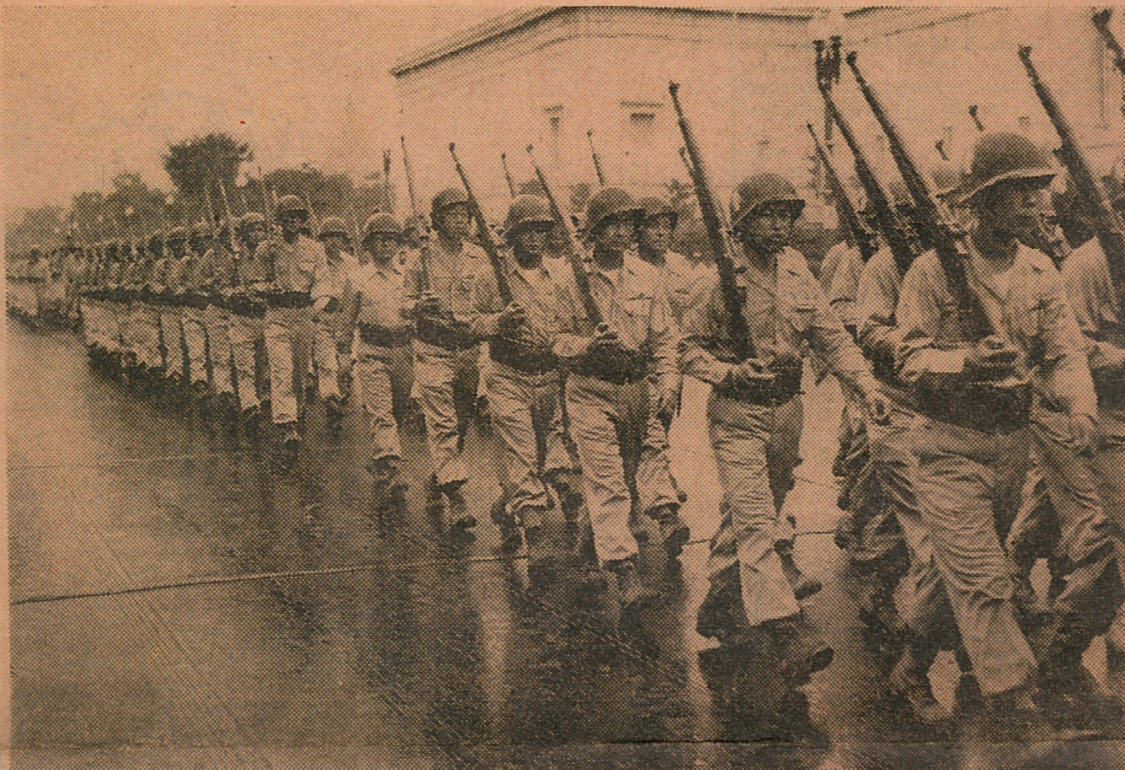
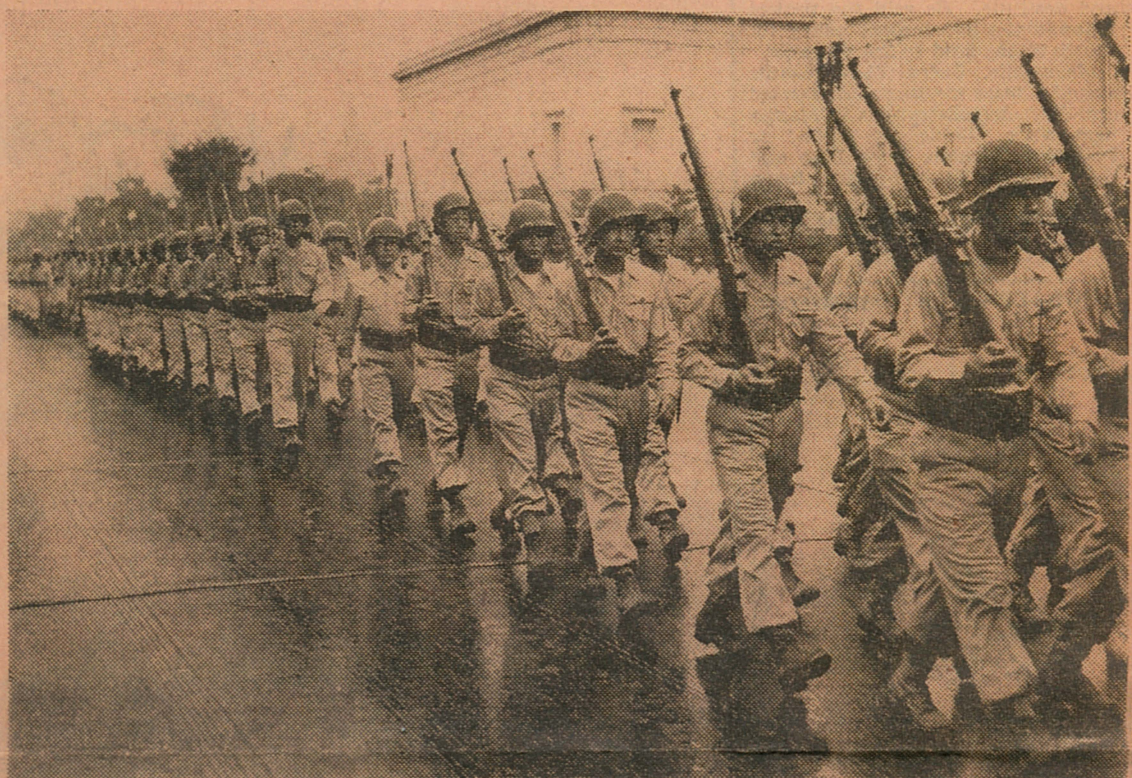


**A TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVE**—President Truman (left) pays tribute to the heroic 442d Regiment Combat Team, composed of Japanese-American heroes of Italian and European theaters, by saluting the unit's colors during a ceremony on the Ellipse near the White House yesterday. The President pinned the Presidential Unit Citation banner to the combat team's colors, performing the rites in the rain. Nisei with the colors are (left to right): Conrad Kurahara of Sacramento, Calif.; Mitsuomi Tanaka of Honokaa, Hawaii; Thomas Harimoto of Honolulu; Huroshi Yamamoto of Brigham, Utah, and Lawerne Kurahara, twin brother of Conrad, of Sacramento. —AP Photo.



Members of the combat team are shown as they marched down Constitution avenue earlier in the afternoon. (From yesterday's last edition.) —Star Staff Photo.

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## Nisei Veterans Honored Here, Await Release From Service

By George Kennedy

The Nisei who distinguished themselves by their gallantry in the European theater of operations had some reason to feel they were appreciated, as, with the rectangular blue badge of the Presidential Citation pinned on the left side of their tunics, they hung about Fort Belvoir today awaiting transportation to separation centers on the Pacific Coast and Hawaii.

They marched right into the hearts of all who saw them yesterday, these stocky little American-born Japanese who formed the 442d Combat Team, one of the best shock-troops, trouble-shooter outfits in the European theater. They marched down Constitution avenue—481 of them—their tan faces dead-pan and immobile under their green helmets.

### Cheered at Every Block.

Bursts of hand-clapping, cheers and approving whistles sounded in every block as they stepped along smartly in perfect cadence behind a band playing Sousa marches. The Government officers had granted extended time during the lunch hour to allow parade attendance. Despite the clouds and the drizzle, enthusiasm was not lacking.

Many of the men in this outfit, which was awarded 3,600 Purple Hearts and 1,000 decorations for gallantry, had been drafted from internment camps to which their families had been transferred from the Pacific Coast after Pearl Harbor.

"Harry, Harry!" cried two attractive Japanese girls at Fourteenth street, but in vain. All the troops were strictly eyes front.

Two Japanese-American soldiers snapping cameras were at the curb of the Ellipse south of the White House, where the combat team turned in for presidential inspection.

### "Shot Up a Bit."

"Were you in this outfit? Why aren't you marching?" they were asked.

"Yes," they said, "but we can't march. We were shot up a bit."

Lt. Col. A. A. Pursall of Crystal City, Mo., led the combat team. Most of the officers were European-Americans. All the non-commissioned officers and enlisted men were Japanese-Americans.

As the troops stood at ease waiting for the President's arrival, one of the officers briefly told the story of the 442d.

"The 100th Combat Battalion, which led the parade," he said, "staged in North Africa and went in through Naples to get in the Cassino mixup. They were pulled back and went into the Anzio beachhead. Later, after Rome was taken, two other battalions of Japanese-Americans and artillery and service groups were added to form the combat team. They were in the Italian campaign up to the Po Valley. Then they were brought back to Naples and sent into the Anvil operation.

"They landed in occupied Marseilles D plus 45 at the end of September and went up the Rhone Valley as part of the 7th Army. In late October, there was trouble at the front and they were sent in to fix it. A battalion of the 141st W. Infantry, 36th Division, originally a

Texas division, was isolated 3 miles behind the German lines in the Vosges foothills. The 442d was sent in to fix it and they did. They reached their objective, allowing the rescue of the remnants of the battalion. But they were shot to pieces doing it. They were a combat team no more. Most of them were hospitalized. The rest were sent back for regrouping with replacements."

After he inspected them by walking up and down their files, President Truman pinned the citation on their colors. Then he said:

"I think patriotism is not a matter of race or creed, but of the heart. \* \* \* You fought not only the enemy but prejudice—and you won."