

# Navy Opens Ranks to Japanese Americans

## PACIFIC CITIZEN



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### Disclose Administrative Order Issued Opening Enlistments In Any Branch of Naval Service

American Veterans Committee Calls Off Proposed Delegation to Washington on Behalf of Nisei; Admiral Nimitz Approves New Navy Policy

WASHINGTON—The Navy Department announced on Nov. 14 it is accepting enlistments of citizens of Japanese descent in the Navy, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

It was reported that an administrative order was issued "a week or ten days ago" opening enlistments to Japanese Americans in any kind of service.

The spokesman was unable to say whether any enlistments had been taken nor the reason for the order. It ended a Navy policy set forth early in World War II.

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, said in a letter released on Nov. 9 that he had no personal objections to receiving Japanese Americans in the Navy.

The letter, made public by the Japanese American Citizens League as a reply to a request for comment on the naval policy stated:

"The Navy policy of non-acceptance of such citizens was promulgated as a matter of general expediency early in the war. . . . Such a policy is always subject to reevaluation."

By FRANCES BORDEN

NEW YORK—Reversal of the Navy's restriction barring Americans of Japanese ancestry from serving with that branch of service was learned on Nov. 14 through release of letters to the American Veterans Committee, an organization of World War II veterans, from Sen. David I. Walsh, chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs.

The U. S. Navy hitherto was the only department of the government to bar service of Nisei and had a record of repeated refusal against their admission. After a request from Charles Bolte, national chairman of the American Veterans Committee (AVC), that the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs take the initiative in amending "this fundamentally un-American doctrine," Sen. Walsh communicated with Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal.

Sen. Walsh forwarded Secretary Forrestal's reply to Mr. Bolte on Nov. 14.

In his letter to Sen. Walsh, Secretary Forrestal stated:

"In regard to taking into the Navy Americans of Japanese ancestry, I have delayed answering as I wanted to take the matter up with Admiral Nimitz when he visited Washington. He asked that I withhold action until he returned to the Pacific and was able to give me the necessary information after consulting with his staff. He now informs me that he has no objection to taking these men in. In fact, he thinks it would be an excellent idea. Accordingly, I am taking the necessary action to authorize the enlisting in the Navy of men of Japanese ancestry."

About a month ago, on behalf of the national planning committee of the AVC, Mr. Bolte pointed out to Sen. Walsh the indefensibility of the Navy's position in barring American citizens of Japanese ancestry. At this time the AVC chairman requested that the Committee on Naval Affairs take the initiative in securing a change of policy. Stating that it was perhaps possible to sympathize with the Navy's point of view while the war was on, Mr. Bolte declared that it was not possible to sympathize with it in peacetime after Japanese Americans had proved themselves loyal American citizens by serving their country so well in war.

Mr. Bolte added that if the policy of discrimination had been continued it would have meant the acceptance on our part of the "false doctrines of racial differences spread by our German and Japanese enemies."

Sen. Walsh replied to Mr. Bolte in a letter which declared:

"I did not know until I received your letter that the Navy Department bars the service of any American of Japanese ancestry and I will be pleased to take the matter up with the Navy Department."

At the national headquarters of the AVC (554 Madison Ave., New York 22) it was announced that the Navy action rescinding its ban against Japanese Americans made unnecessary a delegation to Washington which was to have been sponsored by the American Veterans Committee.

### Sgt. Ben Kuroki to Speak on "Town Meeting of the Air"

NEW YORK—Tech. Sgt. Ben Kuroki of Hershey, Neb., Army Air Forces veteran of 58 heavy combat missions over North Africa, Europe and Japan, will be one of the four main speakers on America's Town Meeting of the Air on Thanksgiving night, Nov. 22.

Sgt. Kuroki will speak from Town Hall in New York on the subject, "We Won the War, Are We Winning the Peace." Other speakers will be Senator Charles Tobey of New Hampshire, Herbert V. Evatt, Australian Minister of State for External Af-

airs, and Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review of Literature.

The broadcast will be heard nationally over stations of the American Broadcasting Company.

Sgt. Kuroki will also appear on Dec. 5 at the huge Army Air Forces Rehabilitation program at Mitchell Field, New York.

The Japanese American veteran, who has 128 discharge points, expects to receive his discharge papers at Bolling Field, Washington, D. C., within a month.

### 1000 Tule Lake Renunciants Enter Suit to Regain Rights

Nisei Served With Marines Despite Wartime Ban

NEW YORK—Now that the Navy and the Marine Corps have been opened to Americans of Japanese ancestry this story can be told:

During World War II when the Marine Corps was closed to the Nisei, an American of Japanese ancestry fought with the Marines at Guadalcanal and compiled a distinguished record of service with beachhead units.

It is said that this Marine was not aware that Navy Department policy barred him from service.

When the story was known and the WRA tried to get it published, Marine "brass" threatened to discharge the Japanese American if the story was released.

In addition to the Nisei a number of Japanese American soldiers attached to Army intelligence were assigned to Marine units as language specialists and participated in Marine landings at Tarawa, Iwo Jima and at Okinawa.

### Evacuee Group Leaves Seattle For Hawaii

U. P. Reports 3000 Greeted Returnees At Honolulu Dock

SEATTLE—Returning to their homes in Hawaii after being interned or relocated in the United States during the war, 448 Japanese left Seattle on the Army Transport Yarmouth on Nov. 7.

(The United Press reported from Honolulu on Nov. 14 that the Army transport Yarmouth arrived on that date from Seattle. The U. P. said more than 3,000 persons jammed the docks to greet the returnees, many of whom have been separated from their families for more than three years.)

(Many of the men returning from internment camps were greeted by sons and daughters wearing U. S. Army uniforms, the report added. The group was the first large one to return to Hawaii. Another large group is expected next month.)

The group included 326 internees and 122 evacuees from relocation centers.

All men, the internees were lawyers, ministers and businessmen before the war.

Army personnel, assigned to duty in Hawaii, were also aboard.

### NATIVE SONS WANT RELOCATION CAMPS TO BE KEPT OPEN

LOS ANGELES—The Native Sons of the Golden West, through Walter H. Odemar of Los Angeles, petitioned the California Congressional delegation to postpone the closing of the war relocation centers.

The Native Sons asked that veterans be given preference over returning evacuees of Japanese ancestry in housing in California.

Odemar, chairman of the organization's Japanese legislation committee, made public a letter he had sent the senators and congressmen pointing out that the War Relocation Authority is procuring Army trailers and barracks for the use of Japanese Americans returning from the camps.

### Mass Petitions Filed in U. S. Court Charging Duress from Government, Seditious Groups

Action Initiated by Segregues to Prevent Deportation to Japan; Suits Reveal Existence Of Active Pro-Japanese Minority at WRA Camp

SAN FRANCISCO—More than one thousand Japanese residents of the Tule Lake center in Northern California who renounced their United States citizenship on Nov. 13 sought release from detention by filing two mass petitions for writs of habeas corpus in the United States District Court in San Francisco, charging they are the victims of duress by the government and seditious groups.

Two additional suits by the same persons were also filed seeking cancellation of their renunciation of citizenship, declaration by the court of their United States nationality and an injunction to restrain the Justice Department from carrying out its announced plan of deporting them to Japan as aliens. The suits were filed by Wayne M. Collins of San Francisco and A. L. Wirin of Los Angeles as private attorneys for the group, with the full support of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, of which Ernest Besig is chairman.

Named as respondent in the habeas corpus proceedings is Ivan Williams, as Officer-in-Charge of the Tule Lake Center for the Justice Department. In the other suits, besides Ivan Williams, the respondents are Tom Clark, Attorney General, Frank Hennessy, United States Attorney, James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State, Fred Vinson, Secretary of the Treasury, Ugo Carusi, Commissioner of Immigration, Irving M. Wixon, District Director of Immigration & Naturalization, James Markham, Alien Property Custodian, and Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior.

Following the presentation of the suit, Federal Judge A. F. St. Sure quickly issued an order, returnable Dec. 10, directing Ivan Williams, Department of Justice official at Tule Lake, to appear in court and show cause why a habeas corpus writ should not be issued.

The suits charge that the renunciators of citizenship were not free acts but were compelled both by governmental duress and by "fanatically pro-Japanese" groups and individuals whom the government knowingly allowed to carry on a campaign of violence, terrorism and sedition which was calculated to force loyal American citizens to renounce their citizenship. Three Japanese nationalistic organizations, the Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan, made up of the older men, Hokoku Seinen Dan, a group of younger men, and a girls' organization, Hokeku Joshi Dan, were allegedly allowed to operate and to engage in semi-military drill and to carry on their seditious program and terroristic activities without any effort being made by the Justice Department to put a legal stop to their criminal activities.

Specifically, these groups, among other things, were charged with the preaching and practice of sedition and openly espousing the cause of Japan; operation of goon squads and maintenance of a veritable reign of terror at the center at the time renunciation hearings were in progress; threatening acts of physical violence against all who dared oppose their program; threatening physical harm to relatives of non-renunciators residing in Japan; the filing of spurious letters requesting applications for renuncia-

tion and then claiming that the government was demanding that the recipients renounce their citizenship; and the maintenance of coaching schools to coach renunciators on false answers they should give at the hearings on their renunciation applications.

The government, according to the petitions, was "aware and knew" of these lawless activities, "but condoned the same and was responsible for, and actually aided and abetted the same by permitting such activities and by failing to arrest and prosecute the leaders and active members thereof and to put a stop to their criminal activities and lawlessness and by failing to invoke the federal sedition and espionage laws or other criminal laws against them and by failing to segregate such criminal elements from the petitioners and other loyal internees and to isolate them."

The governmental duress against the petitioners was alleged to consist of racial discrimination marked by their "unlawful imprisonment" in concentration camps for three and one-half (3½) years; denying citizenship rights by classifying and treating the males as aliens under the Selective Service Act; leading petitioners to believe that the government intended to deport their alien parents while detaining them here, thereby disuniting families and impelling alien parents who feared the splitting of their families, to coerce their citizen children into signing renunciation applications; leading petitioners to believe that signing of renunciations was a prerequisite to their right and the right of their families to remain in the protective security of the center and from being thrown back into communities "where hostility to persons of Japanese ancestry reigned and where they feared they would suffer great physical harm and probable loss of life from lawless elements;" and compelling certain petitioners who had been released from confinement to make the choice of an involuntary banishment from the United States in order to preserve the unity of their families.

The more than 1,000 Nisei renunciators who have brought suits are among the 4,300 who renounced their citizenship between January and March of this year under a statute enacted a year ago which for the first time in the history of the country permits citizens resident in this country to renounce their citizenship during wartime, if in the opinion of the Attorney General such renunciation would not interfere with the national defense. While the Department of Justice expected only 1,000 persons to renounce their United States citizenship, the seditious activities of the Japanese nationalistic groups, alleged governmental coercion and the mass hysteria which swept the Center resulted in an unexpected 4,300 renunciations. Every renunciation has been approved by the Attorney General, even in cases where the petitioners sought to cancel their applications prior to approval. The 4,300 renunciators include hundreds of boys and girls between the ages of 18 and 21. These children, it is asserted, were coerced into renouncing by their alien parents who were led

(Continued on page 2)

## Southern Pacific Railroad Takes Stand Against Racial Intolerance in Placer County

Refuses Request of California Preservation Group To Remove Workers of Japanese Ancestry from Placer Area; Says Move Would Delay GI Trains

SAN FRANCISCO—The Southern Pacific Railroad this week took a decisive stand against racial intolerance and announced "it could not reasonably grant the request of a group of Placer county residents for removal of eight Japanese section hands from Clipper Gap."

Last week the Southern Pacific had announced it would remove a group of Japanese track workers from Shingle Springs, El Dorado county, as quickly as possible "to avoid any acute situation or local difficulty." The railroad's statement followed a protest from the American Legion post at Placerville, seat of El Dorado county.

In the Placer County situation members of the California Preservation Association (formerly the Placer County Anti-Japanese League) in Auburn had telegraphed Southern Pacific President A. T. Mercier to the effect that "sentiment in Placer county is against return of Japanese" and demanded "immediate cancellation of the plan" to employ workers of Japanese ancestry in Placer county.

The railroad's answer said that the eight workers of Japanese descent would not be discharged.

"All of the small number of Japanese now being employed by the Southern Pacific have been certified as 'loyal' by the United States government," the statement said.

The company's statement also declared that thousands of Mexican nationals who were permitted to come to this country during the war to help relieve the manpower shortage now are being repatriated, making the need for track workers more critical than before.

The railroad asserted that the removal of the "Japanese workers" would "impede transportation of returning Pacific war veterans."

Charles de Costa, State president of the California Preservation Association and an Auburn businessman, indicated that his group was not satisfied with the railroad's answer.

De Costa declared that new protests are being planned by his organization if the railroad does not remove the workers.

"We do not want Japanese in Placer county," de Costa said.

He said his organization is now circulating a petition protesting against the railroad's action in placing workers of Japanese ancestry in the county.

## Vandals Fire Into Nisei Nursery In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Robert K. Goka, Nisei nurseryman, reported to police on Nov. 2 that his showplace nursery on Wilshire boulevard had been the object of an attack by vandals who had fired two small caliber bullets through the front plate glass windows and also had thrown rocks at the neon sign, putting it out of commission.

Goka also reported that panes of glass in his hothouse had been broken by rocks.

## California VFW Protests Use Of Camp Kohler

Temporary Housing For Evacuees Rapped By State Official

SAN FRANCISCO—The Veterans of Foreign Wars in California this week protested the use of Army barracks at Camp Kohler near Sacramento to provide temporary housing for returning evacuees of Japanese ancestry.

The protest was made by Frank M. Jordan, Secretary of State of California who is also the chairman of the Postwar Planning Committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Meanwhile the first group of returning evacuees arrived at Camp Kohler on Nov. 9. Additional groups have arrived and are being housed at the Air Forces installation.

Jordan made his protest in a wire to Rep. B. W. Gearhart of Fresno.

He said that Japanese American evacuees should not be allowed to use the camp buildings until "all returning veterans are provided with proper housing facilities."

Other protests have been filed by the American Legion post in Sacramento and the Eagles.

WRA officials expect to house 234 persons temporarily at Camp Kohler.

## Tule Lake Ex-Citizens File Suits to Regain U. S. Rights

(Continued from page 1)  
to believe they would be deported, and thus separated from their citizen children. Today, those aliens are permitted to leave the Tule Lake Center "and return to their former homes while the government holds their children." It is claimed that the government was without authority to accept renunciations of citizenship from minors. The Justice Department has announced that all of the renunciations will be deported to Japan, and that the deportation program will start on November 15. The present suits have been filed at this time in order to prevent those who suffered from duress from being deported.

Besides the cases of children separated from their parents, the suits allege there are many other hardship cases among the 4,300 renunciations, "including those of our soldiers of Japanese ancestry returning from the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific who have parents, wives, sisters, brothers, or children interned in said Center and scheduled for deportation to Japan." A letter attached to the petitions claims, among other things, that the Justice Department even accepted renunciations from insane persons.

The suits challenge the constitutionality of the statute permitting renunciation of citizenship during wartime, as well as the Alien Enemy Act of 1798 under which the government seeks to deport the renunciations, and which

has never been passed upon by the Supreme Court. The latter law is attacked particularly because it makes no provision for a hearing of any kind or even a notice of deportation, and also on the ground that it is not applicable after hostilities have ceased.

One of the most important questions raised by the petitions is the effect renunciation has upon the nationality of a person who renounces his citizenship. The petition asserts that even if it should be held that the renunciations are valid, "none of the petitioners thereby became an alien enemy within the meaning and provisions of the Alien Enemy Act but became a mere inhabitant of the country and a stateless person entitled to remain here . . . and to be free from detention under the Act."

## T/5 Masao Mizokami Given Army Discharge

T/5 Masao R. Mizokami, husband of Mrs. Tomiko Mizokami of Pasadena, California, was discharged from the Army at the Fort Douglas separation center on Nov. 11 under the adjusted service rating plan.

Prior to entering the Army on June 1, 1943, T/5 Mizokami was employed as an insurance salesman in Monterey, California.

His wife, the former Tomiko Inouye, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. Inouye of Pasadena.

## 100th Commander Visits Wounded Men



DENVER, Colo.—Col. Gordon Singles, former commanding officer of the 100th Infantry Battalion, visited wounded veterans of the 100th Battalion at Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver on October 22.

The men in the photo served with Col. Singles in Italy and France. They are (left to right): Pfc. Kenneth Nunogawa, Honolulu; Pfc. Kiyoshi Shimizu, Mountain View, Hawaii; Col. Singles; Pfc. Yamato Kawachi, Hilo, Hawaii; Pfc. George Morita, Greeley, Colo.; and, Staff Sgt. Satoru Okamura, Kauai.

Col. Singles wears the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Croix de Guerre and a presidential citation awarded the Japanese American battalion.

## Japanese American Engineer Battalion Honored for Work In Hawaii During Pacific War

Nisei Troops Prepared, Maintained Combat Course Which Trained GIs

HONOLULU — The work of a special Japanese American army unit in Hawaii was revealed recently when the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion was awarded a Meritorious Service Unit plaque by Maj. Gen. Henry T. Burgin, commanding general of the Central Pacific base command, "for superior performance and record of accomplishment and exceptional devotion to duty."

The 1399th was the only Japanese American unit of battalion proportions which saw service in the Pacific Ocean Areas in the war against Japan.

The plaque was presented to the battalion on Oct. 28 by Colonel H. Chorpene, commanding officer of construction service, CPBC, at a review of the troops at Schofield Barracks.

(The entire enlisted personnel of the 1399th was composed of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, many of whom were volunteers for the 442nd Combat Team but who were assigned to the 1399th because they were skilled in some branch of engineering and construction.)

(The battalion did the bulk of the Army's construction work on Oahu and became so well known that every major Army project and every "hurry-up" project became theirs.)

(The Japanese American battalion was alerted for assignment to Saipan last year and Okinawa this year but was dropped from the sailing list at the last hour because they were considered "essential and indispensable to island maintenance.")

(The only Nisei commissioned officer with the battalion was Captain William S. Ito, battalion medical officer from Portland, Ore.)

Col. Chorpene paid high tribute to the 1399th Engineers saying:

"The jobs you have been given have been done and done well. And, what is more, done on time. You have been a real credit to

the Corps of Engineers and to the Army. This plaque is a proper recognition of the work you have done."

Since its activation the 1399th Engineers completed 54 major projects of almost every type of construction. Work completed included installation of drainage, sewage and water supply system; construction of ammunition storage handling facilities, bath houses and incinerators, barracks and warehouses, mess and recreation halls, and the maintenance and repair of highways, bridges, airfields, camp facilities and various other types of engineering.

The birth of the organization dates back to March 26, 1942, and was called the engineer provisional battalion, commanded by Capt. Melvin C. Helfers. In October of the same year, it was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 370th Engineer Regiment. In April, 1934, the battalion was given its present name and Lieut. Col. Frank Bueche was appointed commander. Lieut. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Jr., commanding general of Army forces in the middle Pacific, has commended the Japanese American battalion for its "fine job" at Schofield Barracks.

The Battalion built and maintained the three courses for the Pacific combat training center at Kaawa, on windward Oahu, where 300,000 men learned how to fight and live in the jungles of the Pacific, a major factor in the Army's victories over the Japanese. There, under the expert guidance of Col. William C. Saffarans, these Nisei troops duplicated Japanese pill boxes and native villages, obstacles and tank traps.

Evidence of the teamwork typical of the men of the 1399th Engineers is the battalion's athletic record. Known as the "Chowhounds," they have taken the post softball championship, and have captured boxing, wrestling and tennis championships.

## S/Sergeant Yabu Visits in Seattle

SEATTLE, Wash. — A former resident of Seattle, Staff Sergeant Harry Yabu, is presently visiting his family and friends in this city while on a 40-day furlough before reporting to Fort Snelling.

## California Files Escheat Suit In Fresno Area

Charge Violation Of State Legislation On Alien Ownership

FRESNO, Calif.—Charging violation of the anti-alien property law, the State of California has filed a complaint to escheat 60 acres of farming land near Lac Jac which is owned by Alice Nakao Morishita and her brother, Shinobu Nakao.

The State's complaint contends that the actual owners of the land are the parents of the Nisei, Takahi and Taki Nakao, both Japanese subjects.

The complaint filed by Deputy Attorney General Everett Mattoon and Deputy District Attorney Arthur Drew alleges that the property was deeded in 1916 to the two nominal owners by J. H. and Ruby V. Herring, but sets forth the two recipients of the deed then were infants.

The State asserts the deed represents a subterfuge as the Nakao's since then have occupied and managed the lands.

## Nisei Student Win Scholarship Honors

CRETE, Neb.—Among the 19 students to receive certificates of honorable mention at the annual Honors Convention on Nov. 8, at Doane College, Crete, Neb., were Miss Kiku Fuyuyama, Miss Kiyoko Kikuchi and Miss Elinor Umezawa.

Also these students were among the five to be awarded the title of Doane Scholars, which is given to those of senior standing who have maintained for the past three years a scholarship average of 2.5, which is equivalent to an A-minus.

Miss Fukuyama is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Fukuyama of Los Angeles; Miss Kikuchi is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Kikuchi of Chicago, and Miss Umezawa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Byko Umezawa of Denver.

## Nisei Establishes Dressmaking Shop

MADISON, Wis. — First Nisei resettler to establish a business here, Miss Mary Shimasaki has announced the recent opening of "Mary's Dressmaking Shop," at 221 Wisconsin avenue, Madison 3. Miss Shimasaki, who has a rapidly growing clientele, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. U. Shimasaki. The family, formerly of Auburn, Wash., and the Heart Mountain Relocation Project, purchased a farm on the outskirts of Madison earlier this year.

# WRA Closes Heart Mountain, Gila Centers

## Arizona Camp Emptied Before Deadline Date

Hawaiian Group Is Last to Depart From Gila River

RIVERS, Ariz.—The Gila River Center at Rivers went out of business as a relocation center on November 10, 1945, five days before scheduled closing, when 155 Hawaiians passed through the project gate. This last group of evacuees is enroute to the port of embarkation at Los Angeles and it is expected they will sail for Hawaii on November 26. Relocation of all evacuees has been without incident and with the utmost cooperation and assistance of the evacuees.

Total admissions to the center were 16,658 including direct entries from other assembly centers, free zone transfers from other centers, 661 births and 66 assignments which did not enter the center.

Deaths totaled 221. Of the total number relocated, more than half have gone to the middle west, east and Rocky Mountain area, 6,700 have returned to California and 169 have resettled in Arizona.

Agriculture lands were returned to the Indian service in October, 1945.

## Order Closing of Cooperative at Tule Lake Center

NEWELL, Calif.—The general assembly of the Tule Lake Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., which has served the mercantile distribution needs of the residents of the Tule Lake WRA center will be closed on Nov. 30 in expectation of the Feb. 1 closing date set for the entire center.

Announcement of the plan was made last week by Lionel Perkins, business enterprises director of the WRA.

Cashing of personal checks has been discontinued but government checks will be cashed until the establishments close.

## Liquor Licenses Sought by Evacuees In California

SACRAMENTO—The State Board of Equalization has been asked to approve the applications of seven American citizens of Japanese ancestry for liquor licenses.

It was stated that these are the first to come before the board in the Sacramento area since the evacuees returned from the relocation centers.

Sacramento officials of the board said all the applicants meet the citizenship and other requirements of licenses.

## Father Seeks Soldier Son in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—The War Relocation Authority this week was seeking Sgt. Takaashi Hattori, Nisei veteran of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, who was wounded twice in action in Italy.

The soldier's father, Takeji Hattori, recently came to Los Angeles from Illinois to join his son but lost the latter's address.

The father is staying with friends at 1611 W. 35th St.

## 1300 Evacuees Get Temporary Housing in Los Angeles Area

LOS ANGELES—Nearly 1300 Japanese Americans, recent returnees from war relocation centers, are living in trailers and barrack-type homes in Burbank, El Segundo, Hawthorne and at other points near Inglewood and Torrance, the War Relocation Authority disclosed on Nov. 8.

Rents average about \$20 per month per family for the temporary units, in which accommodations are similar to those at the relocation camps.

According to Paul G. Robertson, area supervisor for the WRA, all

## Nisei GI Greets Sweetheart



LOS ANGELES—Veteran Nisei paratrooper Pfc. Bill Murata greets his sweetheart, Betty Jean Okizaki, as she arrived by bus with 400 other evacuees of Japanese ancestry returning to Los Angeles from the Heart Mountain relocation center. Finding homes after their absence of more than three years because of the evacuation is the major problem which faces the returnees. —Acme Photo.

## Nisei Sergeant, Captured By Japanese at Corregidor, Cites Atrocities at Yamashita Trial

### WAR DOG ATTACKS EVACUEE WOMAN IN BERKELEY

ALBANY, Calif.—A dog released 10 days before from the Army's K-9 Corps after service in the South Pacific was held for observation by authorities last week after, police said, it leaped over a six-foot fence and attacked a woman of Japanese ancestry on Nov. 7.

Police declared that Mrs. Ume Akagi, 65, of 2319 Fourth Street, Berkeley, suffered severe lacerations on her right leg when the dog attacked her as she walked by the yard of its owner at 641 Jackson St.

Investigators reported the woman was knocked to the sidewalk by the animal, a 3-year old German shepherd.

Fred Hoffer, owner, was working in the yard at the time of the incident and pulled "Rex" away from the woman.

Police said Mrs. Akagi refused to let Hoffer take her to a hospital, but she was later removed to Berkeley hospital by police ambulance after neighbors saw her walking down the street and noticed her leg lacerations and called authorities.

### Sgt. Sakakida Warned By Japanese Official Not to Give Testimony

MANILA, Philippines — A Hawaiian-born Nisei soldier, captured by the Japanese at Corregidor, emerged this week as a major witness in the war crimes trial of Lieut. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita.

Master Sgt. Richard Sakakida, who was among the U. S. Army's defenders on Corregidor and who fought in the battle of Bataan, testified on Nov. 15 that he had been warned by the Japanese judge advocate, now a prisoner of war, not to appear as a witness at Yamashita's trial.

Sakakida was imprisoned by the Japanese and was later forced to serve as an interpreter in the judge advocate's office at Yamashita's headquarters in the Philippines.

The judge advocate, a Colonel Nishihara, is in the prisoner of war camp in Manila and Sakakida said he saw him there a few days ago.

The Japanese American sergeant said he saw an American woman, Mrs. Blanche Juika, whose son is a major in the United States Army, beheaded along with other victims at a Manila cemetery a year ago by soldiers of Yamashita's command. He said the victims were informed of the sentences only after arriving at the cemetery.

The witness told of seeing two American fliers, downed in Manila bay in August, 1944, questioned in the judge advocate's office. He saw them two months later at Old Bilibid prison and hardly recognized the "frail, thin, beaten bodies." The fliers later were executed, Sakakida added.

He told of witnessing many executions, including those of at least six Americans.

Angeles county is the placing of more than 50 Army-type trailers and a dozen barrack buildings on Imperial Blvd. near Inglewood-Redondo Blvd. Many of the returnees lived in the area before the evacuation.

## Wyoming Relocation Camp Now Empty, Deserted as Last Train Leaves With 205 for California

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo.—The War Relocation Authority's Heart Mountain Center, the wartime home of approximately 11,000 persons of Japanese ancestry and at one time Wyoming's third largest community, stood empty and darkened this week, but the surrounding countryside gave positive evidence of the contribution made by its residents to the state and nation.

The center was officially closed Nov. 10 as the final train movement carried 205 evacuees to their former homes in the Los Angeles area. Twenty-one special trains, beginning May 16, carried 7,393 evacuee residents of the center to their postwar homes in southern California, northern California and to the Pacific Northwest. Many also left by regular train and bus facilities.

## Police Guard Evacuee Train At San Jose

Those Without Housing Taken to Barracks at Fort Funston

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Allegedly fearful that a large number of returning evacuees of Japanese ancestry, returning from the Heart Mountain relocation center, might riot when they were refused permission to leave a train at San Jose, the Mercury-Herald reported that War Relocation Authority officials called San Jose police to stand by at the Southern Pacific station on Nov. 9.

Police said they heard "murmurings," but there was no trouble as they and military policemen stood by at the two railroad cars, attached to a troop train headed for San Francisco.

Of the 160 returning evacuees on the train, 65 of them, mostly women, children and old men, were en route to San Jose where friends and relatives were awaiting them.

The other evacuees abroad had understood they were to leave the train at San Jose and some became argumentative when it was found that they had no accommodations in Santa Clara.

James E. Edmiston, WRA officer, called police as a precautionary measure, but none of the evacuees who were not supposed to leave the train at San Jose left their cars and there was no trouble, officers stressed.

After a short delay the evacuees who had no accommodations in San Jose were taken to Fort Funston in San Francisco where they were given temporary housing of a barracks type, similar to that in the relocation centers.

## CALIFORNIA READY TO PAY CLAIMS TO EVACUEE FARMERS

LOS ANGELES—The War Relocation Authority has been advised by the California Department of Agriculture that they are ready to pay claims filed by farmers of Japanese ancestry against bonding companies for produce shipped to various produce commission houses now defunct, Paul G. Robertson, area supervisor of the WRA, announced this week.

Alien Japanese farmers who are licensed under 68A should forward a copy of their license to the California Department of Agriculture in order that claims might be paid, Mr. Robertson added.

All persons having claims against bonding companies of produce commission merchants are being advised to write to or contact Ted Farrell, assistant chief, Bureau of Market Enforcement, State Department of Agriculture, Room 204 California State building, Los Angeles, Calif.

## Sgt. Odow Among Five Nisei Returning From Korea Service

TACOMA, Wash.—Tech. Sgt. Teruo Odow of Salt Lake City was among the more than 3,000 high point men from the Seventh and 40th Infantry Divisions who debarked here last week aboard the S. S. Marine Flasher.

These were the first occupational troops to return to the United States from Korea.

Four other Nisei veterans were also reported among the troops aboard the transport.

The evacuees returned to the Pacific coast in the same proportion as they were evacuated in 1942, with the largest number going to southern California. Hundreds, however, left for widely separated areas of the middle west and the east and only a few who married into Japanese families already living in Wyoming, remained in the state. Although it would be difficult to ascertain, center officials believe Wyoming's population of people of Japanese ancestry is probably smaller now than it was at the beginning of the war.

The closing of the relocation center was without incident.

"Contributions of the Heart Mountain relocation center, largely along agricultural lines, will be a permanent asset to the state and nation," Guy Robertson, project director said. "The relocation center produced much of its own food, thus easing the demand upon the military and other sources for essentials that were needed for both the armed forces and civilian population."

"Seasonal agricultural workers from the center also contributed largely, according to government figures, to the harvesting and saving of crops which otherwise would have rotted in the fields for lack of workers."

"Evacuee residents of the center subjugated and brought into production 1753 acres of virgin land. They also waterproofed more than 6,000 linear feet of one of the major irrigation canals of the Shoshone Reclamation development in order to bring water to the land for the first time."

With the closing of the 1944 agricultural program all of the land, except that portion upon which the center itself stands, has been leased by the reclamation department to individual farmers from the surrounding neighborhood.

The agricultural program began late in 1943 because of a delayed spring, lack of agricultural equipment and the necessary subjugation work before the first crops could be planted, and continued through 1944. In that period 7,883,884 pounds of produce valued at \$342,397 were grown.

When WRA abandoned its agricultural program, 65 percent of the land was left in cover crops.

Heart Mountain probably contributed more men to the U. S. Army than any other Wyoming community with a total of more than 1000. Six hundred and fifty-four were inducted directly from the center. Approximately 20 of the local soldiers were killed in action and scores received purple heart medals for wounds. One DSC, three silver stars and numerous bronze stars were won by Heart Mountain servicemen. Nearly 300 Heart Mountain soldiers completed the Japanese language course at Fort Snelling, Minn., and are now serving in the Pacific and in Japan with Army Intelligence. Most of the other servicemen were replacements in the famous 100th combat team of the "Go For Broke" 442nd, known as "the most decorated unit of the Army."

The total number of persons inducted into the center since its opening on August 12, 1942 was 14,054 although the peak population at one time was about 11,000. During the existence of the center 523 children were born and there were 183 deaths.

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

## EDITORIALS:

### "An Excellent Idea"

The Navy Department's disclosure this week that an administrative order has been issued opening enlistments in any branch of naval service (Navy, Marines, Coast Guard) to Americans of Japanese ancestry removes the last major restriction upon the group. This reversal of Navy policy also banishes the final refuge of the anti-Nisei restrictionists on the West Coast whose prejudice, as in the case of Dave Beck's Teamsters Union, was allegedly based upon the Navy's refusal to induct Japanese Americans.

Except in the reported cases of one Marine and one Coast Guardsman, no Japanese Americans served as a member of the American naval forces during World War II. However, because of needs arising from combat conditions, a considerable number of specially-trained Japanese American soldiers served with Navy and Marine units in various phases of the war in the Pacific. Nisei GIs went ashore with Marine units at Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa and many Nisei troops are today attached to Marine and Navy detachments in Japan and other parts of the Pacific.

It is significant that the attitude of Admiral of the Fleet Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the American Pacific fleet, has been a major factor in the Navy Department's reversal of policy. It is understood that Secretary of the Navy Forrestal left the final decision up to Admiral Nimitz and the latter, who had seen the Nisei perform valuable services under combat conditions in the war against Japan, thought that enlisting the Nisei would be "an excellent idea."

The campaign to open the Navy to the Nisei was initiated early this year by the Japanese American Citizens League and won the support of leading Americans and of such progressive forces as the American Veterans Committee and the American Civil Liberties Union. The AVC, which has been zealous in its fight against racial discrimination, was planning to send a special delegation to Washington at the time the Navy's decision was announced.

The Navy's action is a vindication of the performance of Americans of Japanese ancestry in World War II and it also supplies additional proof that, although democracy may make mistakes, democracy has within itself the strength to rectify those mistakes.

## Nisei Veterans

Because some Japanese American GIs and a columnist for the tri-weekly newspaper the *Utah Nippo* have already taken exception to Sgt. Ben Kuroki's statement that an organization of Nisei veterans should be formed, it might be wise to point out that Sgt. Kuroki might easily have been misinterpreted by his interviewer upon this very pertinent question.

Sgt. Kuroki, of all persons, has been a leading exponent of inter-racial activity, though he would never put it quite that way. He said, instead:

"I'm no authority; I'm not an expert or a big wheel. I don't know anything that any boy from Nebraska couldn't tell you. But I know this: I fought with a lot of men in this war—all kinds—a Polish gunner, a Jewish engineer, a German bombardier, and even a full-blooded Dakota Indian. I saw men wounded, and whatever land their grandfathers came from, their blood was always the same color."

Kuroki is a member of the Omaha post

of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and we feel sure he would not urge that Nisei veterans form their own segregated units, exclusive of joining other groups. Doubtless he urged that Nisei organize to protect the rights for which they fought, but he surely did not urge that they isolate themselves from other American veterans groups.

And as the *Utah Nippo* columnist points out, "the common bond of having fought for their country is a strong tie which can overcome every petty obstacle."

In regard to this entire question of misquotation and misinterpretation, another statement made by Kuroki has also boomeranged. Speaking of an incident in Denver in which a civilian refused to ride in a cab with Kuroki, he is reported to have said, "I never want to see Denver again." That offhand statement was quickly taken up by the Rocky Mountain News columnist, Lee Casey, who pointed out that Denver, after all, had in the main proved a hospitable and happy wartime home for thousands of Japanese Americans.

A hero's life can be beset by thousands of obstacles, including the danger that a verbal molehill can turn into a mountain.

## Helping the Returnees

Two remedial steps to aid returning evacuees on the West Coast are urged by Galen M. Fisher in the November issue of the monthly magazine, *Common Sense*.

First would be the formation of an inter-department committee to cut red tape and make full use of available resources. The committee would include at least the WRA, the PSA, the War Food Administration, the Manpower Commission, the Employment Service and the Housing authorities.

Listing the difficulties met by the evacuees in their return to the coast, Fisher puts paramount the housing situation. In addition he points out that authorities in California have been slow to grant business and professional licenses to the evacuees. The Real Estate Division has rarely held a hearing in granting broker's licenses, but in the cases of evacuees has required hearings and held up decisions.

The State Board of Equalization has also held up evacuee business licenses. In another field, standard insurance companies are demanding a 50 per cent surcharge before issuing policies to persons of Japanese descent, says Fisher.

Another major deterrent to resettlement, says the writer, is the lack of capital.

The WRA, he points out, grants \$25 to each resettlers who declares his need of aid.

The second step would be taken by Congress to include the evacuees as eligible for damages to be awarded by the War Claims Commission. "If the principle is to be applied of indemnifying business firms and undetained citizens for financial losses sustained on account of government action dictated by war requirement, then all the more should evacuees be indemnified who have been illegally detained (as the Supreme Court decided on December 18, 1944) and who have suffered, in many cases, crushing losses," writes Fisher.

Galen Fisher's article on the returning Nisei notes that public hostility toward the evacuees on the Coast has abated markedly since the story of Nisei in the armed forces has been made generally known, but adds that "it would be foolish" to underestimate the strength of the remaining organized opposition.

Still active, says Fisher, are the California Preservation League, Remember Pearl Harbor League and the Northwest's Japanese Exclusion League. "They represent the unholy alliance of produce growers and dealers with politics and venal journalism, reinforced in the Northwest by the vise-like grip of Dave Beck on both politics and labor. The Native Sons in California are active, especially in the legislature and certain newspapers, but the American Legion has relented by restoring two suspended Nisei posts and by rebuking Hood River (Oregon) post for its disgraceful erasure of Nisei veterans' names from an honor roll."

Though the paramount factor in changing the climate of public opinion has been the Nisei combat record, according to Fisher, credit should be given to the persistent work of civic, religious and legal fighters for constitutional rights. The CIO and progressive AFL leaders like Senator John Shelley, says Fisher, should also be credited for their work in keeping constitutional liberties intact for the Nisei.

# Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

## Veterans Groups and Nisei

There has been a considerable revision in the attitudes of the national leaderships of the American Legion and the veterans of foreign wars toward Americans of Japanese ancestry in recent months but the change has not permeated down to some of the local West Coast outposts of the Legion and the VFW which continue to maintain a hostile outlook on the Nisei who are returning to homes from which they were evacuated in 1942.

Some recent instances of discriminatory activity against Japanese Americans have found Legion and VFW units fronting for the reactionary economic interests which are seeking to prevent the return of the evacuees to west coast agriculture and industry. Within the past two weeks Legion posts at Racerville and Sacramento have protested the resettlement of returning Japanese Americans in their areas, while the housing of evacuees in the barracks at the Lomita Air Strip was accomplished despite the vigorous opposition of the local VFW post. At Gardena the VFW has been successful in preventing the inclusion of the names of the valley's many Japanese American servicemen, including that of a Nisei soldier who was killed in action in Italy and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, in the city's honor roll.

The California Department of the American Legion has been involved in anti-Japanese American politics since the yellow pericampaigns of 1920 which resulted in the passage of the state's anti-Asian land law and which inaugurated a later movement which was culminated with the approval of Congress, despite the opposition of President Coolidge, of the Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924. The Legion in California has been an active member of the joint immigration Committee, for two generations the fountainhead of anti-Japanese propaganda in the West, and it is apparently still difficult for the Legion's "old guard" which still dominates its policies to disassociate themselves from activities directed against people of Japanese ancestry in California.

It has been said that the Legion in California passed an anti-Japanese resolution (directed against persons of Japanese descent in the United States) each year for more than twenty years and the California Legion's influence has been felt in the councils of the national organization. However, the combat records of Americans of Japanese ancestry have been recognized by California department leaders to the extent that at a recent executive meeting restrictions on membership for Japanese Americans were removed and Nisei veterans now may join on the same basis as other ex-GIs. At the same time the California Legion reinstated the charters of its two Japanese American posts, the Commodore Perry in Los Angeles and the Townsend Harris in San Francisco, which had been unceremoniously suspended after Pearl Harbor. There is no indication at the present time that these two Japanese American posts will be reactivated and the prevailing attitude of Nisei veterans of World War II appears to be opposed to the formation of such racial posts within the framework of the Legion or the VFW. A number of Nisei have been admitted to membership in Legion posts on the West Coast in recent months but they have joined existing units.

In contrast to the attitude of the "old guard" has been the position taken by newly organized World War II posts of the Legion. In Southern California the Hollywood Post No. 591 and the Don Brown Post, both comprised of veterans of World War II, have condemned discriminatory activities against Japanese Americans. The action of the Hollywood post in censuring the Hood River Legion unit for its action in removing the names of Japanese Americans from the county honor roll became the basis of an intra-Legion struggle between the "old guard" and progressive elements within the California Legion and was culminated by the resignations of most of the leaders of the Holly-

wood organization. The attempted intimidation of leaders of the Hollywood post because of their forthright support of the rights of Nisei veterans was recently described in *The Nation* by Carey McWilliams. Officers of this World War II post were subjected to personal vilification and were even investigated by agents of the Los Angeles sheriff's office.

Legionnaires opposed to the reactionary history of the California Legion department were recently unsuccessful in their attempt to prevent the appointment of Homer Chamaux, an architect of the Legion's past policy on Japanese Americans and an anti-labor leader, to the post of state Americanism director.

The influence of returning GIs from overseas war theaters already has been felt by the two major veterans organizations. The spontaneous reaction of GIs to the Hood River incident and to the more recent refusal of the VFW in Spokane to admit Japanese American veterans to membership has awakened the national leaderships of both groups to the fact that anti-Nisei actions at home involving the veterans organizations are alienating thousands of prospective members now serving overseas. Both Jean Brunner, national commander of the VFW, and Commander Edward Scheiberling of the Legion have made splendid statements opposing discriminatory actions taken by local posts and have repudiated, in effect, the records of a quarter-century of anti-Japanese American activity in which both organizations have participated.

As more and more World War II veterans join the VFW and the American Legion it is possible that these two organizations may never again be prominent in anti-Japanese American politics in the West. The California Legion already has indicated that it is conscious of the part played by Nisei troops in the past war and it is difficult to conceive that it will ever again be used as a tool by racist forces in California, as it was used in 1920 when it filmed and exhibited a motion picture called "Shadows of the West" which contained the calumnies which have been used even to this day against persons of Japanese ancestry in California. "Shadows in the West" was filled with Japanese spies and it contained scenes which purported to show that Japanese farmers dumped vegetables into the ocean to maintain high prices (at the same time the racists were also charging that Japanese farmers were cutting prices). The high point of this American Legion movie, which was shown in support of the movement for the passage of the Alien Land Law, was the abduction of two white girls by a group of Japanese men. The girls were saved from "a fate worse than death, etc." by the timely arrival of a squad of American Legionnaires. "When meetings were called to protest the exhibition of this scurrilous film," Carey McWilliams notes, "the meetings were broken up."

It is to be hoped that in line with its new policy on Japanese Americans the National VFW has withdrawn from circulation its "yellow paper" on the Japanese in the United States. This mimeographed VFW publication contained the lies, the half-truths and the myths which have been the stock in trade of the West Coast race-baiter, its circulation in 1942 and 1943 by the National VFW no doubt influenced the actions of many local posts on issues concerning Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The place that the Nisei soldier has won in the American heart through his sacrifice and record in combat is demonstrated by the recent actions of the American Veterans Committee, a progressive organization which is today one of the two outstanding veterans groups to be formed by World War II veterans. (The other is the Anvets which also has welcomed Nisei veterans into its membership.) Members of the AVC are committed to a policy of full democratic rights for all Americans and its organizations at Los Angeles and San Francisco have implemented this by their vigorous support of the right of the Nisei

(Continued on page 5)

# Vagaries

## Broadway . . .

If his film commitments do not interfere Louis Hayward may be starred opposite Sono Osato when the latter's first dramatic vehicle, "Undine," from the French of Jean Giraudoux, goes into rehearsals in New York in January. . . . The American Veterans Committee, the most progressive of the World War II veterans organizations, is now distributing to Los Angeles business firms a poster which declares "Americanism Never Was a Question of Race or Ancestry. We Welcome ALL Americans." . . . Lt. Col. Wallace Moore, the Army intelligence officer who took the first group of Nisei language specialists into the Pacific war, recently spoke to United States Employment Service personnel in Los Angeles and Pasadena on the work of Japanese Americans in the Army. There have been reports that returned evacuees have received the "runaround" from some members of the USES staffs although such an attitude does not reflect the policy of the USES as a whole.

## Evacuation . . .

The 1942 evacuation of West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry was an act which emphasized the insecurity of racial minority groups. The impact of that event upon a Negro American is told in the new novel by Chester B. Himes, "If He Hollers Let Him Go," published last month by Doubleday, Doran. The Himes novel is the story of race tensions in wartime Los Angeles and its chief character is a Negro shipyard worker, Robert Jones. In trying to account for his state of rebellion against race injustice, Jones says in the book:

"Maybe it wasn't until I had seen them send the Japanese away that I noticed it. Little Riki Oyama, singing 'God Bless America' and going to Santa Anita with his parents the next day. It was taking a man up by the roots and locking him up without a chance. Without a trial. Without a charge. Without even giving him a chance to say a word. I was thinking about if they ever did that to me."

Chester Himes is a young Negro novelist who, with his young wife, Jean, occupied the home of Mary Oyama and her husband, Fred Mittler, while the Mittlers were away from California at the Heart Mountain relocation center and later in Denver and Chicago. The Riki Oyama in the novel is inspired by the Mittler's young son, Riki. Mary Oyama is the author of several published articles on the evacuation, including one published by Liberty in 1944.

## Guggenheim . . .

Lieut. Commander Alexander Leighton, author of "The Governing of Men" (Princeton U. Press), the story of the Poston relocation center, is the recipient of a new Guggenheim award for a forthcoming study on Japanese, Eskimo and Navajo groups. . . . A prominent New Yorker attorney has joined a committee to assist evacuees resettling in the New York area after hearing Sgt. Ben Kuroki on "Report to the Nation" over CBS on Nov. 3. . . . One of the first selections of the Labor Book Club, one of the many educational activities of the CIO's United Auto Workers, the country's biggest labor union, was the distribution of Taro Yashima's "The New Sun" to its members. Incidentally, Taro Yashima whose important role in the American war of ideas in the Pacific someday may be revealed, was in China in the interests of the United States and the Allies at the time of the Japanese surrender. Readers of the Pacific Citizen will remember Taro Yashima's cartoons.

## Bronzerville . . .

Los Angeles' Little Tokyo is now officially known as Bronzerville. According to Rodney Brink in the Christian Science Monitor, the district is now peopled by Americans of Negro, Mexican and Filipino ancestry. A few businesses, including a ten-cent store, a fish market, several cafes, a cosmetic store, a hotel and a drug store have been opened by returned evacuees. Mr. Brink reported that Bronzerville was just a little proud of its all-inclusive appellation. Some of the new Japanese American business firms already have joined the new Bronzerville Businessmen's Association.

# NISEI GI IN JAPAN



"I'd like to send something typically Japanese home."  
—From the Tokyo edition of "Stars and Stripes"

## Washington News-Letter Nisei Reveals Experiences of Job-Hunting in Washington

By JOHN KITASAKO

Washington, D. C. When Flora, a Washington, D. C., Nisei mother of two children, set out to look for a job recently, she didn't find it too easy. She had never gone job-hunting before. Jobs had always been given to her back in California, for she is an experienced accountant, and good, honest accountants were always in demand. In pre-evacuation days, she was office manager of a Japanese farming enterprise, operating over 7,000 acres of land in San Joaquin Valley.

She got leads from newspaper ads, the USES, and private employment agencies. She learned early in the game that it was bad policy when making appointments over the phone to reveal her racial identity. And doing business over the phone instead of going for a personal interview is equally unwise.

Flora was armed with a letter of recommendation from the present Caucasian operator of the San Joaquin Valley farm, whom she knows intimately. This letter was a humdinger, for not only did it give an accurate account of her character and capabilities, but it also explained in a clear, concise manner why Flora was evacuated from California along with thousands of other innocent Japanese Americans. That letter saved a lot of explaining to employers who have wondered what a Nisei was doing so far away from her west coast stamping grounds.

She didn't have any success in her early interviews. In some cases where the employer or the office atmosphere were not agreeable, or the type of work and salary offered were not commensurate with what she sincerely believed she was qualified for, she politely declined. Clerical jobs were numerous, but that wasn't what she was after; some employers even told her that with her background she should hold out until she got what she wanted.

To some of her friends, she may have appeared somewhat squeamish, but she didn't think so. She was determined that once she got a job she was going to stick to it, and not become one of those notorious "job-jumping Japs" who, in the early days of relocation, earned the Nisei the reputation of being unreliable workers, especially in the Chicago area.

Flora answered many ads, but encountered only a few instances of prejudice, and these were only those in which prejudice was manifested in an indirect way. An interesting sidelight in her job-hunting was a question which practically all employers asked at the beginning of the interview: Was she the wife of a serviceman? Her answer was no, which seemed to please the employers. Employers, she learned, are reluctant about hiring wives of ser-

vicemen because so many follow their husbands from town to town and take off from their jobs with no notice whatsoever, or if their husbands return from overseas they quit their jobs suddenly.

After pounding the pavements for nearly a month, Flora finally found something she wanted. It was a position as assistant auditor in a middle-sized downtown hotel. She told the manager she was a Japanese American, but he said it made no difference. He was impressed by her letter of recommendation, and was interested solely in her ability.

The manager told no one of her Japanese ancestry, except her immediate superior. The other employees apparently took her for Chinese. Once when a number of Chungking army and navy officers were guests at the hotel, they were brought in to meet her. They all had a big laugh when she couldn't answer back in Chinese.

By the time most of the employees knew she was a Nisei, it didn't matter. Flora was already "in." She had won a host of friends by her personality and her work efficiency. But had it been known at the outset that she was a Nisei, there might have been some unpleasantness. This demonstrates again that once when Nisei are given a fair chance to prove their worth, they can overcome through their diligence and devotion any possible objections which might later arise in connection with their racial extraction.

In these days when reconversion is taking its toll of job-dislocated Nisei, it is highly important that Nisei job-seekers fortify their tenacity, exercise a maximum of tact, and know exactly what they want. The Nisei who goes after a job half-cocked in enthusiasm, graciousness and purposefulness is not only botching up his own chances of getting the job, but is also jeopardizing those of other Nisei.

These are days when jobs are not so plentiful as they were in the boom days of the war, and the Nisei must compete with Caucasians who may know the ropes a little better and with returned veterans, who have a big jump over him.

In the labor-shortage war years, employers couldn't afford to be

# From the Frying Pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

## Navy's Action Is Tribute to Nisei Record

At long last the navy has ended its ban against the enlistment of Japanese Americans. It was a strange ban—in effect even before the war—especially since other persons of Oriental extraction were not similarly penalized.

The lifting of the ban is not so much a tribute to the new broad-mindedness of the navy as it is to the exemplary department of the Nisei during the war.

No single Nisei individual or group can take the credit. Rather, it goes to all—Nisei civilians who gave none of the nation's security agencies cause for concern; Nisei servicemen who established such brilliant records; Nisei specialists who were put on loan to the navy and marine corps by the army; Nisei instructors who tutored navy intelligence officers; Nisei merchant seamen who can be proud of their courageous record; Nisei stevedores and welders and ship-

yard workers, and even those who grew the produce which went to provision the ships of the ever-growing navy.

Now that the ice is broken we trust that the navy will be no more reluctant than the army to recognize the individual talents and abilities of the Nisei. There are a great many technical skills at which Nisei have shown a special aptitude—necessary to man the complex mechanisms of warships.

Now both the army and navy should be encouraged to open their air arms to deserving Nisei on a completely non-racial basis. In that period of national preparedness until all international defenses become unnecessary, there should be many roles in the armed forces which Nisei can fill with distinction and honor, just as they have done during a difficult war period.

## From the Des Moines Register: Iowa Has Accorded Welcome To Displaced Coast Nisei

(The following article was published as an editorial in the Des Moines, Ia., Register on Nov. 8.)

If Iowa's record of treatment of Japanese Americans during the alarms and confusions of a war with Japan was good, the credit goes mainly to the churches and the private colleges. America has a right to a guilty conscience in this matter, but certainly the government and many individuals and organizations have been doing their best to make up for the hasty mass evacuation and discriminations heaped upon these people in the first year after Pearl Harbor.

Both the Iowa legislature and the Iowa department of the American Legion passed unfriendly resolutions about Japanese Americans—though the Legion Post at Shenandoah valiantly took the side of fairness and justice when local superpatriots were talking about running some Japanese American chick-sexers (one of them an American soldier on leave) out of town.

From the start, however, a number of Iowa colleges welcomed qualified, loyal Japanese American students and defended them against unfair aspersions. Drake and Grinnell took them in some numbers. Drake's panel of Japanese American speakers carried the message of fairness into many organizations over the state.

Of the churches, the tiny Society of Friends (Quakers) through its American Friends Service committee did the spearhead job. This was the organization which financed and ran the "hostel" in a big house at 2150 Grand Ave. for over two years. Here Japanese Americans fresh from the relocation centers could come and know they would find a welcome, a place to stay, and helpful counsel while they looked around for homes and jobs. All told some 750 stayed for a time at the hostel.

Other churches joined in to help in the relocation, too. They helped house-hunt and job-hunt. They helped mightily in turning the tide of public opinion from hysteria to friendly common sense. They performed all sorts of little friendly acts to help the Japanese Americans feel they "belonged"—even though their former roots in America had been yanked out by the army under a presidential emergency proclamation.

The Japanese Americans themselves choose about whom they hired. They took what they could get. But now the tables are turned, and they are going to be more demanding of those qualifications which every earnest job applicant should possess to be worthy of his hire.

The Nisei job-hunter should have no difficulty in finding a place in the postwar period if he will bear in mind the elemental disadvantages of race and put into operation a commonsense approach and attitude to offset those disadvantages.

Theyself gave the best kind of cooperation. Their high degree of thrift, education, and sense of order helped them over the rough spots and blew the arguments out of their critics' mouths.

The splendid record of Japanese Americans of the Nisei or native-born generation in the Army made it harder and harder, as the war went on for the old shibboleths of a "race of fifth columnists" to find any believers. Army public relations offices soon were bragging of their valor, and Caucasian American soldiers who had fought beside them were ready to knock the block off anyone who questioned their loyalty.

The mass evacuation of over 100,000 people, over 70 per cent of them American citizens born and educated, over 93 per cent loyal, remains the biggest blot upon the American war record. But we were in a bad spot after Pearl Harbor, and our hysteria was not without cause.

Yet how much more creditable to us is the welcome given the relocated ones at Drake and Grinnell, at the Friends hostel, in the churches and colleges of Iowa—and in Iowa's famed 34th Infantry division.

## NISEI U S A: Veterans Groups

(Continued from page 4)

and their parents to return and to resettle on the West Coast. Nationally the AVC has supported the now successful fight of Americans of Japanese ancestry for the right of enlistment in the Navy and the Marines.

In national affairs the AVC has emerged as a spokesman for the millions of American soldiers who believe sincerely in the ideals for which the war was fought and who hope to see those ideals implemented in the world of the future. As a progressive force the AVC is proving that a veterans organization does not necessarily need to be the partner of reaction.

## Spirit of Democracy

New York City

Dear Sir:  
I have followed your publication during the war years with growing admiration. In no publication have I seen a truer spirit of democracy, greater fairness or less intolerance of other views—even intolerant views. You have done an excellent service for the cause of democracy.

Mrs. Tuttle and I were sponsors of the International House at University of Oregon 1930-34. We had several Nisei in our "family." We continue to prize their friendship. We have been honored by visits from several of their friends who have come to New York.

Harold Saxe Tuttle  
The College of the City of New York,  
139th Street and Convent Ave.,  
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## New York Committee Will Back Japan People's Government

NEW YORK — Calling for the formation of a people's assembly and for the organization of a new and democratic government for Japan, the North American Committee for Democratic Japan has been organized by a group of New York residents of Japanese ancestry.

The preparation committee for the group, which will support a movement for the ousting of all militarist influences in Japanese life, includes Taiza Hasegawa, Fugika Kitamura, Kyichi Nagazawa, John Ishikawa and Torosaburo Sekii.

The new committee hopes to extend "as much help as possible" in the establishment of a democratic Japan and will ask for the cooperation of all Japanese nationals outside of Japan in carrying out its aims.

The organization also hopes to organize aid to alleviate conditions in Japan and will start a movement for the relief of war victims.

Speaking as nationals of Japan, the organization declared: "We have allowed ourselves to be deprived by the militarists of

our inalienable rights and freedoms. We have submitted ourselves to suppression by the militarists and allowed them to lead us into war.

"Now Japan is defeated, but it is the defeat of the militarists, the Zaibatsu and all privileged classes. This defeat offers an opportunity for the people to reclaim their liberty and rights and to establish a democratic government based on the will of the majority."

The committee called for the release of all political prisoners who have been deprived of their freedom for their struggle against war and the militarists and asked that all war criminals "be punished for the horrible suffering they have inflicted upon the people."

"We must establish domestic policies which guarantee the people their inalienable rights and we must raise the standard of living conditions for the average man," the statement added. "We must recognize the Potsdam Declaration as the great aid to the building of a democratic Japan and must cooperate with the United Nations in carrying out this declaration."

## Earl Finch, One-Man USO, Discussed in Post Article

Earl Finch of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, didn't expect when he invited two Nisei to dinner one afternoon in April, 1943, that this simple act would snowball into a huge affair with endless ramifications, but one thing led to another, until he found himself becoming a sort of guardian and godfather to thousands of boys.

Today Earl Finch's life has changed in small ways and large—even in such details as carrying a gallon jug of soy sauce in his car at all times, in case he wants to give a dinner at a hotel for some Nisei.

The story of Earl Melvin Finch, the 29-year-old Mississippi rancher-businessman who became the patron saint of every Nisei soldier, is told by Maurice Zolotow in "The Man Who Astonished Hattiesburg," in the Saturday Evening Post of Nov. 10.

Here are recounted the stories of Finch's fabulous generosity—his party for 200 soldiers at the Hotel Astor, the truckload of watermelons from Florida, the dinners in Little Rock, Arkansas, in New York City, in New Orleans, and wherever there are Nisei soldiers. Finch, who never traveled more than 100 miles until he became involved in the Nisei problem, now spends six or seven months of the year visiting Nisei friends in Utah and Minnesota and Illinois, throwing parties for them in hotels in New York and Chicago and New Orleans, visiting the Nisei in camps and at Halloran General hospital in New York, at Walter Reed in Washington, D. C., and at other hospitals in Springfield, Missouri and Galesburg, Illinois. He has spontaneously and willingly taken upon his shoulders the domestic and financial affairs of thousands of these soldiers. He has been named as the executor of hundreds of wills. He receives 200 letters a week from his friends, and he carries on a correspondence with thousands all over the world.

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This personal crusade, which costs him thousands of dollars a year and the greater part of his time, has caused many to ask, "What's his angle?"

Finch, says the author, is that rare being, a man without an angle.

## 442nd Loses Two Games in Italy League

Go for Broke Team Drops Close Matches To UTC, Buffaloes

FLORENCE, Italy — The "Go For Broke" football team from the 442nd (Japanese American) Combat Team, hitherto undefeated in league play, lost their first game of the season on Oct. 26 in the Spaghetti Bowl to the UTC eleven from the Army's GI college in Florence with a score of 7-0.

Most of the game was played in the 442nd's territory with inspired line play preventing the heavier UTC squad from scoring more than once.

With only four minutes to play the Nisei eleven made its only scoring bid of the afternoon when deep in their own territory Ernest Kanno lateraled to Will Watanabe on a play from punt formation. Behind good interference Watanabe advanced to the UTC 35-yard line. A flat pass over center gained a first down on the 25. After a line plunge was stopped and two passes failed, Tak Kobayashi entered the game and threw a desperate pass into the coffin corner only to have it batted down.

On Nov. 3 the 442nd's scrappy team lost 14 to 0 to the Golden Buffaloes of the 92nd Division. The victory practically cinched the Ivy League title for "Big Train" John Moody and the star Negro eleven. Moody, a former All-American, was the star of the game which was played before a crowd of 7,000 in Yankee Stadium at Lehigh.

The 100th Battalion's Beachcombers entertained with music and "hula dances" during the half-time intermission.

## Yoshinaga Helps Lead North Central to Victory Over Wheaton

NAPERVILLE, Ill.—Ben Yoshinaga, co-captain of North Central college's football eleven, led the varsity to victory against Wheaton college, 16 to 14, at Naperville last week.

The game was the 28th between the two colleges and also was North Central's homecoming game. M. Kodayama is the other Nisei player on the North Central team.

## Japanese American Soldiers Test Nippon Public Opinion

Nisei GIs Unable To Find Relatives in Hiroshima, Nagasaki

TOKYO — The latest role for American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, who have been valuable to the Allied forces throughout the Pacific war as interpreters, translators and in screening prisoners of war, is that of "inquiring reporters" who are trying to get an accurate picture of the Nipponese state of mind for American occupational authorities.

The work of these Nisei GIs in Japan was described by Pfc. Barbara Rubin, staff correspondent of the Tokyo edition of Stars and Stripes, on Oct. 7.

According to conversations which Japanese American soldiers have had in Yokohama and Tokyo with Japanese civilians, the rank and file of the Japanese people did not want war and hated the top military, according to Pfc. Rubin.

A typical Nisei unit in Japan is the 168th Language Detachment of the First Cavalry Division, the first U. S. unit to enter Tokyo. The 168th Language Detachment is composed of two officers, a Nisei warrant officer and 17 Nisei non-coms.

They have found that the Japanese have been on war rations since 1932. Shortages, restrictions and rationing caused by the militarists were resented by the people. Furthermore, early victories brought no special pride to the masses and did not make up for the privations.

Japanese interviewed by the Nisei claim that loyalty to the emperor was the main factor in keeping the people passive during the landing of American forces. The Nisei have been told that the people attach no blame to the emperor for either the war or its resulting catastrophe. It is claimed that the emperor was "captured" by the military.

Japanese interviewed by the Nisei want to retain the emperor, Rubin reported. Nevertheless, the resentment against the old feudal privileges is growing and there seems to be an increasing honest demand for a democratic form of government. The emperor, in this government, would play a role similar to England's king. The Nipponese seems to believe that chaos and revolts would break out if he were removed, Rubin added.

Contrary to widespread opinion, the Japanese attachment to the emperor is not of a strictly religious character, the Nisei have been told. Not all the Japanese are even Shintoists. Large percentages are Buddhist and Christian, according to Rubin.

At first the defeated people

were afraid of the American occupation troops—but now, the Nisei believe, they feel safe and cooperate eagerly. In fact, it is to America that they are looking for help to bring their country back to normal. The Nisei have learned that this idea has been strengthened since General MacArthur's talk with the emperor.

Many of the Japanese civilians at first felt sorry for Nisei in American uniforms. They knew many Japanese had gone to the States and that their children became American citizens, but they never thought the Nisei would become U. S. soldiers. They now accept the explanation which T/4 Hiro Miura gives them: "The Nisei are Americans—and, therefore, American soldiers."

Other Japanese have expressed profound sympathies for Nisei such as T/3 Tad Nomura of Fresno, Calif., and Sgts. Kuwhara and Hiro Miura who had relatives in atomized Hiroshima and Nagasaki. All efforts to find these relatives have failed so far.

Of course, these Nisei "inquiring reporters" can't always be sure the Japanese with whom they talk are revealing what's really on their minds, Rubin said. Some may be saying just what they think U. S. soldiers want to hear.

## Use of Nisei Backs Hope for Pacific Peace

Japanese Americans Play Important Roles In Occupation Army

PORTLAND, Ore.—An Army officer told a Portland audience on Nov. 10 that Japanese Americans in the United States Army intelligence setup in Japan offer America the greatest hope for peace in the Pacific.

Lieut. Col. Wallace H. Moore, one of the four officers who are telling West Coast groups the story of the contributions of Japanese Americans to American victory, reported many of the 4,000 or 5,000 Nisei in the Pacific area, 2,000 of whom are in Japan, have enough points for discharge but have stayed on the job.

Moore, who was active in Army intelligence in the Pacific, branded as false stories that dead enemy flyers were found wearing American school rings.

"Not one case of successful espionage by Japanese in this country has been found," he said in reply to wartime espionage rumors.

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## On Nisei Sports: Returned Nisei Players Aid West Coast School Elevens

Return of evacuee students to the West Coast from war relocation centers has bolstered the football squads of a number of Coast schools.

Meanwhile Frank Miyaki, young freshman back for the Washington State Cougars, has marked up one of the longest runs in the Pacific Coast Conference this year with a 90-yard jaunt in a game against the University of Idaho. Miyaki, not a returnee, was a four-sports star at North Central high in Spokane last year, winning all-city honors in football and basketball and letters in baseball and track.

Los Angeles City College's grid chances were bolstered by the return of Tamotsu (Babe) Nomura from Heart Mountain. Nomura is touted as the best junior college passer in Southern California since Jackie Fellows, according to the Los Angeles Times. Nomura has completed 37 of 58 throws, eight for touchdowns, and the LACC Cubs are in the running for the conference championship. With Nomura's passes hitting their mark, the Cubs defeated Pasadena JC in the Rose Bowl last week.

With Jim Tsukamoto running 12 yards for the only touchdown of the game, the Elk Grove, Calif., high school won the Sacramento County League championship by defeating Courtland, 6 to 0, on Nov. 9.

Norman Yasui, fullback, is a member of the Sacramento College team, while Belmont high school in Los Angeles has three Nisei first-stringers in Fred Terasawa, halfback, and Miyauchi, guard, and Tsukahara, center. Saito is a regular lineman for Roosevelt high in Los Angeles.

### Hal Hoshino May Attempt Comeback

Harold (Homicide Hal) Hoshino, Nisei featherweight and one of the best in the country at the time

of his retirement in 1941, may attempt a comeback in the ring. Leo Leavitt, Honolulu promoter, is interested in getting Hoshino to Hawaii for a series of matches.

During the war Hoshino, who lost to Jimmy Florita in the Olympic Stadium at Los Angeles in his last bout, has been farming in his home town of Pendleton, Ore.

Just before the war Hoshino went to Hawaii and cleaned up on most of the fistie talent in the Islands at that time. Among Hoshino's knockout victims were David Kui Kong Young and Clever Henry. The only fighter to stay the limit with the hard-hitting Nisei was Adolph Samuels who got a draw in ten rounds.

Roy Nakamine, Honolulu amateur bantamweight who won the Mediterranean area GI championship while with the 442nd Combat Team, is back in Hawaii. Incidentally, one of Hawaii's best Nisei boxers, Hank Nakamura, who fought in California and on the East Coast, was killed in action with the 100th Infantry Battalion at Cassino.

### Captain Munch Urges Assistance for Returning Nisei

Help for returning American war veterans of Japanese ancestry in reestablishing their homes was urged by Capt. Arthur W. Munch, New York, who spoke to the Salt Lake Rotary club at a luncheon meeting at Hotel Utah on Nov. 13.

Soldiers who fought side by side with Nisei troops in Italy and France deplore the discrimination and intolerance displayed against Japanese Americans, Capt. Munch said.

The officer is a former member of the Japanese American Combat Team.

## Vital Statistics

### BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kora, Homedale, Idaho, a boy on Nov. 1.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tats Hasegawa, Passaic, New Jersey, a girl Joanne Seno, on Oct. 16.

To the Rev. and Mrs. Royden Susu-Mago a boy, Theodore Allan, on Sept. 3 in Denver.

To Mr. and Mrs. George Kuboshige, 3213 Marion St., Denver, a boy.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yakuichi Miyama, Derby, Colo., a boy.

### DEATHS

Infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Yasukawa, Nampa, Idaho.

Toyosaburo Tamura, 67, of Caldwell, Idaho, on Oct. 29.

Shinichi Amano, 58, on Nov. 13 in Denver. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, Altes, and sons Henry, Kaoru and Takeo.

### MARRIAGES

Kumiko Koyama to Tony Misono in Denver.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

Masayoshi Kawaguchi, Mitsuko Kihara in Denver.

Sadao Noda and Tomiye Mishima in Denver.

Iwao Tsuno and Suzue Karioka in Denver.

Henry H. Kawahata and Elsie Sueyasu in Denver.

### Wedding Ceremony

DENVER, Colo. — At a quiet marriage ceremony held recently at the Community Christian church in Denver, Miss Kumiko Koyama was united in marriage to Mr. Toni Misono, with Rev. Sasaki officiating.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr. Shiroichi Koyama, formerly of Guadalupe, California. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Einosuke Misono, formerly of Delano, Calif.

### Wedding

OGDEN, Utah — Miss Barbara Sakamoto, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kamekichi Sakamoto, will wed George Akasaka on Sunday, November 18, in ceremonies at 4:30 p. m. at the Japanese Christian Union church in Ogden.

## Nampa JACL Fetes Soldiers, Nurse

NAMPA, Ida.—Laura Nakamura, Pfc. George Koyama, Pvt. Joe Koyama, Pvt. Takahashi Koyama, all of Nampa, and T/S Akira Oki of Salt Lake City were honored by the Nampa District JACL with a dance at McClusky's in Caldwell on Nov. 3.

Miss Nakamura is in nurse's training at St. Mary's hospital affiliated with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Pfc. George Koyama served with the 442nd in Italy. He left Nampa on Nov. 11 for Ft. Snelling.

Pvt. Joe Koyama and Pvt. Takashi Koyama received their training at Camp Fanning, Tex.

T/S Oki is spending his furlough with his wife, the former Rose Okumoto of Nampa. He is a graduate of Fort Snelling Military Intelligence school.

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## Oakland Paper Readers Give \$350 to Buy Seeing-Eye Dog

Blind Nisei Girl  
Now attending Classes  
at UC in Berkeley

BERKELEY, Calif. — Two strangers are learning their way around the campus of the University of California this week, a small Japanese American girl, totally blind and her companion, Sally, her guide dog, according to the Oakland Tribune.

The girl is 23-year-old Aiko Kuroki, 23, Idaho-born, Berkeley-reared Nisei, for whom readers of the Tribune donated more than the \$350 necessary for purchase of the dog following a plea made on her behalf by Mrs. Juliet Bindt, state librarian for the blind, and Mrs. Eugene L. Hood, executive of the Bay Cities Baptist Union.

Last week seated in one of the classrooms in which she hopes to study for the next four years with the ultimate aim of becoming a social worker, Miss Kuroki supplemented her list of reasons for wanting a guide dog.

"I realize many totally blind people do go about the streets alone," she said, "but I was afraid that if I attempted that I might have to request assistance across the street or other directions from some persons with strong race prejudice. This would produce an embarrassing situation. With Sally here I will need a minimum of assistance."

"I am so very grateful to the people reached by The Tribune for their kind letters and financial assistance," Miss Kuroki said happily. "Mrs. Hood tells me that contributions are still trickling in, some from Southern California,

and in the past few days even from Montana and Arizona."

The money left after purchase of Sally and underwriting of the girl's traveling expenses, was set up in a trust fund following Miss Kuroki's return from Los Angeles, where she purchased and trained with her new campus helper.

Capt. Lambert Kraimer, head of the Southern California training center, wrote Mrs. Bindt that Miss Kuroki was one of the outstanding students he had worked with in more than 30 years.

So now, Miss Kuroki says, her friends and her two brothers in the army can rest assured that she is well taken care of, both in and out of class.

## Youth Charged With Murder Of Kurisu

VALE, Ore. — Floyd Pousson, 17, accused murderer of 61-year old Natsuji Kurisu, is being held in the Malheur county jail after being bound over to the grand jury on Nov. 10.

At the preliminary hearing before a justice of the peace, young Pousson wept as he heard the judge order him over to the custody of the grand jury.

Pousson was returned to Malheur county from Dalhart, Tex., after he was apprehended by the authorities there in possession of an automobile and personal papers, including 31 war bonds, belonging to Mr. Kurisu whose bullet-riddled body was found in a gravel pit in Jacobsen gulch north of Ontario on Oct. 16.

The Japanese had been missing since Oct. 5 when he left a lumber camp en route to Weiser, Ida., in his car.

## 2000 Evacuees Leave Colorado For West Coast

DENVER, Colo. — More than 2000 Japanese and Japanese American evacuees in Colorado have left the state to return to the West Coast since the restrictions have been removed, Thomas J. Morrissey, U. S. district attorney, reported on Nov. 7.

In 1944, Colorado had more than 7000 persons of Japanese ancestry in the state, of whom more than 2300 lived in Denver, Morrissey said. This number is exclusive of the thousands who resided at the Colorado River relocation center at Amache.

## Boston University Class Hears Michael Yasutake On Relocation Problem

By John A. Edgerly  
BOSTON, Mass. — Seiichi Michael Yasutake, a sophomore at Boston University, Massachusetts, majoring in philosophy, participated in a discussion concerning the Japanese relocation problem in the Race Relations class on November 7.

Yasutake related his experience in the Puyallup assembly center and the Minidoka relocation camp in Idaho, where he lived for a year and a half.

He expressed his opinion concerning the probable effect of readjustment of the evacuees to normal community life after being released from the centers. He stressed in particular the need for better understanding of the people of Japanese parentage by the majority of the American people.

Yasutake also pointed out that a great deal of harm has already been done in the camps—not so much in the physical phase, but rather in the psychological. He asserted that individuals from totally different environments were housed together in the same camp, creating a complex social problem.

## Honolulu Major Left Hospital Bed to Rejoin Nisei Battalion

HONOLULU—Major James W. Lovell of Honolulu can't pay a higher tribute to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the famed combat unit whose original members were made up of Japanese Americans from Hawaii, than to recall that he had gone "AWOL" from a North African hospital to rejoin the outfit.

The Honolulu officer returned to his home last month after long hospitalization from two battle wounds in Italy.

After a "screaming meemie" hit him in the leg the first time near Naples, Maj. Lovell was moved to a North African hospital.

When he heard the 100th was moving north, he stole away quietly from his hospital bed and although still limping, "hitchhiked" an air ride back to Italy from Bizerte.

"I wanted to be with my boys," he explained simply. He preferred to fight alongside the Japanese Americans than to be sent to a rear echelon and perhaps be separated forever from the men of the 100th Battalion.

"I knew many of the boys," he recalled. "As a matter of fact about half of the boys had been my students at Washington intermediate and at Roosevelt and McKinley high schools before the war."

During those school days, the officer turned out crack football, basketball and track teams. He coached Roosevelt's varsity in 1937 and 1938, then transferred to McKinley where his boys won five championships in various sports.

After rejoining his outfit near Naples, Maj. Lovell, as battalion commander, led the 100th through some of the bitterest campaigns in Italy. His frontline command ended on Feb. 8, 1944, at Cassino where he was wounded seriously the second time.

He returned to Honolulu with his right leg in a brace.

When he gets out of uniform, Major Lovell will turn his attention to "one of my primary outside interests"—looking after the welfare of the Nisei veterans of the 100th Battalion.

## YPC CONFERENCE PLANNED BY NISEI AT DENVER CHURCH

DENVER, Colo.—Nisei from all the intermountain states will meet Nov. 23, 24 and 25 in Denver for the twelfth annual intermountain Young People's Christian Conference.

Delegates will meet for the greater part of the time in the Trinity Methodist church. Pre-registration is being handled by Meach Nogami, 2230 Clarkson Street, Denver 5.

The conference will open with a "Friday Night Mixer" on Nov. 23 at 8 p. m.

The tentative program for Nov. 24 and 25 has been announced as follows:

**Saturday, November 24**  
10:30 a. m. to 12:00: Discussion or interest groups, under the direction of Dean Paul Roberts, Rev. Harvey Sanders, Jack Boyd, Rev. Randall Skillen, Jr., Rev. Harvey Potoff, Mrs. Edgar M. Wahlberg, Dr. Frederick Cox, and Rev. Reynolds Platt.  
3 p. m. to 5 p. m.: Excursion to Denver churches, including a Catholic cathedral and Jewish synagogue.  
6:30 p. m.: Annual banquet.

**Sunday, November 25**  
7 a. m.: Sunday morning sunrise service, Red Rock mountains. Breakfast to be served.  
11 a. m.: Worship service.  
1 p. m.: Luncheon.  
1:30 p. m.: Conference picture.  
2 p. m.: Closing worship service and installation of new officers.

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