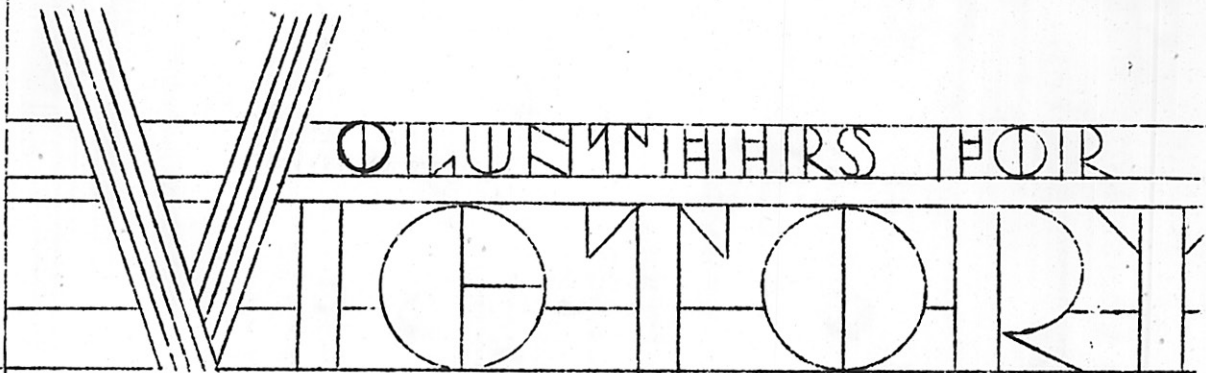


MARCH 6, 1943



VOLUNTEERS FOR
VICTORY

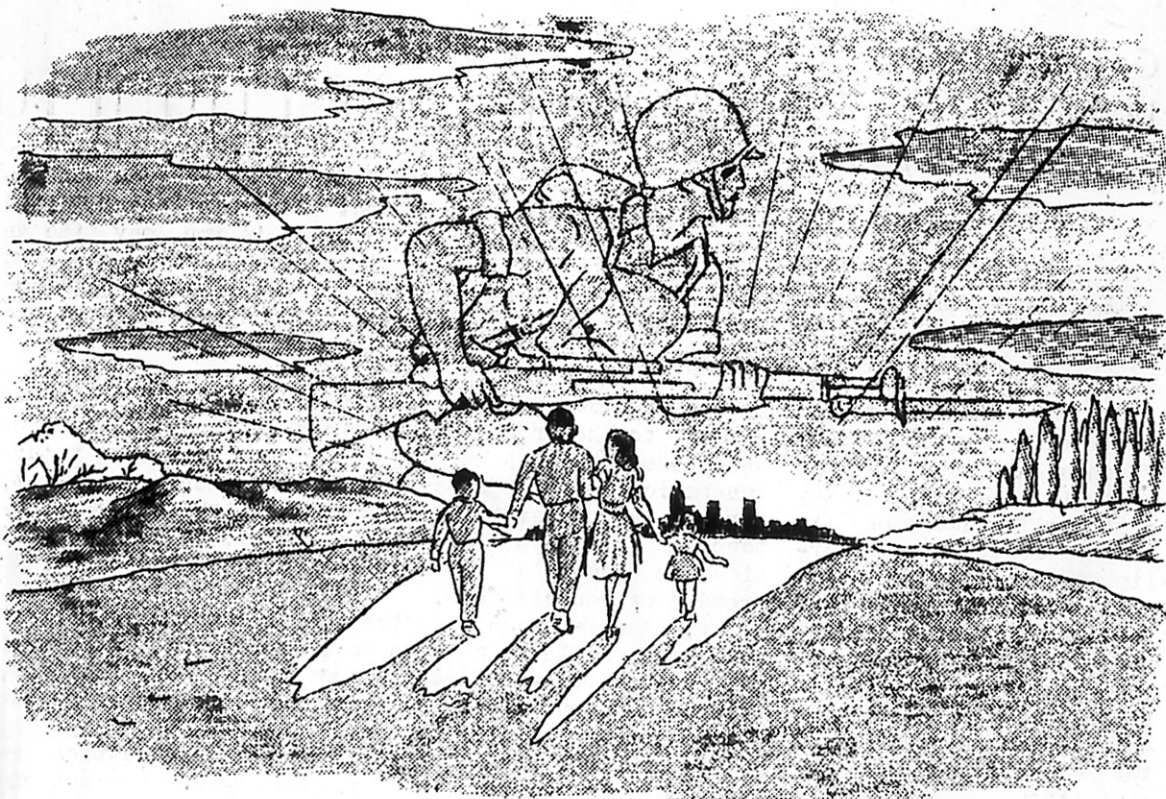
TOPAZ, UTAH

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SPEECH AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NATIONAL CEMETARY
AT GETTYSBURG, NOVEMBER 15, 1863

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us, to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

By President Abraham Lincoln



AND WHAT OF THEIR FUTURE?

A salesman comes to our door. He shows us his wares and tells us how good they are. We examine them. We like them. We buy them. Or we don't like them. We turn the salesman away.

The social acceptance of a racial minority works the same way. Up till just lately our acceptability to a community depended on our own individual efforts and salesmanship. The evacuation changed all that. Some of us thought that our government was against us. We had our gripes, plenty of them. We talked about what social and economic positions our parents had been able to build us and of the way in which all that was destroyed by this war. We saw the sad faces of our parents, we heard the tearful voices of our brothers and sisters. Those of us who had children asked, What is to become of them, their future?

On January 28, 1943--a date we Japanese-Americans will never forget--a proclamation from Washington told us that

our government is definitely interested in our welfare and that it is prepared to take a definite action to help us solve our problems; it told us that it was going to sell us to the Americans by telling them in a dramatic manner how capable, how dependable, and how completely loyal we are to our country. One of the ways in which our salesman Uncle Sam was to sell us was to form a VOLUNTEER COMBAT UNIT for us, so that our fellow-countrymen could say to each other, "Look at them. They are NOT ONLY LOYAL but they are VOLUNTEERING in a combat unit. And look what good soldiers they make! Fellows who bait these people just don't know what they are talking about!"

Thanks, Uncle Sam! You're great! By selling us to the American public you are creating for us a future which is going to be far greater than anything we in our little communities have ever
(Continued on Page 5)

CITIZEN WRITES WHY HE HAS VOLUNTEERED

February 25, 1943

Dear ----- :

I have volunteered to be enlisted as a soldier in the Army of the United States. I did this because it is my firm conviction that the destiny of the Japanese American people is here in America. I say this fully aware of the fact that we, as a minority among 130,000,000 people, have for years suffered from racial discrimination and prejudices, and have found life in this country a continuous and bitter struggle for the elevation of our social status.

I am as much embittered as any other evacuee when I consider how our race was singled out to be uprooted from our homes, farms and business on the Pacific Coast and herded behind barbed-wire fences, even though we were American citizens and our parents were law-abiding pioneers who have been denied citizenship by the U.S. naturalization laws.

But my faith in America and in our destiny here is something that, I am certain, can be understood and shared in by every thinking evacuee--or by any other person who, though oppressed through discrimination, knows that there is in the American way of life something that stands as being incompatible with totalitar-

(Cont. on Page 5)

OUR GREATEST WEAPON:

EVIDENCE OF LOYALTY

This message has been written by a citizen who volunteered to join the combat forces of the United States Army. Perhaps in reading this you may find an expression of your own sentiment, or else you may find that you have not reasoned things out his way; but now read how one person willingly placed his life at the disposal of the land of his birth.

The fundamental reason which prompted him to offer himself to the armed forces is this: Because he so cherished the American way of life, he felt that future generations of the Japanese American people must not, through the possible blindness, selfishness or reluctance of those of us living today, be denied their right to live in a democratic America as respected and proud American citizens.

We, the Japanese Americans, in our present plight have innumerable reasons to feel embittered. To most of us, evacuation--the mass uprooting of our families, friends, and ourselves from homes and businesses on the Coast--appears totally unjust.

But whether anyone objects or not, evacuation has become a grim reality. There remains for us now but one choice: We must make up our minds today whether we in our bitterness will discard our only chance to find our rightful place in American society, or whether we will hold back our personal grievances in the realization of the truth that the future of our posterity as well as ourselves rests on our courage and sacrifice.

The United States government is offering us, through Secretary of War Stimson's statement of January 28th last, an opportunity to present the one solid evidence which none can refute,--the evidence that we are loyal enough to fight in the U.S. Army; that we are worthy to live, work, fight and die as Americans. Only with evidence as strong as this can we most effectively prove to American public opinion how unjustly wrong are the Congressional, State legislative and private factions which seek to crush us through proposals calling for the deprivation of our citizenship, mass deportation after the war, Army control of relocation centers and other discriminatory measures.

Even a possible future removal of the Pacific Coast evacuation boundaries by the Fourth Army Defense Command and the Federal Government would not insure our security or the return of our former status, unless we have in our hands the one weapon with which we could turn away any opposing tide of public opinion--an invincible weapon, the indisputable proof of our loyalty to the United States.

DANIEL C. OTA

IT'S MAKE OR BREAK

Commenting editorially on the War Department announcement that nisei volunteers will be accepted for active military service, we said in our Feb. 3rd issue: "What we face is the acid test. If we flunk it, we damn ourselves and our posterity."

Project Director Stafford's statement in today's Irrigator, based as it is upon the latest clarifying declarations from the War Department, unmistakably underlines the thesis that the entire future of the Japanese in the United States rests with the success or failure of the volunteer program. The alternatives before us are to speed the alleviation of the situation in which 100,000 of America's Japanese are now stagnating, or to aggravate it and face rougher going along the road ahead.

Eligible nisei who have been sitting back in the misleading hope that they will be drafted later, and that they therefore need not step forth now, can no longer "leave it up to the other guys." It is now clear that the War Department's program does not provide a fence which can be straddled conveniently by those who are unwilling to discard

their complacency. There can be no more holding back with "yes, but" rationalizations.

And if it should be charged that we are being forced to volunteer, let it be remembered first that the compulsion arises only from our own dilemma. Our dilemma, it is true, may not be of our making, but that does not alter the fact that we are in it and cannot afford to refuse or make ill use of the opportunity that is now ours to grasp. And let it be remembered, secondly, that it is "doubtful" that we will be given another chance to show, with dramatic effectiveness, the solid American stuff which we claim we are made of.

The hard, unrelenting fact is that the fix we are in--and the extent and importance of all that is at stake--does not permit petty quibbling and squirting of hyper-sensitive criticism at the one great chance we have. For the burden we bear is that we are to decide in no small measure, whether the generations to follow us will walk the main streets of America as equal citizens, or seek the side streets as despised pariahs.

--D.D.M.

MINIDOKA DIRECTOR VOICES FAITH

Dyke Miyagawa wrote last week in an editorial in the Irrigator: "For the burden we bear is that we are to decide in no small measure whether the generations to follow us will walk the main streets of America as equal citizens, or seek the side-streets as despised pariahs."

As a parallel to the thought expressed by Mr.

Miyagawa, I refer to Winston Churchill's tribute to the handful of Hurricane fighter pilots who defended London against the German blitz of 1940. Churchill said that never in history did "so many owe so much to so few."

I am positive that future generations of Japanese Americans will look back upon the voluntary Japanese military unit of

1943 with a similar observation. The question is: Will a sufficient number of Japanese Americans of this generation act now to secure their posterity? As I have learned to know the people of Minidoka, both old and young, I am confident the boys have the "solid American stuff" necessary, and they will do it.

H.L. Stafford
Project Director

The articles on this page have been reprinted from the February 13 and 17 issues of the "Minidoka Irrigator," the weekly newspaper of the WRA center at Hunt, Idaho.

HERE'S WHY WE'RE VOLUNTEERING

TARO KATAYAMA: "My reason for volunteering is simple. America is the only country I have ever known. Whatever benefits in life I have received up to now, I have received as an American citizen. Whatever I may make of my life in the future, I want to do so in this country, I could not do this with a clear conscience, nor would I be deserving of the chance, if I shirked now the duty and the opportunity I have as a citizen to serve this nation in her fight for survival."

WALTER NAKATA: "I volunteered because I felt it was the natural thing to do."

ROBERT S. IKI: "One of the privileges of having principles is to be able to fight for them."

HENRY H. EBIHARA: "You can say that I volunteered for a selfish reason. Yes, perhaps that is true, because first of all I want to assure happiness and security in America for my parents, brothers and sisters. This is their country. This is my country. There is no other country for us. It is our struggle for survival so that we can assure for ourselves a place in our country, the United States of America. Our future in America is at stake--our acts now will decide how we are to live in America--whether as free people or looked upon with suspicion and hate, because we refused to take part when the security of our nation was endangered."

GEORGE KAWAI: "I am a stateless person and am not an American citizen. But I am willing to fight for any government which gives me a gun to fight against fascism. That is my reason for volunteering."

JAMES OKI: "I consider myself an educator. I have been doing what little I could to advance the cause of common man's struggle against tyranny. My volunteering in the armed forces of the United States is merely an extension of my daily activities as a humble teacher. I am against the military-fascist dictatorship that rules Japan, Germany, and all the other Axis-dominated nations. I am for true democracy everywhere. And I am willing to die for my principle, which is at the same time the principle

for which the United Nations are fighting. This is the only important reason for my volunteering."

NOBUO KITAGAKI: "My one desire has been to join my closest friends, the sons of our neighbors back home, and my brother in this fight for freedom--now I can be near them."

ERNEST S. IYAMA: "I have always believed in fighting for the freedom and right of the "common man." Believing that these principles for which we have been struggling are at stake in this war, and believing that a victory over our enemies abroad will be a victory over our enemies at home, I want to take up arms to help hurry this people's victory and the people's peace to follow."

S. KITAGAWA: "I volunteered to serve in the armed forces of the United States, because I am convinced that the government is really sincere in its efforts to give us and our families a chance to prove ourselves loyal Americans beyond a doubt. The formation of a successful all volunteer combat team should prove our loyalty to the land of our birth."

KANO E. ARIMOTO: "For the sake and future of all Japanese who are staying here in the United States, I am volunteering my services to this, my country."

TED IMAI: "I'm no chump. Who knows, I may be rejected for one reason or another. But no one can say I'm not trying. Ever think of your future--your family's and your friends? I have."

KARL AKIYA: "I was educated in Japan where I learned the meaning of fascism and where I learned to fight against its oppressive measures. I fought its police dogs and its military lackeys. As I now volunteer to serve in the United States Army I am thinking not only of defending American democracy against all foes, but also of whatever contribution I may be able to make toward the emancipation of all peoples, including the common people of Japan, from their fascist masters. I am happy to know that many of the so-called "kibei", who have often been characterized as "pro-Axis", have joined our ranks, and I hope that I shall be able to see more of them as my comrades-at-arms."

WAR DEPARTMENT STATES REASONS FOR 'AJ' UNIT

In a wire sent here recently, Colonel Scoby of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War made the following statement on the reasons behind the separate Japanese American combat unit plan:

The question that has arisen most frequently is "Why is a segregated unit being formed and will the combat team fight in the same battle areas with Caucasian troops?" The Secretary of War has directed that the following reply be brought to the attention of all Japanese Americans within your center:

It is only because the War Department desires to aid the loyal Japanese Americans that a separate unit is being formed. Millions of people are not familiar with the Japanese Americans. By their forming an all Japanese American combat team on a voluntary basis the American people will be presented with the incontrovertible fact that there are loyal Japanese Americans who are willing to fight for the United States. If involuntaries were spread throughout the Army their enlistments would attract little attention but the formation of an all Japanese American combat team composed entirely of volunteers will help tremendously to convince those who oppose the Japanese American.

It is hoped that the Japanese American combat team will become one of the outstanding units of the American Army. This combat team will fight with and as a part of a Caucasian force. The War Department has faith in the loyal Japanese Americans. This is a splendid opportunity to demonstrate to the American people and to the War Department that Japanese Americans have faith in America. A success of the program and the voluntary feature of induction will be a great step forward in the rehabilitation plans for Japanese Americans.

A VOLUNTEER'S LETTER

(Continued from Page 1)

gimentation of man's will desire realized unless we to fight and strive for are willing now--when the the betterment of his position. War Department offers us the chance to fight for America on the battlefield

I believe that it is the desire of every Japanese American today to have his children live as respected citizens in a democratic America, and not as a hated people, destitute of hope, courage and contentment.

Yet we cannot have this

to devote the utmost of ourselves to this cause, and to let not the darkness of our present situation or our grievances prevent us from proving our worth before the eyes of the American public.

KOZO KITAHARA

INSURANCE FOR INDUCTEES NOW MADE POSSIBLE

Every inductee who makes an application in writing (made within 120 days after entrance into the Army) will be granted insurance on the five-year level premium term plan by the United States against the death of that person occurring while his insurance is in force.

The payments will be made to the following beneficiaries and in the order named: (a) to the widow or widower of the insured, if living and unremarried; (b) to the child or children, if living, in equal shares, if the insured leaves no widow or widower; (c) to the dependent mother or father, if living, in equal shares, in the event the insured leaves no widow or widower, or child.

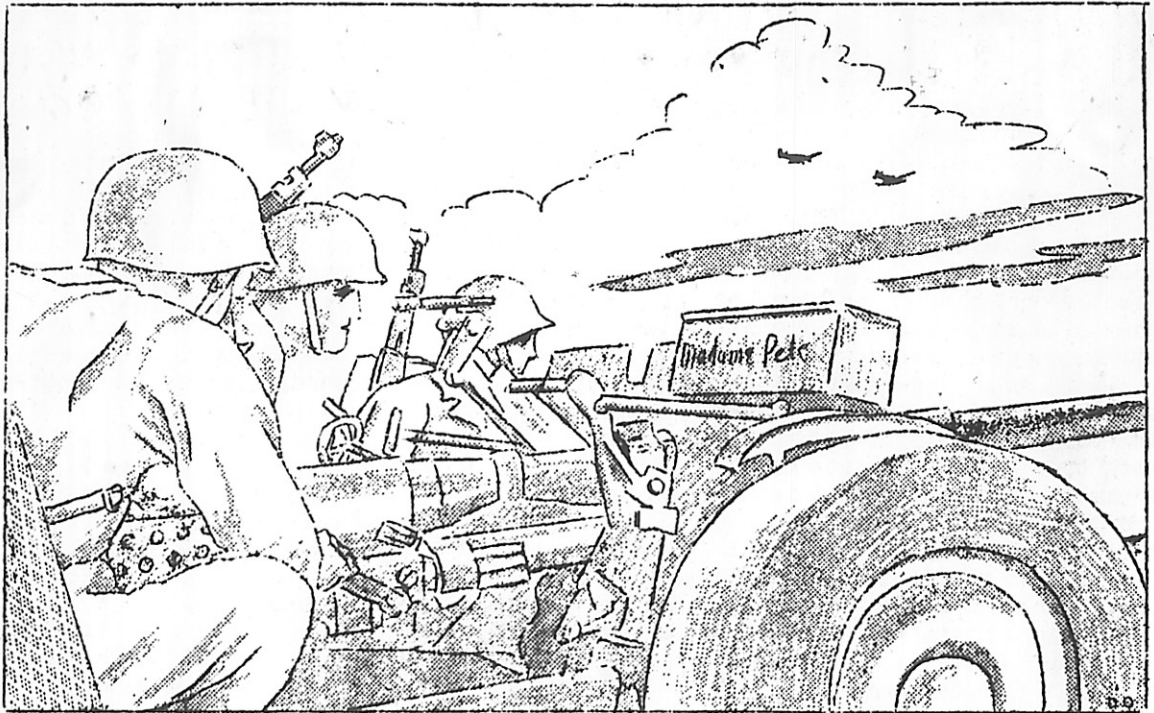
The premium rates will be based upon the American Experience Table of Mortality and interest at 3% per year.

The insurance becomes effective from the first day of the month following the date of application. It will be issued in any multiple of \$500 and the amount of the insurance for one person will not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

(Cont. from Page 1)

known. We'll help you, Uncle Sam, by showing ourselves worthy of your support so that the future of us and our dear ones will not be the life of pariahs.



HERE'S THE 'FIGHTING 100TH'

This picture drawn from an official U.S. Army photo shows a trio of anti-tank troops attached to the famous 100th Infantry Battalion of Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, was formerly a Hawaiian National Guard Unit.

The "Fighting 100th," composed mostly of Americans of Japanese ancestry, Many times the unit has won generous commendations from military officials.

GENERAL PRAISES NISEI TROOPS

Brig. Gen. R. Mittelstaedt, Maui District (Hawaii) commander of the U.S. Army, recently paid tribute to American soldiers of Japanese ancestry in a speech at Baldwin high school in observance of the opening of volunteering on Maui for the proposed Japanese American combat unit.

"Before coming here I served with the army in California and commanded California troops," the general said. "Among the men under me were many Americans of Japanese ancestry, and I want to say they were among the best soldiers we had.

"We are proud of them and the record they made. They are very fine, high

class soldiers and the type of soldiers who present no disciplinary problems. We were very sorry to lose them when they were sent east."

(The American Japanese soldiers of whom Gen. Mittelstaedt refers were California nisei who were in training at various U.S. Army posts in California before evacuation. At the time of evacuation the nisei soldiers were also reassigned to new posts outside the Western Defense Command.)

Gen. Mittelstaedt had high praise for the part the Americans of Japanese extraction have played in the general war effort.

SOLDIERS ARE UNDER 1942 DEPENDENTS ACT

The Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act of 1942 authorizes the payment of monthly family allowances to certain relatives and dependents of enlisted men.

For the purposes of family allowances, the relatives and dependents of a soldier are divided into two classes, Class "A" and Class "B". Class "A" relatives do not have to be dependent upon the soldier in order to be eligible for a family allowance. In Class "A" are the wife and children of the soldier. In Class "B" are the parents, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren of the

soldier. Class "B" dependents must be dependent upon the soldier for a substantial portion of their support.

Each allowance is made up of money deducted from the soldier's pay and money contributed by the government. For example a wife (no children) receives a check for \$50 every month. Of this, the government has contributed \$28. The remainder, or \$22, has been deducted from the soldier's pay. The government contributes for each child an additional \$10. The monthly allowance of the Class "B" dependents runs on a similar basis.

FEW MORE DAYS FOR "V"ING UP

Men between the ages of 17 and 38 may still volunteer to be enlisted in the United States Army combat unit until 9 PM, Wednesday, March 10.

Volunteering office has been set up at the east end of Rec 4.

From Monday, March 8, office hours will be from 9 AM to 9 PM.

OLDEST TOPAZ VOLUNTEER

The oldest person in Topaz to offer his services to the armed forces of the United States during the last few weeks of registration here was an issei, now sixty years of age.

He has lived in this country for forty consecutive years. Although he was many years over the combat age, he showed his eagerness to spend the remaining days of his life serving the cause of democracy in this present war.

His application for voluntary enlistment was accepted by the registration personnel for consideration by the War Department.

all who have felt that the only proper test in the case is loyalty, not racial origin."

SPRINGFIELD (Mass.) REPUBLICAN: "The organization of such a unit for military service would surely create a good impression among the mass of Americans."

PRESS COMMENTS

Following Secretary of War Stimson's announcement of the Army plan to form a special combat unit of nisei enlistees, editorials hailing the plan appeared in numerous newspapers throughout the nation. Below are a few excerpts from some of these papers:

WILMINGTON (Del.) NEWS: "In opening the Army's ranks to enlistment by American-born Japanese, Secretary of War Stimson has taken a wholly justified move. The great majority of this group is thoroughly American in background, thinking and experience. Most of its members are as patriotic and as loyal to this country as young men of German, Irish and British descent now in American uniform."

N.Y. TIMES: "...The episode touches one's sympathies. These Japanese are American citizens, just as are the young men of German and Italian descent who are loyal members of our fighting services.. Their eagerness now to be in the nation's battle may ameliorate their rather lonesome lot in this country."

ATLANTA (Ga.) CONSTITUTION: "There is little doubt, once trained, they (nisei enlistees) will form combats units of highest value in the fighting zones."

S.F. CHRONICLE: "The decision of the War Department to treat them like other citizens in the mustering of men for the armed forces will gratify