

Bigelow

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Jap 'Chutist Prays He'll Drop on Tokyo

The only paratrooper of Japanese ancestry serving in the U. S. Army visited Chicago yesterday and, while bitterly condemning the shameful atrocities perpetrated by Japs on American soldiers, he spoke of his sole ambition in this war: "For the personal satisfaction of myself and other Japanese Americans, I only pray that I will be one of the paratroopers who will be dropped on Tokyo.

"I also hope that it will be I or some other Jap American soldier who will be the one to 'get' the man, the Emperor, responsible for these and other infamies."

The soldier who wants the role of avenger is Pvt. Junie Kawamura, 22, of Seattle, Wash. En route to his base at Camp Mackall, N. C., he stopped off at the Chicago offices of the War Relocation Authority, 126 W. Jackson, to visit an employe-friend, Miss Nobe Ishada.

"The only thing Japanese about my family is its name", he said. "I have been too busy to read much of the stories about Japanese atrocities, but I can see no excuse for Japan pursuing such tactics."

(Kawamura's parents are residents of Minidoka.)

Chicago Times, Jan. 30, 1944.

35 Jap-Americans Offer Atrocity 'Pay'

Denver, Jan. 28 (AP) - Thirty-five Japanese-Americans volunteered today to give blood at the Red Cross blood donor center.

Their spokesman, Dr. Howard Suenaga, former Guadalupe, Calif., physician, said it was an expression of "our intense indignation at the reported atrocities committed on Americans in the Philippines."

Atrocities Stir West Coast: Vengeance Is Vowed

San Francisco, Jan. 29 (AP) - Vows of vengeance and demands for retribution swept the Pacific Coast today as the reaction of horror to the stories of Japanese atrocities mounted to new heights. .... In the Rivers (Arizona) center Japanese condemned the atrocities, saying: "We have 200 men out in the Pacific and if they fall into Japanese hands they will be treated worse than the Americans."

(Excerpt)



## Japanese-Americans Shocked By Atrocities

Jerome, Ark., Jan. 29 (AP) - Many colonists of Japanese ancestry in the Jerome war relocation center have expressed resentment at Japanese brutality to American war prisoners in the Philippines, the War Relocation Authority reported tonight.

Frank Arakawa, chairman of the Jerome Community Council, saying he was speaking for the community in general, declared that "Japan's actions were impossible to a civilized people."

"It is hard to believe that any human being could treat another like those three officers who were treated on Batan," he asserted.

"I hope the fiends responsible for it have enough common sense to realize that they will pay."

"Dilworth Lupton Says Today" - In the Cleveland Press, Jan. 31, 1944.

As we read these reports of Japanese atrocities many of us also will feel concerned about the effect they might have on the attitude of our citizens toward the American-born Japanese who are leaving relocation camps to work in our factories, offices, hospitals, and homes.

Our government has become so convinced of the utter loyalty of most of the 100,000 citizens of Japanese descent who were evacuated from the West Coast that the great majority of them have been permitted to leave the camps as soon as they got employment.

Some 9,000 soldiers of Japanese ancestry are now in our Army combat units. In one, the 100th Infantry Battalion on the Italian front, casualties have reduced the unit to two-thirds its original size.

During the last war loyal German-Americans right here in Cleveland were openly scorned by their neighbors. The fact that this tragedy has not been repeated in War II shows that we have become far more mature. Surely we can be equally mature toward the 800 Japanese-Americans now living and working here.

They are no more responsible for the atrocities committed by the Japanese military authorities than are our German-American neighbors for the outrages directed by Hitler.

Much-Decorated Japanese-American - Tech. Sgt. Ben Kuroki, 25-year-old Japanese-American from Hershey, Neb., has really been around and deserves the rest he's getting at a redistribution center. Kuroki, turret gunner on a Liberator bomber, has served 15 months overseas and participated in 30 combat missions. He has twice been awarded the DFC and wears the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

(Cut Line, Rocky Mountain News  
Jan. 21, 1944)



## Jap Savagery is Denounced

RIVERS, Jan. 28--Treatment of Americans and Filipinos captured by the Japanese at the fall of Bataan and Corregidor was denounced as inhuman today by a special meeting of the Butte community council of this relocation center.

The Japanese-American council members asked "greater opportunity xxx to defeat utterly those responsible for such deeds" and expressed pride in the approximately 300 men from the center now fighting the axis, many of whom are in the Pacific area.

The special council meeting was attended by 57 residents of the Butte community at the center, one for each of the 57 blocks. About 200 evacuated Japanese-Americans reside in each block.

### Resolution Adopted

A resolution, signed by Harry N. Miyake, council chairman, and Verlin Y. Yamamoto, secretary, was adopted unanimously and directed to the war department. It said:

"Whereas, we have received the news report of atrocities committed by Japanese militarists on American prisoners of war at Bataan and Corregidor, and

"Whereas, we are highly devoted to the United States and to the cause of democracy and fair play among nations,

"Therefore Be It Resolved: That the community council of Butte Gila River Relocation Center at Rivers, Arizona, wholeheartedly denounces and condemns the cruelties and inhuman atrocities of the Japanese soldiers, and call upon America, our country, both real and adopted, to give us greater opportunity according to our various abilities to defeat utterly those responsible for such deeds, and

"Be It Further Resolved: That we reiterate our pride in our many sons, fathers and brothers who are fighting in the Pacific area against this cruel militarist group in Japan to maintain the principles of freedom and democracy, and

"Be It Further Resolved: That we reaffirm our faith in the war department which, through selective service, again gives us the opportunity to further participate in helping to win the war."

Arizona Republic  
Phoenix, Arizona  
January 29, 1944

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