

Sora K. Okada - Abe

F.C. 35
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PHILADELPHIA RECORD, Philadelphia, Penna.
April 30, 1944

American-Born Japs Fight for U. S.



—Associated Press Wirephoto.
The hue and cry by some against Japanese-Americans because of their ancestry apparently is ignored by these American-born Japanese youths from a relocation center in the West as they stopped in Kansas City en route to an infantry replacement center in the South. Most of the soldiers, born on the West Coast, will be assigned to the European theater of war.

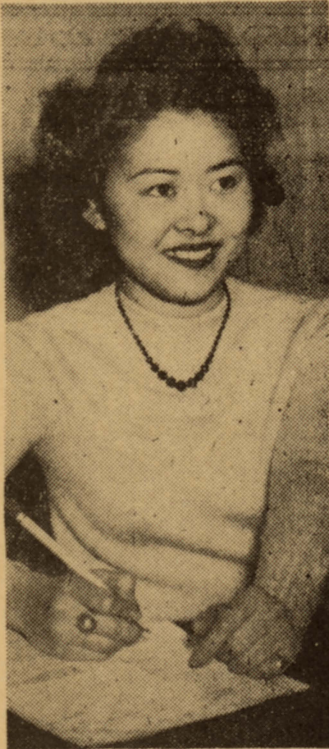
Idaho Get-Together in Australia



Greetings TO OUR
FOLKS IN
IDAHO
FROM YOUR SONS
IN THE
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
AMERICAN + RED CROSS
SERVICE CLUB
Somewhere in Australia

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA this group of U. S. servicemen from Idaho got together for a photograph at an American Red Cross service club. Their names, addresses and length of service in the Southwest Pacific: Front row—M/Sgt. Martin L. Boosinger, 27 months; S/Sgt. Henry Suyehira, Emmett, Route 1, 19 months. Back row—T/Sgt. Wilford G. Hoggan, Salmon City, two years; PhM Mc Robert D. Chatterton, Boise, Route 5, eight months, and Pvt. William Dunham, Pocatello, 13 months.

TIMES-UNION, Rochester, N. Y., April 19, 1944

New WRA Aide

MISS MIWAKO YANAMOTO
Faith in democracy renewed

Japanese Girl Finds Renewed Faith in U. S.

Chances to find jobs and resettle have provided a return of faith in American democracy for Japanese-Americans who were herded into relocation camps at the outbreak of the war.

So spoke Miss Miwako Yanamoto, 20, Japanese-American, today as she took over secretarial duties in the Rochester office of the War Relocation Authority. The WRA, headed locally by Claude C. Cornwall, is attempting to find job opportunities in Western New York for interned Japanese-Americans.

Miss Yanamoto explained it was rather hard to be living under the impression you were a full fledged American, then suddenly be uprooted from your home and business, and be interned. "It made you wonder if this democracy was all that it is cracked up to be," she said.

"But we know now that America means well," she continued. "The opportunities to go out and work and make new homes, and the cooperation we are receiving from the American people restore our belief."

Born in Los Angeles, Miss Yanamoto had two years at Los Angeles city college to her credit and a Civil Service rating as a clerk stenographer. If she likes Rochester, she hopes to induce her parents, now in a camp, to move here. Before the war, her mother was a midwife and her father a restaurant operator in Los Angeles.

NEWARK EVENING NEWS, April 15, 1944

What Others Have to Say

Great Meadows "Persecution"

To the Editor:

Sir—I don't suppose the annoyance of one housewife will have any bearing whatsoever on the public sentiment of Great Meadows in the case of the Jap, George Yamamoto, but I should like to go on record, nevertheless, as protesting.

We call ourselves Americans, and we're proud that we are Americans. Our whole creed of living is based on the concept of democracy. We have believed from the very beginning in liberty and equality for all. Yet a group of people, who undoubtedly feel that they are acting in the best interests of their community and for that matter, probably the whole of our country, protest the presence in their midst of a man who, through no fault of his, is born of Japanese parents. We say with pride that we are the melting pot of the world. Every one has a chance in America. We frown on the European narrow-mindedness toward minority groups. We berate Hitler for his persecution of the Jews and Catholics.

Yet this group of Americans is doing the very same thing. Granted, there are some Japanese in America, who are not loyal to our country. We should not censure them for that. They have a right to their opinions. But those folks will remain in the relocation centers.

In the case of George Yamamoto, our Government released him from internment to do a vital and much needed job on the home front. His qualifications are excellent, perhaps much better than those of any one else the Great Meadows people could employ. From what I've read in the papers, I feel that Mr. Yamamoto really wants to do his part in the conflict at hand. What right has any one who calls himself an American, to show prejudice against this man, or any other of his kind, simply because he was born with yellow skin and almond eyes. It's stupid, narrow-minded and bigoted. It is the very thing we are fighting this war to abolish.

I think the folks of Great Meadows, and any one else who upholds them, should be heartily ashamed of themselves. Further, I think they should give a little serious thought to the meaning of democracy.

(MRS.) WINIFRED S. RUSH.

West Caldwell.

PM, April 28, 1944
New York, N.Y.

Ickes Blasts La Guardia, Edge and Bricker For Their Racial War on Loyal U. S. Japanese

Believes Mayor Must Be Discriminating Through Misunderstanding

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, as usual, came out fighting when the question of violation of the rights of minority groups came up. PM yesterday asked him for an answer to the fears of Mayor La Guardia that relocating loyal Japanese-Americans here would endanger the city's war installations. The Secretary, who is head of the Department under which the War Relocation Authority operates, issued this reply:

By HAROLD L. ICKES

Within the past two weeks the American people have heard three high public officials giving voice to opinions that seem ominously out of tune in a nation that is fighting for the principles of democracy and freedom.

First, the Governor of New Jersey, then the Governor of Ohio, and now, of all people, the Mayor of New York City, have expressed a belief that American citizens of Japanese ancestry and law-abiding Japanese aliens are not entitled to the same privileges as non-Japanese and should be accorded special treatment.

This is a strange fife and drum corps to be playing the discordant anthem of racial discrimination. Stranger by far than fiction. The Mayor of New York City, who has fought long and vigorously for racial equality and justice, carrying the flag, must be shocked and disturbed to find the drummer boy from New Jersey on his left and the fifer from Ohio flanking him on the right. I cannot but believe that he has joined this company through accident and misunderstanding rather than by deliberate choice.

No Proven Cases of Sabotage

Mayor La Guardia has protested against the relocation of persons of Japanese ancestry in New York City, apparently on the theory that these people are dangerous and subversive. Actually there has not been one proven case of sabotage on the part of a Japanese-American since the war began—not even in Hawaii. The people who are being relocated from WRA (War Relocation Authority) centers have been painstakingly checked and found, on the basis of their records, to be loyal American citizens or law-abiding aliens.

Approximately 800 of these people are now living in New York City. To the best of my knowledge, they have not caused the slightest trouble, and I am sure they have no intention of doing so. Thus I can see no basis for the Mayor's fears or for his protests. I can only say that neither Gov. Bricker nor Gov. Edge is the type of bedfellow that he ordinarily chooses, nor the type of thinking that most of us expect from Mayor La Guardia.

The Governor of Ohio, the Hon. John W. Bricker, is guilty not only of prejudice, but of disregard of the facts. In trying to further his Presidential aspirations before a Los Angeles audience last week, Gov. Bricker expressed the opinion that after the war each West Coast community should determine for itself whether the people of Japanese ancestry should be permitted to return to their former homes. He also charged the War Relocation Authority of the Dept. of the Interior with releasing disloyal persons, and cited as evidence the cases of 28 Japanese-American soldiers who recently refused to take combat training.

Con't on next page

Does Bricker Know What He's Talking About?

In accusing WRA of releasing men who later manifested disloyalty in uniform, the Governor didn't know what he was talking about. As it happens, all 28 of the men involved in this incident were inducted into the Army before the West Coast evacuation and have thus never been under jurisdiction of the WRA. But when the Governor told a group of Californians that they were wholly justified in preventing an American citizen from returning to his home, his farm, or his business because they don't like his complexion or his grandfather, the Governor deliberately kicked the Constitution in the teeth.

I hold no brief for the Governor of New Jersey, the Hon. Walter E. Edge, who was the first of this triumvirate to express his racial-tinged opinions. In talking to a group of farmers who had succeeded in driving five thoroughly investigated and law-abiding Japanese workers from a neighbor's farm, Gov. Edge told the protesting group: "I guess I don't blame you." Prior to the Governor's statement, the farmer who had contemplated hiring the Japanese workers had received anonymous telephone calls, had been threatened with violence, and finally had had one of the buildings on his property destroyed by fire. If Gov. Edge can condone this sort of lawlessness and violence in his state and still hold his head up in the company of democratic men, then to him the Constitution is nothing but a dust rag.

As I pointed out in a recent statement in San Francisco, the relocation of Japanese-Americans to a large extent is a local problem. It is a problem of the people of California, Oregon, and Washington, where, unfortunately, a few prejudiced and vocal men have created a public clamor that has stirred unnecessary apprehension and bitterness in other parts of the Nation.

I have no hesitancy in saying that an overwhelming majority of the American public—firm believers in fair play and the Constitution—hold no animosity against these homeless and blameless victims of a wartime military decision. As an indication of this, even in the Far West, I should like to call attention to an assembly of more than 500 girls from 10 Arizona high schools who met at Rivera, Ariz., on Apr. 15, with Japanese-American schoolgirls from the WRA Gila River, Ariz., project to discuss in a spirit of tolerance and good will their mutual problems. To me such a meeting spells anything but racial intolerance. To me it is indicative of the way the vast majority of our citizens feel, once they have the facts, toward those of Japanese descent, Govs. Bricker and Edge and Mayor La Guardia notwithstanding.

Little children shall lead them.

Mayor's Drive on Evacuees Draws Fire on All Sides

Mayor La Guardia's attempt to drive loyal Japanese-Americans out of New York City drew denunciation today from liberals of all shades of color, including Chinese.

His Honor, who has made much political capital (three terms' worth) out of his opposition to discrimination, has been in Washington attempting to persuade Federal authorities to keep Japanese evacuees, released from relocation centers after being certified as loyal by military authorities, from settling in New York.

Under military regulations by which Japanese were sequestered after Pearl Harbor, those found loyal and released are permitted to resettle anywhere except in defined areas on the West Coast. About 800, thus guaranteed the rights of other Americans, have come to New York.

The Mayor doesn't like it.

On his return from Washington yesterday he was asked why he hadn't said anything about his attempt to exclude this group.

"I didn't say anything because I was asked not to say anything," he said.

Then he added:

"That doesn't mean I'm not doing anything."

Clams Up

He asked what he was doing.

"I can't discuss the subject further," he said.

Others had plenty to say, however.

Liu Liang-mo, an outstanding New York Chinese, a lecturer for United China Relief and a writer on Far Eastern affairs, decried such blanket discrimination.

"There are many Japanese-Americans," he said, "who are as loyal as any American and who have as much right to live in this or any community as any other American. I personally know some of them."

"The Mayor is making a mistake in discriminating against a whole group. This is especially so in view of the fact that these people have received the stamp of loyalty from military authorities."

One reason reported given by the Mayor for his campaign is the fear that evacuees would colonize in one neighborhood and cause friction with other groups. This is contrary to experience as reported by

the Japanese-American Committee for Democracy, which has studied the situation.

Ernest Iiyama of New York, chairman of the committee, which was established before Pearl Harbor, said Japanese Americans colonize only when forced to do so by landlord discrimination.

Dr. L. M. Birkhead, national director of Friends of Democracy, criticized the Mayor for taking such a "narrow view, and one that, is contrary to his fundamental philosophy of nondiscrimination against all racial groups."

"I'd like to know what the Mayor is going to do about the German-Americans if he won't permit loyal Japanese-Americans to live here," Birkhead said. "To be consistent he would have to run them out too. Many of them were interned on Ellis Island and later released after their loyalty had been established. They certainly congregate in groups. So do Italian-Americans. If anything, it is even worse to discriminate against the Japanese, because there are so few of them and their presence here certainly couldn't arouse anyone except anti-racial groups."

"The Mayor is sounding an alarm that ought not to be sounded. There should be no wholesale condemnation or indictment of any race. These people, certified by the proper authorities as absolutely loyal, should be judged on that basis, and solely on that basis. In this country we can live with good Americans no matter what their origin."

Discrimination

A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL, said:

"Any effort to bar loyal Japanese-Americans from being relocated in any state is unjustifiable from the point of view of a basic constitutional principle and also from the point of view of the aims and purposes of the United Nations to abolish totalitarian races and tyranny."

"Any discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin plays into the hands of the Axis forces and ought to be frowned upon by all lovers of liberty."

"I am shocked to hear that Mayor La Guardia has been a

party to any move that would discriminate against anybody on this basis. I can't understand his taking such action against these people."

Iiyama said his group, the Japanese-American Committee for Democracy, was seeking a conference with the Mayor to ask him to clarify his position. He said:

"Our feeling is that these protests are based not on lack of sympathy for Japanese-Americans, but rather on misunderstanding and ignorance of the facts concerning them. However, we believe that it is the responsibility of all interested in the just treatment of national minorities to prevent the effect of misunderstanding from developing into a movement against Japanese-Americans. Under the War Relocation Authority's policy, all evacuees are investigated and given clearance by authorized Government agencies before being allowed to resettle. Since this means that their loyalty to this country has been ascertained, their relocation would make available manpower where it is needed."

THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND JAPANESE-AMERICANS

Negro Americans cannot but watch with interest and apprehension the outcome of the Korematsu case, pending in the Supreme Court, and the Endo case, pending in the Ninth Circuit court.

Some 110,000 Japanese-Americans, of whom more than two-thirds are American-born and American citizens, were removed from their homes on the West Coast and forced behind barbed wire enclosures as an emergency war measure. No charges had been brought against them. They had been convicted of no crime. Nevertheless, in what appears to be a direct violation of the Bill of Rights, they were virtually imprisoned in "relocation centers."

The treatment of Japanese-Americans against whom actual charges were brought was, as far as we know, strictly legal; the majority of them were interned, as they should have been, for purposes of public safety. But in the case of the 110,000 against whom there were no charges of any kind, the situation was different. They were uprooted from their homes, treated as enemies, placed under the supervision of armed guards, solely on the grounds of race.

In the Korematsu case, the issue is whether or not the constitutional rights of Americans of Japanese descent have been violated. In the Endo case, as the Washington Post says editorially, "The issue . . . is whether it is valid for the government to confine persons, not suspected of any crime or of any intention to harm the United States. The government itself apparently has grave doubts as to its rights to confine this girl (Miss Mitsuye Endo, 22-year-old Japanese-American girl) and others like her."

The entire program of "evacuation" and "relocation" to which Japanese-Americans have been subjected is the result of pure racialism, fanned to white heat by the Hearst press and California vigilantism. The War Relocation Authority has attempted valiantly to make the best of a bad situation by its tactful and courageous defense of the rights of the "evacuees." But the meliorative efforts of W.R.A. are not enough. The Washington Post's suggestion that relocation centers be changed from "places of detention" to "temporary shelters" to be used by evacuees "on a wholly voluntary basis" should be carried out. Such a change in the procedure awaits the outcome of the court decisions.

If the decisions in these cases are not favorable, would it mean that if the United States were at war with Liberia, all Americans of Negro descent would also have to be detained in "relocation centers?"

RALPH W. PAGE—

Justice for Loyal U. S. Japanese

Washington, April 22.

HAROLD ICKES, Secretary of the Interior, is now in charge of the War Relocation Authority, which has 70,000 loyal American citizens of Japanese descent cooped up in segregation camps. He flatly told the people of California that he did not intend to be "stampeded into undemocratic, bestial, inhuman action."

"Let us not," he said, "degrade ourselves by injuring innocent, defenseless people. To do so would be to lower ourselves to the level of the fanatical Nazi and Japanese war lords."

Today there exists no excuse for discrimination against these citizens. There is no more cause to persecute them than there would be to persecute loyal neighbors of German descent—or recently to mistreat our invaluable population of Italian descent.

Of course we are persecuting them. Legally they can seek work, at which they are very proficient indeed, anywhere outside of the Pacific area. But, much as we need the labor, communities still act like Ku Kluxers.



This outburst of racial hostility and mass condemnation of individuals is undoubtedly due to the impression that the populace can't tell citizen Nisei from enemy aliens. This should have been dispelled by this time. The FBI has done that job individually and in detail. And, furthermore, it has caused to be interned or segregated at Tule Lake every citizen of Japanese descent who is in any way questionable.

PEOPLE who wish to visit their hatred of the Japanese sadists and their trained barbarians upon these loyal Nisei probably do not know the facts. They probably do not know that Americans of Japanese descent by the thousand are in the United States Army and Air Forces. The 100th U. S. Infantry that stormed San Michele and entered Cassino with the vanguard were American Japanese citizens. Another, Sergeant Ben Kuroki, includes in his 30 combat flights the desperate mission to bomb the Ploesti oil fields in Romania.

Surely if these people fight on the front, they are entitled to work in the rear.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, 4/22/44

249 Plea for Justice

To the New York Herald Tribune:

On April 13 I read with deep concern your article "Farm Revolt Against Japanese Threatens Violence in New Jersey." Then today I read your article "Edge Receives Protest Over Japanese." This, I believe, was the second article concerning the "running out of town" of five Japanese evacuees in Great Meadows, N. J. Not only were these five men put out of town, but apparently this was carried out in typical "lynching mob" manner. This is shown by the statement of John Rogers Jr. that if "the government won't help us, then the committee will take action" and by the words of a dairy farmer, "We'll show them love with shotguns." This last was a reply to the one person who had the courage to face the obviously narrow-minded committee of three hundred, Mrs. Mary Helze. Her plea had been to treat these Japanese "with true Christian love"—it was met with catcalls and jeers.

A great deal is being said now about what America stands for—from the Preamble to the Declara-

tion—or Independence—"We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." It is evident that Mr. Kowalik's neighbors have never heard this credo, or perhaps it is just that they feel they are such true patriots that they are in a position to appoint themselves vigilantes. Isn't this exactly what we are fighting against, —a rule of men, rather than law?

As for Governor Walter E. Edge's statement as to the farmer's attitude, "I guess I don't blame you!" For a member of a government which advocates freedom and justice this is an appalling position to take. Does he think that this is consistent with his pledge to the electorate to uphold justice?

Let the committee of three hundred and Governor Edge consider the consistency of their position as applied to their own ancestors in this country!

EDWARD O. DOUGLAS Jr.
Deerfield, Mass., April 15, 1944.

CASA GRANDE DISPATCH
April 7, 1944

Japanese Doctor Is Given U. S. Army Commission And Leaves Rivers Camp

Lt. Herbert Hata, recently commissioned in the Medical Corps of the United States Army left Rivers, April 1. He will report to Carlyle Barracks in Pennsylvania for basic training and then be assigned to the Army hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Lieutenant Hata has been connected with the hospital staff at the Rivers Community Hospital for the past two years. Before he was evacuated from the West Coast along with other Americans of Japanese ancestry, he had been a member of the medical staff at the Loma Linda General Hospital in Glendale, California, and later was in private practice in the same city.

His wife and small daughter accompanied him on the trip East but will visit with relatives who have relocated to Minneapolis, Minnesota until they join Lieutenant Hata at Fort Sam Houston.

Lieutenant Hata had volunteered for Medical Service in the Army more than a year ago, but the granting of his commission was delayed by the Army's meticulous determination of his loyalty before he was accepted and assigned.

NEWARK EVE. NEWS
April 13, 1944

What Others Think

2495
Too Reminiscent

To the Editor:

Sir—Your article about "the intense excitement" in the "harmonious, righteous" community of Great Meadows, caused by a lone Japanese-American working on a farm there, might be amusing if it did not remind one of the witch burnings in Salem. Is this the way we are going to win the peace?

(MRS.) MAGNY LANSTAD-JENSEN.
Rockaway.

CHRISTIAN SC. MONITOR, Boston, Mass.
April 14, 1944

"Send these . . . to me"

If by the light of her flaming torch, the "Mother of Exiles," standing in New York Harbor looked down on Great Meadows, New Jersey, this week, she must have bowed her head in shame at the repudiation of her promise-filled invitation: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free — Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tost to me." Five Japanese-American evacuees who only "wanted to prove by working hard and living decently that we could be accepted by the community" were forced, by threatened mob action on the part of other Americans, to flee the farm to which they had been sent to relieve labor shortage.

Experienced farmers, thoroughly investigated by the War Relocation Authority, the evacuees were condemned mainly on the grounds of race prejudice and secondarily because of fear of economic competition. Some men and women seemed to feel that having sons in the service justified their protests against the presence of the Japanese-Americans. But Japanese-Americans themselves—about 9,000 of them—are serving in the United States armed forces, and have won high praise. Just a week ago Purple Heart medals were given to the families of 58 of these soldiers killed in action in Italy. One flyer has earned the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, and the Air Medal five times.

Moreover other Americans, not of Japanese descent, on returning from action in the Pacific, have raised their voices in pleas against racial intolerance at home. They know it is of such stuff that wars are made, and they want no more wars. Yet the problems of peace loom large, indeed, in the face of such incidents as that in Great Meadows.

Time, April 10, 1944

SPOKESMAN REVIEW
April 22, 1944BOYS DIE IN ITALY;
PARENTS BLAME JAPAN

HONOLULU, April 21. (AP)—Yuki Moriwake spoke in Japanese at the United States army ceremony. He was the spokesman for Japanese parents of four American soldiers killed in Italy and awarded the purple heart posthumously.

"We blame this upon Japan which attacked the United States and started this war," he said at the ceremony. "We blame Japan as the evil instrument of destruction which indirectly caused the death of our boys and until Japan is brought to her knees to pay for her dastardly crime, we shall not be satisfied.

"We, and other Japanese parents who have sons in the armed forces, will do our share for the United States."

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
April 19, 1944MARINE LAUDS
U.S. 'GOOD' JAPS

(Picture on back page.)

BY MAURICE FISCHER.

Yes—there are some Japanese who have not only the respect and admiration of U.S. Marines, but are even their buddies. For that you have the word of Lt. Robert J. Newell, 7448 N. Claremont av., who has just returned from 14 months of service in the South Pacific with a unit of Marine Corps. combat military police.

But these Japanese are Americans—American-born Nisei and soldiers in the U.S. Army, who have been serving with Marine detachments in the Pacific islands as interpreters and otherwise providing the leatherneek fighters with the benefit of their knowledge of enemy ways.

Good Yank Soldiers.

"They have the respect of the Marines because they are good American soldiers and we realized the risks they are exposed to, in event they are captured by the enemy," said Lt. Newell, who left the study of law at Marquette University in 1941 to enlist in the Marine Corps.

"As it was, these boys had a tough time of it," recalls Newell with a laugh. "Each one of them has been captured eight or nine times—by our own men. One day two of them were seized while standing in a Marine chow line, in their dungarees.

Needed a Bodyguard.

"It got to the point where finally, for their own protection, we had to detail a marine to accompany them wherever they went. The men took it in good spirit."

CLEVELAND PRESS
April 25, 1944Reveal Husband of
Cleveland Japanese
Saved U. S. General

A 26-year-old Japanese-American sergeant, whose wife and brother are living in Cleveland, today was credited with helping to save the life of an American general in hand-to-hand combat with Japanese forces in the South Pacific.

Sgt. Tomas Sakamoto, whose wife is a civil service employee of the War Department, has been mentioned in dispatches from the South Pacific as the first of his race to be cited for action against the Japanese. Mrs. Sakamoto, 23, lives at 11102 Lorain avenue, while Sgt. Sakamoto's brother, Frank, 22, lives at 1906 E. 93d street.

Sgt. Sakamoto saw action on Los Negros Island in the Admiralty group. He was the only non-commissioned officer in an assault party led by Brig. Gen. William Chase. The party was attacked by a Jap group, headed by the Japanese island commander.

In the ensuing fighting the entire Jap group except two were killed.

Sgt. Sakamoto is a native of San Jose, Cal. He has been in the Army three years and met his wife in Minneapolis, Minn., while he was at Camp Savage.

For All Americans
Sirs:

For the benefit of other civilians, I forward a message to us all from a letter written by an A.A.F. captain now flying a Liberator in the Central Pacific; he wears the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster:

"I want to tell you what a group of us officers and enlisted men have been talking about tonight.

"Though we have done a good job of killing the enemy, I find no sign of an organized hate in any of our men. . . . Our men come closer to hating those at home who break faith with us at the fronts—the shirkers, the profiteers, those who bicker in Washington over our rights. If the powers that be in America deny us in the service the right to an easy, practical way of voting, they will live to regret it. And to the last man our group is not in accord with what some people in the states are trying to do with some American citizens, namely the Jap citizens. We say, if they step out of the line of faithfulness to our country, punish them severely. But don't touch one of them just because he has Japanese blood. They are American citizens. We are fighting for all American citizens, and when we die for them we don't stop to ask what kind of blood they have. We are fighting for the sacred rights of man; we don't want them toyed with behind our backs."

DONALD CULROSS PEATTIE
Santa Barbara, Calif.

YUMA SUN & SENTINEL
April 18, 1944PURPLE HEART IS
GIVEN WIDOW OF
JAP-AMERICAN

POSTON, April 18.—The United States war department last week reached behind the barbed wire of a relocation center to present the Order of the Purple Heart to the widow of a Japanese-American soldier who died in defense of his country.

Ruth Shiramizu, widow of S-Sgt. James Shiramizu who was killed in Italy January 14, was the recipient of the honor, awarded posthumously to her husband "for military merit, wounds received in action resulting in his death." The citation was signed by Maj. Gen. James Ulio and Henry Stimson, secretary of war.

Sergeant Shiramizu's two-year-old son, Michael, his parents and three sisters also live in Poston.

The Shiramizus before evacuation were residents of California where Sergeant Shiramizu was prominent in school athletics.

America At War

By Selden Menefee

Future Of The Nisei

UP IN GREAT Meadows, N. J., last week, Ed Kowalick was forced by community pressure to discharge five Japanese-American farmers, who had been furnished by the War Relocation Authority to help him work his land on a share-cropping basis.

Kowalick thought he had found a solution to the vexing problem of farm-labor shortages. The very fact that the Japanese-Americans had been released by the WRA was proof that they were loyal; nearly all those who are disloyal or of doubtful status—some 18,000 of them—have now been segregated in the Tule Lake, Calif., camp.

But the crackpots of Kowalick's community forced him to give up, using such terrorist methods as anonymous telephone threats against his children, planting of dynamite under a bridge, and the burning of a shed on his farm to gain their point.

A few weeks earlier, in January, Norton Terry and his family were driven from the home they had rented at Martinez, Calif., on the northern end of San Francisco Bay. A white American, Norton had come there to work on a war construction project for the Associated Oil Co. His crime was that he happened to be married to a Nisei girl (American of Japanese parentage) and brought her and their 2-year-old son to Martinez.

Loyal Citizens

Stories such as these account for the fact that the WRA is having a very difficult time getting the 70,000 or so loyal Japanese and Niseis who are still parked in drab "relocation camps" out West to leave, even when employment at necessary work is offered in advance. After two years of seclusion, they can hardly be blamed for hesitating about leaving the relative security of their camps for the unknown. So far only about 21,000, mainly Niseis of the younger adult-age group, have ventured out.

All of which renders the post-war problem of the Japanese-Americans in this country the more acute. Last summer the National Opinion Research Center interviewed 600 Japanese in a Western relocation camp asking the question, "After the war, what do you think would be the best for the Japanese in the United States to do?"

Of those who were American citizens, 62 per cent said "Live in all parts of the United States," 32 per cent "Live where they did before the war," and only 4 per cent "Live outside the United States." But of the noncitizens, mainly older persons who had strong ties on the Pacific Coast, only 16 per cent wanted their people to scatter over the country, while 14 per cent wanted them to leave the United States and 65 per cent preferred to return to their former homes.

A Gallup poll made some time ago, however, reported that only 3 persons in every 10 in the Far West favored allowing all evacuated Japanese to return to the Coast when the war is over. At the other extreme, an equal proportion would allow none to return and two-thirds of these thought that all Japanese should be sent to Japan.

Since the publicizing of Japanese atrocities, which were exploited to the fullest by the Hearst press, opinion is probably even less favorable to the Japanese. A recent poll by the Los Angeles Times showed a ratio of 5 to 1 of its readers in favor of barring them permanently from the Pacific Coast.

Even if the Japanese do return, the Gallup survey showed that 69 per cent of Far West-erners thought they would be unwilling to hire Japanese servants after the war, and 59 per cent said that they would not trade at Japanese-owned stores.

Nor is the rest of the country any too friendly. A recent poll of Iowa farmers by Wallace's Farmer asked, "If there were a chance to bring 40 American-born families of citizens of Japanese ancestry and farm experience from camps in the West to take farm jobs in your county, would you be in favor of doing it?" Only 10 per cent said yes, 75 per cent said no and 15 per cent were undecided.

The hatred we felt for the Germans in the last war seems to be reserved mainly for the Japanese in this one. It is based on racial feeling, enhanced by the shock of the attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent atrocious acts. But it should not be directed against Japanese-Americans.

More information is badly needed regarding the Niseis, whose predominant loyalty to American institutions despite the treatment they have received is a tribute to their patriotism. These Americans who have cast their lot with us must be given their full civil rights. Otherwise they will eventually lose their faith in democracy.

It would help if more publicity were given to the fighting record of Nisei soldiers. Sergt. Ben Kuroki, for example, has flown 30 heavy bombing missions over Europe, including the first costly raid on the Ploesti oil fields of Romania. He wears two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the coveted Air Medal with four oak-leaf clusters.

The Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion took San Michele in a night attack and got to Cassino with the first American units. And Nisei soldiers were among the Americans who captured Kwajalein Atoll—from the Japanese themselves. Too few people know these facts.

DAY, New London, Conn.
April 14, 1944

Strong-Arm Methods Win

THE effort to resettle five Japanese-Americans in Warren county, New Jersey, where they were to work in the rich "muck land" farm area on land owned by 28 year old Edward Kowalick, a farmer, has ended in flat failure. Angry farmers have been holding mass meetings, and threatening to "run the Japs out of the county" at the point of shotguns. An effort to reason with the farmers, at first thought to have been successful and so reported here some days ago, failed despite the best efforts of all concerned. While 400 farmers and other townspeople of the area held a tumultuous meeting in a school in the area one night recently, a shed belonging to Kowalick, and containing seven tons of fertilizer, caught fire in mysterious fashion and burned to the ground, a total loss of building and contents.

The deplorable part of the affair is that Kowalick says he needs the help of the five Japanese-Americans. He wanted them to work until fall; after that, he says, the War Relocation Authority probably would have to assume responsibility for them. All five, moreover, have been carefully investigated by federal authorities and there is no question of their loyalty to the United States. Although the five, it now seems, may not be American-born, the government agencies investigating them have no doubt as to their anxiety to behave acceptably and work faithfully in their new jobs. And it follows that if government agencies, including the federal Bureau of investigation, give the men clean records and approve this transfer to a point where they can do useful work, the fears and suspicions of the farmers, based upon no provable facts, hardly seem to hold water.

In any event the accepted American way in which to get rid of these Japanese, if the people in the area can prove adequate reasons for having them removed, is not to issue threats of shotgun parties. It certainly is not to intimidate the man employing them by burning his buildings — and there is, it seems, a strong suspicion that the shed containing the fertilizer was deliberately set afire.

In fact it would seem that the methods used by the people in the area were exactly the same as those so commonly encountered in Axis countries. The strong-arm, "might is right" method of dealing with minority groups is exactly the kind of behavior Americans do not, as a nation, approve.

Housewives here not Prejudiced against Hiring Jap-Americans

120 now on Waiting List to get them for Work
as Domestic Servants; WRA Places Some

If you're one of those rare ones with no servant problem, don't lay a finger on this story. The next little bit is strictly about domestic help—the kind with Japanese ancestry.

Now that we're on the subject, sit down while we rap the topic question:

Would you like a domestic servant? A clean, bright servant whose patriotism, loyalty, integrity and character are vouched for by the United States Government?

If you sign an affirmative ballot on those questions, don't call the War Relocation Authority, because the next person who does, in an attempt to get Japanese-Americans for household help, is going to be exactly No. 120 on a waiting list that's still piling up.

Farmers around Muckland, Warren County, N. J., might not feel that the relocated Japs are desirable, either as employees or neighbors, but housewives and the house-keeping "bachelors" of Philadelphia don't feel that way.

When five Japanese-born men were taken from Edward Kowalick's farm in Muckland Thursday because the neighbors didn't like the idea of their employment, Philadelphians started calling the WRA, wondering if the Japs could do housework.

Unfortunately they couldn't, because they started out being farmers when they came to America in 1910, and they'll probably be farmers all their lives and yet all of them say that if they could meet the requirements they would be glad to take servant jobs.

In that sense, they're typical of the Japanese-Americans pronounced loyal by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and have come here after being released from relocation centers.

"I'm a university graduate," said one Nisei—a Jap born in the United States—as he came into the cramped WRA office in Room 902 of the Stephen Girard Building. His clothes hung loosely, and one hand had been amputated. He spoke slowly:

Lost Hand in Saw Mill

"I've taken my degree in accounting. I went from the camp to the Middle West, where my family were, but I couldn't get a job, not even as a bookkeeper. So I took a job in a saw mill; an accident happened, and my hand was cut off. But I still want a chance to do anything—

housework or factory work. Just give me a chance."

Henry Patterson, WRA director here, and his assistant, Miss Jennett S. Walker, say this feeling is based on the Oriental pride in the self-sufficiency of the individual.

"Over and over," says Miss Walker, "we hear the relocated Japanese saying, 'I left the camp because I wanted to get back into the stream of American life. I wanted to do my share in the war. I need a job to keep my self-respect.' And this need is so great that they will take positions as household servants, even when they've had no previous experience or qualification for it."

Another Jap-American—this one an Isel, meaning he was born in Japan—owned a dye factory; a third was a private in an importing business; a fourth was a high school student.

Variety of Positions

All are now working in homes, as maids and cleaning women and cooks and man-servants. Some care for victory-gardens, some care for children, some clean the kitchen stove.

If these Japanese-Americans think of the days that were, they don't mention their thoughts. They say they like their positions, but their words fail to indicate extreme pleasure or displeasure. A few, if pressed will admit to being lonely; most are waiting for the time when they can take other jobs.

All told, the WRA here has placed about 50 Nisei and Isel in servants' positions here. That's about 25 per cent of the total relocated Japanese given jobs through the Philadelphia office, but it doesn't even come close to meeting all the domestic demand for them.

Since December, Philadelphia's servant population has been increased by 26 Japanese-Americans; this morning there were 119 women and men who had requested the agency for household help.

It would be foolish, of course, to say that the relocated Jap-Americans have proven ideal servants in every case.

But in the majority, the relocated Japanese have proved everything the Government said of them. They've been clean and kind (especially with children) and their loyalty has never been questioned.

They might not all be the best cooks in the world, and maybe some don't quite get the fleck of dust in the corner but all in all, the WRA says just one thing:

They're good Americans.

Jersey Clergy Deplore Ouster Of 5 Japanese

200 Methodists Denounce
Farmers' Action, Call for
Committees on Tolerance

Special to the Herald Tribune

NEWARK, N. J., April 21.—A meeting of 200 New Jersey clergymen at the Eighty-seventh Newark Annual Conference of the Methodist Church unanimously passed a resolution today deploring the action of Warren County farmers who, a week ago, forced the departure of five Japanese evacuees, assigned to work on a Great Meadows farm.

At the same time the ministers "heartily" indorsed "the effort of the War Relocation Authority to settle people of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from their homes on the West coast." The resolution, introduced jointly by the Rev. Chester E. H. Hodgson, of Newark, and the Rev. Karl K. Quimby, of Ridgewood, N. J., said that the members of the conference were "greatly disturbed" by the citizens' action "in denying the right of others to work and produce for the good of the entire nation." The resolution added:

"We call upon our churches to foster in the communities interracial or reconciliation committees composed of representative Christian citizens to study the situation and work out plans which will lessen the tension and spread the spirit of good will."

The Japanese laborers were brought to the farm of Edward Kowalick by the W. R. A. from the Gila River Relocation Center, Rivers, Ariz. Their appearance stirred the farmers into bitter opposition. They said they felt the Japanese would, in time, undersell them and drive them out.

Following a tumultuous meeting of 400 farmers on April 14, the mysterious burning of Mr. Kowalick's fertilizer tank last night, the Japanese were withdrawn by the W. R. A. and sent to Philadelphia.

The Rev. Francis J. McConnell, Bishop of the Methodist Church in the New York area, presided at the conference, held in St. Luke's Church, Clinton Avenue and High Street, Newark. Bishop McConnell, who will retire in June, received a gift of \$1,050 from the conference. An anonymous gift of \$10,162 to the Methodist Hospital, Sixth Street and Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, was announced by the Rev. Harold N. Smith, superintendent of the Jersey City district.

Says Communities Must Be Prepared For Jap-Americans

Community preparation is the key to successful relocation of Japanese-Americans, according to Miss Edith E. Lowry, executive secretary of the Home Missions Council of North America. Miss Lowry, a recognized authority on problems of migrant laborers, spoke last night before the Plainfield Council for World Friendship at the Friends Meeting House.

First outlining the bare facts of the resettlement project, Miss Lowry proceeded to tell how the problem has been met in part.

110,000 Affected

"When the war began, 110,000 Japanese-Americans were evacuated from the West Coast, where antagonism for them had turned to fear," she said. These thousands were first put into make-shift shelters because of the need for speed in segregating them; later they were moved into 10 relocation centers by the government—their new "homes" were barbed-wire enclosed, and guarded at all times.

Two-thirds of the number were American citizens, Miss Lowry said, and the remaining one-third were aliens who were prevented by our immigration laws from becoming citizens.

The government set up the War Relocation Authority, in hopes of resettling the loyal Japanese-Americans where they could help in the war effort, but the task is not easy. The first step was to interview the internees to determine their loyalty.

"Bewildered at having been uprooted from their homes, many were noncommittal," Miss Lowry said. These, numbering about 18,000, were sent to a segregation center at Tule Lake, Calif., and will not be relocated. Families were not split up in this segregated group.

For the remaining thousands, resettlement is being sought. "Seventeen thousand have been relocated, mostly in the Middle West," said the speaker. "Now approximately 1,400 a month are being relocated."

Among the cities which have provided successfully for Japanese-American labor are Rochester, N. Y., Chicago and Detroit, in each of which Resettlement Committees have been set up to assist in the many problems which arise. Success of the project in these cities was attributed by Miss Lowry to the fact that a survey of available industries or farms where the Japanese-Americans could work was made before they appeared on the scene, in addition to provision for their housing and their spiritual needs.

In Chicago, "hostels" have been set up where young Japanese-Americans can come during the difficult period of adapting themselves to the new life, Miss Lowry said. She added that the Chicago churches have decided not to segregate the Japanese Christians into their own churches, but to allow them to mix with established Protestant groups.

The principal problem in getting Japanese-Americans to leave the relocation centers, Miss Lowry said, is their fear of insecurity on the "outside world"; of how they will be received in the average community; of their new responsibilities. Each one is carefully investigated by the FBI before being released from a relocation center, she emphasized.

"Incidents like the unfortunate one which occurred recently in Great Meadows," said the speaker, "can color the whole problem." "It is serious that prejudices could mount to such heights."

Urges Cooperation

Urging her hearers to write to their governor, legislators and newspapers, and to the New Jersey Goodwill Commission in Newark, of their willingness to cooperate in the matter, Miss Lowry said, "The most serious thing about incidents such as the one which occurred in this state is that they might lead to legislation making it impossible for relocation in any part of the state."

As another phase of her address, Miss Lowry discussed the problem which as occurred in the agricultural migrant situation by supplementary forces of Jamaican, Bahaman and Mexican labor which have been added to our native supply of workers.

Miss Lowry said the government sent in 10,000 Jamaicans, 5,000 Bahamans and 50,000 Mexican nationals last year to supplement native farm labor, and that this year the number may be doubled.

"The government guarantees to these people wages, jobs, pay for 75 per cent of the possible employment period, adequate housing and travel expenses," she said. "In many cases, the imported labor is housed in government camps, with the result that native migrants are being shoved into inferior camps."

These agricultural laborers, who follow the crops from one section of the country to another, are being reached and helped by the combined efforts of churches, who have provided a group of trained workers to move about with them, Miss Lowry said. The workers enlist the cooperation of the communities where laborers settle, and help in providing child care centers and spiritual leadership for the migrants.

Teen-Age Mission Of Good Will

At the Japanese relocation center in Rivers today, approximately 500 teen-age girls from many high schools of the state particularly those in the Salt River valley, will be guests of the Girls League of Butte High School, one of the two secondary schools maintained at Rivers for Japanese youths. The program for the day-long assembly includes various field events, panel discussions, and conferences as well as various types of entertainment. Hostesses for the occasion will be Japanese girls, members of the league of Butte school.

Were it not for transportation difficulties, three times the number of girls from the high schools of the state would attend the assembly. More high schools in the state also would send delegations. Because of these wartime restrictions, most of the girls will come from this valley.

Chief in importance of this gathering at Rivers isn't the program or the entertainment that have been arranged for the visitors, but the excellent demonstration of tolerance exemplified by the meeting. We are engaged in this war to eliminate racial hatreds, intolerance, and brutal domination by nations of other nations. We are battling for a better world in which all mankind will live in peace, harmony and brotherly love.

At Rivers today these high school girls, all Americans and proud that they are, but of different racial descents, will meet in a spirit of good fellowship to discuss their mutual problems, and to advise with each other respecting their solution. What these girls do in Rivers today will not solve the postwar racial problems, which the nation must face when this war is over, but which adults have been dodging and evading, but the spirit of friendliness shown in meeting with the girls of Butte High School should be helpful as a guide in postwar America.

Urging support of the Cooley bill in the House, which would restore many benefits of the Farm Security Administration, Miss Lowry said: "When war production is over, many workers will be coming back into farming sections. We need provisions for low-income farmers, so that they can hold their land and not be swept into another desperate migration such as that which occurred in 1935."

*The Guest Editorial***America
Has Done It Again**

By C. V. HIBBARD

In panic after Pearl Harbor, we blundered, disregarding the rights of our own fellow citizens, but the long range showing is better. How big, and what, is the problem of our American born citizens of Japanese ancestry?

If the present residents of Madison all moved out and all native born Americans of Japanese blood moved in, the buses would be just as crowded as they are now but no more so. The schools would be crowded beyond all reason and there would not be enough adults to carry on the present industry and business of the city. The population signs at the city limits would not need to be changed. The problem is one of quite young people, mostly children, and we have not done a bad job with it.

We need not concern ourselves with the older alien generation. There are three of them to 10,000 in our total population and their average age is about 60. They will have no more children. In 10 years, they will have joined their ancestors.

Many of them will not be happy in that company, for they have been weaned away from the land where they knew only poverty and hardship. Had we not forbidden it, most of them would have become naturalized American citizens.

When war was declared, the combined information and suspicions of the army and navy intelligence and the FBI rounded up some 3,000 enemy aliens who were interned. A subsequent study and review of these cases has resulted in the release of about one-half to join their families on the relocation projects of the War Relocation Authority. Not even the Japanese themselves question the propriety of this procedure.

* * *

The American-born children are not Japanese. Those who have ventured back to Japan on a visit have been made aware of that fact in no uncertain terms and have been most unhappy in the experience. They do not speak Japanese. The army intelligence seeking men qualified for their service have scoured the projects for prospects and then had to teach them the Japanese language.

The playground, the school, and the church have fully justified the best American tradition. Segregated on the projects with people of their own race children have asked, "Can't we go back to America? We do not like it here."

They are at home in the normal Caucasian community. Even their physical features are modified. Their stature has increased. They carry themselves in a different way. The black hair and eyes, the olive skin persist, but they are not Japanese. They are Americans.

* * *

Why do so many people on the west coast fear and dislike the Japanese? Not on the basis of any overt acts of sabotage. There have never been any.

If the answer is that only prompt evacuation and the failure of the Imperial Japanese army to make a landing prevented sabotage, then turn to the Hawaiian Islands, where there was invasion by the navy and air forces, where a large proportion of the population are of Japanese race, and where many in the national guard had arms which they used only to defend our country and theirs and there were no cases of sabotage.

Segregation seems to have been the chief trouble. First the racial stigmata made the Japanese as conspicuous as an army with banners.

Second, we refused to allow them to become naturalized. They were too old when they came to learn English well. They had a close knit social culture of their own in which they sought refuge. They were a hard working thrifty people, tough competitors.

Like the Sudeten Germans, the alien Japanese had behind them a government that might exploit the fact if they were shoved around. The immigrant Japanese came for the most part from Kyushu and the region of the Inland sea. This is the oldest part of Japan where feudalism flourished. The common people had never had anything to say about government. The immigrants were the younger sons of the poor who had no hope in Japan.

In this, they were like many of our European immigrants. On both sides of the continent, the immigrant took the back breaking jobs the native sons did not want and set themselves to advance through their children.

* * *

Continued on next page

ST. JOURNAL (cont'd from page 13)

NEWS, CHICAGO, Illinois, 4/18/44

Segregation is ended. Some of the old people have already gone back to Japan. More will follow. The American born are moving east from the projects and for the most part do not desire to return to the coast. They are widely scattered in a diversity of callings. The student class have pioneered this new migration.

* * *

There were about 2,500 students of Japanese ancestry in the coast universities and colleges when the war began. They were removed. Educators on the coast and to the eastward, church leaders, the YMCA and YWCA organized the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council to help them find new college homes. This was done by request of Milton S. Eisenhower, director of the War Relocation Authority and with the written approval of Gen. McCloy of the war department.

The American Friends Service Committee to whom the request came gathered into the council representatives of the larger Protestant churches, the Roman Catholic churches, the Jews, and the YMCA, YWCA. Certain foundations provided operating expenses and the religious bodies and the colleges gave scholarships in aid. More than 3,000 students have entered 440 colleges in 46 states.

These students have made good. In scholarship, they run a B average and gather a surprising proportion of high honors. Other students like them and they are often elected to the highest campus positions. College presidents and deans write most enthusiastically of the stimulating and broadening effect of their presence in the student life. There have been no serious "incidents."

Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, says that these students have been a most potent influence in preparing the way for resettlement by others from the projects. No less difficult, they have been able to assure their relatives on the projects that America is still hospitable, fair minded, and law abiding.

* * *

Now selective service is taking the boys out of college. Their sisters are going into the cadet nurses corps. It is a willing service. The men already on the fighting fronts are nearly all volunteers, but the drafted men are as eager to do their part.

* * *

Pull a man out of his job, break up his home, place him and his family behind barb wire and an armed guard for a couple of years, give him a chance to fight for his country and he does it.

He is an American.

Japanese Girls Also Swoon At Sinatra, Says 'Y' Delegate

The girls in the Japanese relocation centers swoon over Frankie Sinatra, too!

"Why they are just as normal that way as other girls," said Mrs. Joan Arai, her black eyes dancing slyly.

Mrs. Arai, who looks 20 but says she is 34, was relocated to the Amache center in Colorado with her husband and 8-year-old son, Yutaka.

Wearing a smart green suit that had to be tailored down to her petite size, she arrived today with several other Japanese-American Y.W.C.A. workers for the Midwest regional conference of the Y.W.C.A. They were invited here because they could not be admitted to the West Coast to attend the western conference.

They Fear Discrimination.

Contrary to popular opinion, not all young Japanese-Americans are in a hurry to leave the relocation centers, Mrs. Arai said. Most of them are American citizens and they felt bitterly that their rights were violated when the War Relocation Authority moved them inland. They hate the crowded conditions of the camps, but also they hate to be parted from their families and they fear discrimination, she explained.

"Most families have to stay behind because they can't find housing in the cities where jobs are available."

Part of her volunteer job at the Amache center is to encourage the young people to go out, find jobs and make new lives for themselves in the Middle West and East.

"That's where the Y.W.C.A. comes in," she said. "They find living quarters and companionship at the Y. They get help in finding jobs and discover that people still like them after all."

More Hospitality Here.

"Most of those who find themselves will stay in the Midwest," she predicted. "People are more hospitable here than in California. I went window shopping this morning, and even people rushing to work smiled at me. Why should they go back if California doesn't want them?"

The other part of her job is to keep the citizens of the center happy. For the youth she has organized baseball and basketball teams and jitterbug sessions. The older people are the real problem, she said, because of the lack of privacy.

Delegates from 141 community and 200 student Y.W.C.A.'s located in 12 states were welcomed to the three-day conference this morning by Mrs. Ernest Johnson, chairman of the central region. Panel discussions and symposiums on the wartime problems of the "Y" will concern the conferees.

REGISTER, New Haven, Conn., 4/14/44

EUROPEAN TRICK

While a protest meeting was being held in a schoolhouse in a New Jersey muck-farming area over a truck gardener's employment of several Japanese to work on shares, and while warnings were being issued to get rid of the Japanese "or else," a fertilizer shed on the farmer's property mysteriously burned down. The Japanese had been furnished through the War Relocation Authority, from an Arizona relocation camp to which they had been evacuated from California. The WRA was particularly castigated for its part in the affair. The embattled farmers of Warren County won their point; the Japanese were ousted

as a threat to the American way of life, but that American way certainly won nothing in the fracas.

When the American way is interpreted as freedom for any individual or band of individuals to tell whom their neighbors can engage to work for them and whom they can not employ, and is further interpreted as freedom to run out at the point of shotguns anybody whose color or ancestry they happen not to like, despite the laws of the land to the contrary, the so-called American way is getting into a perilous state. It is partly that sort of thing that has made Europe what it is today.

It is not very popular now to defend Japanese, because of obvious reasons. But mob rule applied to them can be as easily applied to somebody else. And when passion and prejudice are put above government by law, then those self-styled patriots and protectors had better learn something themselves about the essential ingredients in the kind of life they purport to defend.



23 JAPANESE-AMERICAN SOLDIERS TRAIN AT MACKALL

—Photo by U. S. Signal Corps.

Jap-American Paratroopers Get Training

Nisei Are Loyal Citizens Of U. S.

(Special to Daily News)

CAMP MACKALL, May 25.—Now attached to the 13th airborne division here for airborne training are 23 American soldiers of Japanese descent.

Known generally as Japanese-Americans, or by their own name Nisei, these men are American-born sons of Japanese parents, all living in the United States or its possessions at the time of Pearl Harbor. Several lost members of their families in that and other Pacific area attacks.

All 23 are qualified jumpers, having completed the Ft. Benning course, and are now undergoing a thorough schooling in airborne tactics. The majority have been in the army for more than a year and a half.

Their names are no military secret, but for obvious reasons no publicity will be given those names since several of the men have relatives in Japanese-controlled territory.

The average age of the Japanese-American group here is 21. The majority are from the west coast from points as scattered as Alaska and Hawaii. All are at least high school graduates, several outstanding in such sports as swimming, track, boxing, and wrestling. All speak Japanese fluently and are among the very few members of the American army that can read and write that language. That ability, plus their proven loyalty to the United States and their natural aptitude for military training, makes these men of extreme importance to the army and to future operations.

Recently reports were received in this country on the fighting spirit of the 100th infantry battalion, composed entirely of American soldiers of Japanese descent, in Italy. The report stated:

"The Japanese-Americans now fighting in Italy are a deadly bunch. Most of them were born in Hawaii and have never seen Japan. Many lost members of their families in the Pearl Harbor attack and their feelings toward Japan are the same as the feelings of any other American citizen, they fully realize the suspicion with which all Japanese in this country are regarded since the Pearl Harbor attack. They are out to fight for their country, which is America, and to prove themselves to their fellow citizens — and they are doing it."

Second Petition Asks Protection Of Nisei Rights

Japanese-American Question Referred to Council Committee

A committee from the city council will be appointed to determine action to be taken on two petitions expressing divergent views on the Japanese-American question, Mayor Harry S. Grimmering announced last night at the conclusion of a two-hour discussion of racial problems.

More than 30 persons, in addition to the mayor, councilmen, City Attorney Paul C. Holmberg and City Clerk Floyd S. White attended the public meeting scheduled after a petition bearing 159 names and asking the enactment of a Japanese exclusion ordinance was presented to the council a week ago.

The second petition, bearing 300 signatures — 193 students and 107 adults—asked the city council not to pass legislation which "would deny to any group of people living in this community their constitutional rights of owning property." It was presented to the council at last night's meeting.

A question asked by one of the half-dozen or more high school students attending the meeting regarding the constitutionality of a Japanese exclusion ordinance failed to bring an answer from any of the city officials.

Mayor's Statement

"This is not a witch-burning situation as far as the city council is concerned," Mayor Grimmering said as a statement of the position of the city council. "The people are being sent here in an emergency situation.

"I don't believe, however, that the people of Grand Island are ready to accede to the proposition that one race is as good as another. Every time a place is sold to Japanese, property at the side of it becomes for sale."

W. K. Holland, representative of the War Relocation authority, explained the plan for handling Japanese, his explanation following a sound motion picture showing Japanese-Americans in training at Camp Shelby, Miss., as an infantry combat unit.

Answers to questions asked by more than a dozen persons in the audience brought out this additional information:

Disloyal Japanese at Tule Lake include about 15,000 but many of these are children who were compelled to accompany their parents and are not there by necessity but by choice, Holland said.

"Do you propose to make them (Japanese - Americans) American citizens?" Mrs. Robert Hiatt, one of the sponsors of the petition asking the Japanese exclusion ordinance, asked.

Not "Squeezing" Labor

"They are American citizens now, my dear," a woman in the audience promptly informed her. Holland added that about 70 per cent of the Japanese who are the problem of the WRA are native-born Americans and "as such are citizens under the constitution."

Average age of the Nisei is 22 years and of that group about 25 per cent are 15 years of age or younger with the average age of the older group about 57 years, Holland said.

"We don't propose to 'squeeze' labor; an employer must pay the going wage," Holland explained. "We don't propose after the war to keep them on jobs that belong to the boys in service."

F. G. Thorp, manager of a wholesale grocery firm, said four Japanese-Americans employed to help solve a labor shortage at the warehouse were told when hired that when the war is over the jobs will be given back to boys now in service.

A Grand Island physician and surgeon, Dr. W. J. Arrasmith, as-

serted there is no difference biologically between the races, that the only difference is in the color of the skin. He made the explanation after the question of intermarriage between orientals and whites had been mentioned by Ed Bader as a possible hazard.

The doctor said he found on a visit to the Hawaiian islands several years ago that "some of the crosses were the finest people on the islands." Characteristics of each race will disappear in the "melting pot of races," he asserted.

Alarming Labor Shortage

An alarming shortage of labor exists in agriculture, Holland said after someone inquired "Is there a shortage of labor?"

B. E. Gjølsteen, commandant at the Soldiers' Home, asked who established the "going wage" which employers are required to pay and was told the responsibility was that of a wage committee of farmers who are members of the county farm-labor committee.

"As a state institution, the Soldiers' Home is operated on a budget and we have to stay within that budget," Gjølsteen said. "On the money allotted to us for operation, if we have to pay the present wage scale, those 649 acres just can't be farmed this year."

The question of segregation of Japanese, if brought to Grand Island, was raised by Mrs. Hiatt. Answers informed her no provision existed for segregation of the races and Councilman E. F. Starr expressed belief a "little Tokyo" would not be a wise arrangement.

"We should give to loyal Japanese the same consideration we give to loyal Americans of German, Italian, Swedish or Irish descent or to any other nationality," Holland told the group.

Doris K. Olsen - Ah