the height of Hayakawa's popularity in America he appeared in various racial roles, including the Oriental and the American Indian.

PM's John McManus also believes that a Nisei movie would "provide honorable employment to hundreds of Oriental players in Hollywood who have rebelled all through the war at being cast as the world's villains." It has been reported previously that some of Hollywood's Chinese American actors have turned down roles, usually concerned with Japanese atrocities, which carried a racial identification-with brutality.

Nisei have not forgotten that Melvyn Douglas, who recently returned from overseas after three years of Army service, spoke up for fair play at a time when few other public figures in California were willing to back what was then an unpopular cause. Since that time such motion picture players as Joe E. Brown, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Gregory Peck, Ronald Reagan, Louise Allbritton and many others have spoken out for the Nisei at times when the return of the Japanese Americans to the West Coast was still a controversial issue.

One of the first California groups to speak out against the wave of terrorism against the return of the evacuees last year was the Hollywood unit of the National Citizens Political Action Committee (PAC), of which Mrs. William Dieterle, wife of the noted director, is chairman.

Some of the first job offers received by Nisei in relocation camps came from stars like Franchot Tone. A Nisei veteran who was refused reemployment by a studio got his old job back when Walter Winchell mentioned the studio's refusal on the air. In contrast, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is reported to have continued the salary of Eddie Imadzu, one of MGM's top art directors, while Imadzu was in the Arkansas relocation. Imadzu, who has been employed at MGM for more than twenty years, is back on the MGM lot. Edward Small, an independent producer, was one of the first of the studios to employ evacuees back from the WRA camps and other studios have since followed suit.

Unless a courageous, independent producer is found, however, the story of the Nisei in World War II, which has been told to Hollywood by Col. Moore, will remain untold on the screen. The fact that Col. Moore's article did appear in an influential film colony publication indicates that movie professionals are interested, just as Hollywood's actors, writers and directors have taken and are taking an important part in movements for social and economic justice in California and throughout the nation.

Relocation: Cleveland

CLEVELAND, O.—The War Relocation Authority will publish a directory of all resettlers in Greater Cleveland, according to Kaleidoscope. Assisting on the directory will be Fumi Yanagihara, Mary Yasunaga, Fumy Ebihara, Beatrice Burr, Miss Nicodemus, Mrs. Barber, Reverend and Mrs. Toriumi, Jimmy Akiya, Henry Kuwaye, George Obata and Tats Yasaki. Five Nisei are residents at the Roosevelt Student Co-operative House, an inter-racial co-op home. House president is Sachi Fukiage of Yakima, Washington.

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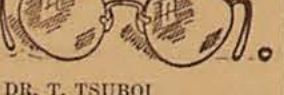
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Wedding Shower

LEMON GROVE, Calif.—Twenty-three friends of the Tamotau Kidas gave the young couple a surprise wedding shower and housewarming to welcome them back to Lemon Grove on March 17.

Present were Abe Takehara, Fusae Kida, Wayne Anderson, Wilbur Livesey, Myra Viau, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Denlinger, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Denlinger, Mr. and Mrs. George Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hohman, Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Bollman, Mr. and Mrs. I. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Bob White, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hamilton and Mr. and Mrs. Don Osgood.

OKADA-HINO RITES

NEW YORK CITY—More than 200 guests attended the wedding of Miss Akiko Hino and Mr. Stanley Okada on Sunday, March 3, at the New York Buddhist church with the Rev. Hozen Seki officiating. Attending the bride was Mrs. Hozen Seki, and Mr. Kiyoshi Yamashita was best man. Hiroshi Yamamoto, Henry Tanabe, the Rev. Newton Ishiura and N. Nobumoto were the ushers. Mr. Okada is the executive director of the New York Buddhist church and is on the Yale university faculty. Miss Hino is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Yoshio Hino of Honolulu.

Salt Lake City Bowlers Dominate Pocatello Tourney

POCATELLO, Ida.—Salt Lake City took most of the honors in the Pocatello JACL Nisei Bowling tournament held March 16 and 17 in Pocatello with first place awards in the men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles and individual high game entries.

The Idaho Wolves placed first in the team matches, with the Salt Lake City team placing second and the Pocatello O. C. Market third. The Wolves scored 2295 points, with Salt Lake City scoring 2258 and Pocatello O. C. scoring 2208.

Dr. Jun Kurumada of Salt Lake City scored a 239 game to take individual high game honors.

Dr. Kurumada also teamed with Tad Sako to take first place in the men's doubles with a score of 1069 for their three games.

Jun Uyeda and Speed Nukaya of Idaho Falls placed second with a total of 1016 pins, and Steve Sato and Ivan Ogata of Pocatello took third place honors with 1005.

Bob Sakai of Salt Lake City took first in the men's singles with 538 pins, followed by George Hiroto of Pocatello, 515, and Mits Kasai of Idaho Falls, 491.

Steve Sato of Pocatello, Idaho, and Bertha Tanimine of Salt Lake City placed first in the mixed doubles with a total of 863 points. Sato bowled a 573 series, while his partner bowled 290. Second place was taken by Shige Tanabe and Isa Morimoto of Pocatello with 433 and 417 scores respectively. Paul Okamura of Pocatello and Uta Tsujimoto of Salt Lake City took third place with 413 and 429.

Miss Tsujimoto also placed first in the women's singles with a 446 series. She was followed by Shige Tanabe of Pocatello, 405, and Amy Kawamura of Pocatello, 400.

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Nisei Girl in Japan Seeks Whereabouts of Parents in U.S.

SACRAMENTO — "Say, fella, have you ever been to Sacramento, California?"

This question, says the Sacramento Bee, is asked of every marine she meets by 20-year-old Mitsuko Sakai in Nagasaki, who haunts places where she might find a marine from Sacramento who might give her information about her parents, who lived in Clarksburg, California, before they were evacuated from the west coast.

Miss Sakai lived in Clarksburg until 1940, when she was sent to Japan.

She told a marine corps reporter that she has lost all trace of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gonzo Sakai, and she is anxious to let them know she is safe and well and is trying to arrange an early return to the United States.

When she completed her sophomore year in the Clarksburg High school, it was decided that she and her older sister should go to Japan for a summer visit with their grandparents in Kumamoto, Kyushu. Once they arrived, however, their grandfather opposed their return to the United States. Later the elder sister returned home, but Mitsuko was detained.

"I think," she said, "my grandfather thought that by keeping me here he could influence my parents to return to Japan."

Her grandparents died during the war and she is now making her home with an uncle and aunt.

WRA Secretary Given Gift, Farewell Party

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Mrs. Tad Kitazumi, WRA secretary in Indianapolis, was honored at a farewell party recently at the home of Mary Miyasaki.

In appreciation for her services, the WRA advisory board of this city presented her with an inscribed wrist watch and a scroll bearing the names of all the guests. Mrs. Howard Baumgartel made the presentation in behalf of the committee.

Guests were Messrs. and Meses. H. Baumgartel, P. F. Goodrich, J. B. Hunter, Norman Ishii, H. Nyhart, Carl Piel, James Sugioka, Tome Takayoshi, Kay Takayoshi, Yosh Takayoshi and George Terakoka; Messrs. Roland Allen, Tad Kitazumi, J. Oda, T. Ushiyama; and the Misses Frances Kitazumi, Jessie M. Trout and Kimi and Yoshie Murotsuki.

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Japanese Americans Escort German POWs to Homeland

PENINSULAR BASE SECTION HEADQUARTERS, LEGHORN, Italy—In addition to other duties and assignments in the 442nd Infantry Regiment, many officers of the Regiment are often selected by the Peninsular Base Section Headquarters (PBS) in Leghorn, Italy, to assignments which carry them into the heart of war-torn Germany.

Their primary duties are that of Train and Guard Commanders of an escort train consisting of over 40 box cars filled with over 1,000 German-POW's and war repatriates.

The duty of Train and Guard Commander of such an escort is one of many responsibilities. It is befitting that such a responsible position is given to an officer of the 442nd Infantry Regiment. Even though the enlisted men guards are from other units in this area, they respect and speak of the officers from the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team as "good Joes."

At present the German POW's which the members of the 442nd have been guarding since the termination of the war are returning home by the thousands weekly.

The route of an escort train is uncertain for there are many lay-overs and stops before reaching the final destination.

All along the route through the heart of Italy, through the Brenner Pass into the French Occupation Zone in Austria and into Germany one observes the ravages of war in the complete destruction of railroad yards, communication lines, bridges and other vital installations.

The feelings of the ex-German soldiers of that once famous blitz Wehrmacht of Hitler's upon seeing their home country after years of plundering and pillaging the less stable countries of Europe, is one of joy mingled with uncertainty as they get fleeting glimpses of the destruction wrought by the Allied Forces upon their land. Yet they are returning back home physically fit, to prove themselves as men, equal to live among the peace-loving peoples whom they have beaten a few years ago.

Recently, Second Lieutenant George M. Komachi, Executive Officer of Company I, 442nd Infantry, was in charge of a contingent of German POW's. He was train and Guard Commander for one of the largest shipments of German POW's to leave from this area to Germany. In a six day tour of duty, Lieutenant Komachi assumed the leadership and responsibility of over 1,000 prisoners until they were released to the Third Army troops in Hamberg, Germany.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Kiyoshi Tamano, Sacramento, Calif., a boy on March 5.

To Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hayayama a girl on Feb. 12 in Selma, Calif.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yasuo Koyanagi a boy on Feb. 13 in Selma, Calif.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mits Saita a boy on Feb. 28 in Selma, Calif.

To Sgt. and Mrs. George Tanaka a girl, Kathleen Jo, on Feb. 11 in Passaic, N. J.

To Mr. and Mrs. Willie Jobe a To Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Yamasaki, New York City, a girl, Ruth Michi, on Feb. 28.

DEATHS

Shizuyo Nakamura (Mrs. Yoshisuke Nakamura) on March 14 in San Francisco.

Jisuke Yamada on March 10 at Santa Ana, Calif.

Tomesuke Sakiyama, 63 on March 13 at Temple City, Calif.

MARRIAGES

Lily Yuriko Uyematsu to George K. Uyeda on Feb. 17 in Chicago.

Kumi Kato to Masaru Kotake on Jan. 24 in Tule Lake.

Akiko Nishimoto to Kaoru Yagi on March 17 at Los Angeles.

Emi Katayama to Joe Yamaki on March 10 in Salt Lake City.

Grace Sato to Ted Matsunaga on March 3 in New York City.

Engagement

FRESNO, Calif.—At a dinner attended by close friends and relatives on Feb. 27, Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Nagata of Fresno announced the engagement of their eldest daughter, Kiyoko Mary, to Mr. Joe Katsuki, son of Mr. K. Tanaka of Provo, Utah. The wedding has been set for March 30.

Former Hunt Evacuee Ruled Sane at Hearing

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — Masao Hattori, 19, was ruled sane at a sanity hearing on March 12 and will face a felony indictment on a statutory charge during the next term of district court. Hattori, former resident of the Minidoka relocation center, was given a preliminary hearing last week.

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Ohki Elected Head Of Livingston Group

LIVINGSTON, Calif.—Robert Ohki was elected president last week at the reorganization meeting of the Japanese American Young People's Christian Federation.

New officers include Mamoru Masuda, Janet Tsuchiya, Violet Masuda, Mae Yamaguchi and Annie Ohki.

Pardon Me...



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