



## Reveal Torture Death of Nisei in Japan

### Japanese Alien Residents Who Aided U. S. War Effort Face Deportation, Says N. Y. Times

Plight of 2,000 Stateless Persons Reported; Many Assisted Military Intelligence Here, Abroad During War; Congressional Action Sought to Aid Group

NEW YORK—Many Japanese alien residents of the United States, "who served within the inner compartments of military intelligence here and abroad" and aided the American war effort against their native land, now face deportation under the immigration laws, the New York Times reported in a special dispatch from Washington on May 28.

The Times headline declared: "Pro-U. S. Japanese Face Deportation."

"This country has a small-scale problem of 'stateless' persons, arising from the plight of about 2,000 Japanese who might be deported under the immigration laws, although they have long led useful lives in America and many aided the war effort against their native land," the Times reported.

The correspondent said that officials, members of Congress and American citizens in various parts of the country have taken up the cause of these potential deportees. General and special bills have been introduced to prevent the arbitrary operation of the laws against this group.

"Many of these Japanese served within the inner compartments of military intelligence here and abroad and their friends fear they will become targets for reprisal by the Black Dragon Society and other diehards if they are deported to Japan," the Times declared.

"Thus far the cases dealt with were clear-cut deportations of undesirable persons desiring repatriation," the report added. From now on, however, there will be a race between enactment of protective bills by immigration authorities.

"Interest centers on the group of about 2,000 who led honorable lives in this country and who have been checked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. There is a broader picture, however."

"According to E. J. Shaughnessy, special assistant to Ugo Aruski, the Immigration Commissioner, 7,500 Japanese, including 4,000 children born in America, requested repatriation and have already been sent back to Japan. About 5,500 renounced their citizenship during the war, but about 900 of this group will be deported. When there are 1,200 classified as undesirable for whom the land of the rising sun no longer appeals."

"The majority of the 'stateless' group had come to America as treaty merchants' under a commercial treaty with Japan which was abrogated in Jan., 1940. Having lost their status under the treaty,

### Nisei Is Mechanic On Winning Car in Indianapolis Race

Chick Hirashima, Nisei mechanic for George Robson, winner of the 1946 American auto racing classic, the 500-mile Indianapolis race, was interviewed over the Mutual network following the end of the Memorial Day event.

Hirashima, a member of Robson's pit crew, accompanied the 35-year old Los Angeles driver from California and helped prepare the winning Thorne special for the grueling 500-mile grind.

Hirashima is a veteran of the Indianapolis classic, having participated as a mechanic in several previous races.

### California Japanese American, Stranded by War, Remained Steadfast in Loyalty to U. S.

Father Attributes Death of Son to Mistreatment By Japanese Authorities; Hopes to Send Ashes Back to Home Town in California

TOKYO—(Exclusive) — The death of a young Japanese American, Fred Masao Fujikawa, 22, of Canoga Park, Calif., who was "tortured beyond description" in Japan during the war, was revealed here this week.

The story of Fred Fujikawa is that of a young Nisei who remained steadfast in his Americanism and his loyalty to the United States.

Young Fujikawa, an athletic star at Canoga Park high school near Los Angeles, was stranded in Japan by the outbreak of war. He refused to expatriate his American citizenship for more than two years after Pearl Harbor although subjected to continual pressure. When his relatives were subjected to intimidation, he finally acceded. He was immediately drafted into the Japanese Army. There he was subjected to mistreatment which finally resulted in his death in 1945.

Fred Fujikawa was born and raised in Canoga Park, a suburb of Los Angeles. His father, Senkichi Fujikawa, whose address in 1941 was P O Box 578, Canoga Park, was a successful truck farmer. After Fred had graduated from high school in 1941, the father decided to take a short trip to Japan to settle the affairs of his family in Wakayama prefecture. The father decided that, since Fred had just finished high school, the time was an appropriate one for him to take a trip. He decided to take his son along to "show him what Japan was like."

But Fred did not like Japan. It was 1941 and because he was an American citizen, he was made an object of suspicion. He was continually trailed by the Imperial government agents.

The democratic Tokyo daily, Minpo, which published the news of Fred Fujikawa's death last week reported that the Nisei was "forced" into the Japanese army and that everywhere he went he was "mistreated" until his death in 1945.

The Tokyo daily, which said that Fujikawa had been "tortured beyond description" while in the Japanese army, added:

"Because he was a Nisei, and because he happened to be in Japan when the war started, he will never see his native land again."

Fred Fujikawa was packing his things and getting ready to come home when war broke out in the Pacific. Unable to go back home to California, he enrolled in the trade school at Gobo in Wakayama. He had refused to give up his American citizenship and he was made an object of derision and discrimination. Classmates called him an "enemy alien" and the Gobo police station assigned a special agent to watch this one Nisei, then 19 years of age, on grounds that he might be a dangerous spy.

When Fred became 21 he was accused of maintaining his American nationality as a means of evading the Imperial Japanese conscription law. His parents and relatives were subjected to pressure. Finally, he expatriated under duress. He was immediately drafted into the Japanese army.

He was assigned to the 24th Division in central Japan. From the time of his induction into the Japanese army, the Nisei was mistreated and "kicked around" because he could not speak the Japanese language and because it was known that he had refused to give up his American citizenship until he was forced to do so.

Minpo reported that "officers and privates alike went out of their way to make life miserable" for the Japanese American.

Fred was well-built and strong, having excelled in athletics while at home in California. But under the treatment accorded him in the Japanese army, which he had joined under compulsion, he became emaciated. He was deprived of food and was forced to go through severe army drills without eating. The Japanese army doctor, however, examined him and said that he was not ill.

By January, 1945, Fujikawa was running a high fever almost every day. When he asked for permission to see an army physician, his superior officer would accuse him of faking illness. Finally, in February an examining doctor said that he had pleurisy. He was transferred to the army hospital in Kaneoka. There, however, he received no adequate medical attention.

Although he was running a high fever, Fujikawa was ordered by Kaneoka authorities to leave the hospital and, carrying his own pack, walked 3 miles to another hospital in Nara. He never recovered from the grueling strain of that forced experience and died on April 3, 1945.

"Nisei Fujikawa does not know that the war is over. He does not know that the war was won by the United States, the land that gave him his birthright and the citizenship which he cherished and kept so long under trying circumstances," Minpo declared.

Fred Fujikawa's father who is unable to return to the United States because he is an alien now wants the ashes of his Nisei son to be sent back to his birthplace in Canoga Park, Calif., to be buried there. The father is now trying to locate Fred's cousin in the U. S. Army who is now believed on duty with the occupation forces in Japan. It was in the hope of locating this cousin that the whole story of the tragic wartime experience of one Japanese American, stranded by the war in Japan, was revealed.

### 163 Persons Still Housed At Lomita

Await Completion Of Trailer Units For Worker Group

LOS ANGELES — One hundred and sixty-three persons of Japanese ancestry were still living at the Lomita installation at the end of May, awaiting completion of trailer units at the Cal Sea Food and Kings farm camps, where they are scheduled to go, according to Scotty Tsuchiya, JACL representative in Los Angeles.

The Cal Sea Food camp is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy during the first week of June, it was reported, while the Kings farm camp is expected to be completed the following week.

Over 900 persons, of whom 513 are children, are now living at the Winona trailer camp in Burbank, Tsuchiya reported.

The Winona camp was the center of much criticism early in May when 900 evacuees were moved there before the camp was completed.

This week, however, Tsuchiya reported that fuel tanks had been connected in all trailers, allowing families to cook their own meals. Electric lights have been connected in all the trailer homes, and hot and cold running water is available in the utility trailers, which provide latrine, shower and wash room facilities, he said.

Employment offers are coming in more rapidly than they can be handled, it was announced.

Special representatives from the Burbank, Inglewood and Los Angeles Board of Public Assistance have been assisting in employment, education and counselling needs.

and being of a race which is ineligible for naturalization, the Immigration Commissioner has no alternative but to deport."

### Federal Court Will Consider Draft Case

Full Tribunal Will Hear Appeals of Poston Group

LOS ANGELES — The relationship of the Selective Service Act to Japanese Americans in war relocation centers during the war will be reexamined by the Ninth District Federal Court of Appeals in San Francisco on June 3.

The case is on appeal from the Federal court at Phoenix, Ariz., and involves approximately 100 residents of the Poston relocation center who refused to obey draft board orders on the ground that their civil rights had been violated by the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast and their detention in relocation camps.

When the appeal of the Poston group from the decision of the Phoenix court came up for hearing last month in Los Angeles before three judges of the Federal Court of Appeals, the case was rescheduled to be presented before the full seven-man court, because of the importance of the issue.

The Nisei appellants are represented by A. L. Wirin, Los Angeles attorney.

### Hawaii GIs Respond With Funds to Aid Tidal Wave Victims

HONOLULU—Japanese American soldiers from Hawaii, now on duty in Japan, Europe and in the mainland United States, have responded with spontaneous contributions to the Hawaiian Red Cross with funds to aid victims of the April 1 tidal wave which devastated Hawaiian coastal areas.

A check for \$831 was received from Japanese Americans at the military intelligence service language school at Fort Snelling, Minn. A contribution of \$531 has been received from Hawaii GIs now in Japan, while word has been received that the men of the 442nd Combat Team have raised a substantial amount to assist disaster victims.

### NISEI STUDENT CROWNED QUEEN OF JUNIOR PROM

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Frances Watanabe, Nisei student at Lake Forest high school, and her escort were crowned king and queen of the Junior Prom on the night of May 18.

Miss Watanabe, one of the school's most active and popular students, headed the coronation staff of the Junior Prom committee. She also helped put on the floor show and participated as one of two soloists, singing "The Man I Love."

On May 22 she was initiated into the National Honor Society, one of twelve seniors and four juniors given this honor.

### Nisei Government Employee Stricken

LOS ANGELES — Suddenly stricken in Japan George Shigekawa of Anaheim, an employe of the U. S. State Department, is now being flown back to California for hospitalization.

Shigekawa, a graduate of Stanford University, had sailed for Japan as a member of a State Department group to study the old Japanese constitution and to help draw up a new one.

### Confiscated Farms Of Evacuees Sold

VANCOUVER, B. C. — Nine farms in the Fraser Valley, which were confiscated from their former Japanese Canadian owners following the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the area in 1942, have been sold to veterans, the sale price in all instances being the cost price to the original Japanese owners.

The total price received for the farms was \$20,911.

### Nisei GI in Hiroshima Finds Brother Died in Atom Blast

Tito O'Kamoto Fought In Europe With 442nd Combat Team

WASHINGTON—The story of a Nisei GI who went to Japan with the War Department survey group to investigate the effects of the atom bomb on devastated Hiroshima and found that his brother had been killed by the very explosion he was investigating was told last Monday by Earl J. Wilson, Washington Post reporter.

Last Christmas, amid the atom-blasted ruins of Hiroshima, Tito O'Kamoto, an American soldier on a bombing survey, met his brother for the first time in five years. She told him his brother had died in the atom blast.

Tito O'Kamoto was born inakersfield, Calif., 29 years ago. After graduating from high school and studying commercial photography for a time, he enlisted in

the army in April, 1941. His mother was in Japan visiting her mother. The war broke out and she could not return to the country where she had spent 35 years of her life.

Tito became a bazooka man with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. During the fighting in the Vosges mountains, his luck ran out. An 88 mm. tank gun projectile exploded near him and he lost an eye besides catching a lot of fragments in his face.

Leaving the hospital, he joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Washington, transferring to the U. S. Strategic Bombing Survey after V-J day. With that organization he went to Japan where he met his mother and where his older brother, also in the U. S. army, is on duty with the occupation forces.

Tito is now working as a civilian in the War Department.



## Change in Voting Procedure Proposed as Solution to Spokane VFW Controversy

**Hutchings, Leader of World War II Group Which Seeks Admittance of Japanese American Veterans, Believes Action May End Intra-Post Conflict**

SPOKANE, Wash.—A proposed change in voting procedure for the admission of new members to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 51 in Spokane may end the year-old intra-post controversy over the admission of war veterans of Japanese ancestry, Rock Hutchings, a member of the post and president of the Airborne Veterans of World War II, said here this week.

Hutchings had led a group of paratroop veterans in the VFW post in a campaign to obtain the admission of Japanese Americans to the post and had threatened to bolt the post and to form a new VFW unit in Spokane unless the Nisei were admitted.

Hutchings explained that under present balloting rules in the VFW, a comparatively few individuals opposed to the admission of Japanese American veterans can keep them out.

"But if the post should vote to apply to the VFW national encampment in August for permission to change its procedure so that voting on new applications will be done orally with only a majority needed for admittance, then the Japanese Americans will be admitted," Hutchings said.

Under VFW rules, Hutchings said, applicants turned down may not apply again for six months.

Disapproval of the membership applications of two Japanese American veterans of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Roy K. Funakoshi and George H. Hijiya, revived the controversy with Post 51, Hutchings added.

"Recently, a number of Post 51 members who favored admission of Japanese American veterans to membership asked our airborne veterans organization to spearhead a campaign to that end," he explained.

"However, we found we were not getting complete support from every member favorable to our stand, so the organization, as such, has withdrawn from this campaign, although some airborne veterans as individuals are still hoping a change in voting rules may be worked out in a friendly fashion so that the wishes of the majority of members may be allowed to prevail."

Edward M. Wayne, commander of Post 51, declined to comment on the issue.

### Nisei Student Reads Prize-Winning Essay Over New York Station

NEW YORK—Noble Oyanagi, St. Paul high school student whose essay on the subject of a personal experience during the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast in 1942 won first place in the national contest sponsored by the National Council of Christians and Jews, read his prize-winning essay on station WNEW, New York, on May 26.

First prize in the essay contest was a trip to New York for the winning high school student and his teacher. Miss Olive Allen of Central high school in St. Paul, Minn., Noble's teacher, accompanied him on the plane trip to New York.

On the WNEW broadcast the young Nisei appeared with ex-Sergeant Ben Kuroki, Japanese American air gunner who is now actively working in the fight against race intolerance.

The essay written by the Nisei was named the best of more than 7,000 submitted in the contest.

Besides the trip to New York, he and his teacher were also awarded a trip to Chicago where he read his winning essay on a national broadcast over the ABC network.

During his weekend visit, Noble Oyanagi was entertained by ex-Sergeant Kuroki and was taken on tours around the city. He was welcomed to New York by Acting Mayor Vincent R. Impellitteri, in the absence of Mayor William O'Dwyer.

### San Jose Chapter Slates Meeting

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The June meeting of the United Citizens League of Santa Clara County will be held June 13 at 8 p. m. at the League building, 565 North Fifth street.

Bridge and other card games will follow the meeting.

## Ask Permanent Ban Against Canada Nisei

**British Columbia Seeks Law Excluding Japanese Canadians**

VANCOUVER, B. C.—British Columbia has asked the federal government for permanent legislation to prevent persons of Japanese ancestry from returning to the coastal area from which they were evacuated in 1942.

Legislation is sought to keep the exclusion restrictions in effect after the Wartime Emergency Act expires.

In an interview after his return from Ottawa, Gordon Wismer of the British Columbia provincial government said he is certain that federal legislation could be framed to compel Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry to live in certain designated parts of Canada.

## Work of Berkeley Interracial Group Cited at Conference

NEW YORK CITY—Over 1200 returning evacuees in the city of Berkeley, Calif., have been provided with jobs and accommodations through the efforts of the Japanese committee of the Berkeley Inter-racial committee, it was revealed here recently in a report by Mrs. Margaret Avery Rowell of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to the organization's 31st annual meeting in New York.

Work of the Japanese committee has included housing, employment, information and advisory services.

## Pamphlet Summarizes Deportation Problem

TORONTO, Ont.—Summarizing the deportation issue facing Japanese Canadians and the court actions involved, a new pamphlet, "Citizens, Not Exiles," has been issued by the Cooperative Committee on Japanese Canadians.

## Drive for Issei Citizenship Will Be Told by JACL Official

**Eiji Tanabe to Speak To Issei Groups on Nationwide Tour**

The story of the Japanese American Citizens League and its work to bring citizenship, naturalization rights and indemnification to persons of Japanese ancestry will be brought directly to the Issei by Eiji Tanabe, national staff member of the JACL, during a month-long tour of midwestern and eastern cities.

Beginning on June 7 in Detroit, Tanabe will address public meetings and small groups in Cleveland, Washington, Philadelphia, Seabrook, New York City, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Milwaukee. His last scheduled meeting will take place in Milwaukee on July 7, following which he will return to national headquarters in Salt Lake City.

"Today, half a century after the arrival of the first Issei, our parents are close to attaining citizenship in this country to which they have given so much," Tanabe said in Salt Lake City this week.

"The Issei is today far nearer than ever before to getting naturalization rights from the country for which his sons fought."

Tanabe stressed that the Issei parent generation and the Nisei

## U. S. Authorities In No Hurry to Repatriate Nisei

TOKYO—American authorities in Japan are in no hurry to repatriate United States nationals of Japanese ancestry who were stranded in Japan by the war.

Masahi Okagaki, an employe of the Army Transport Command, applied to American consular authorities at Yokohama for a hearing on his case last week.

Authorities gave Okagaki an appointment for next Nov. 29.

Meanwhile, General MacArthur's recent order to the Japanese government to supply a list of any American nationals who may have served in the Jpanese war effort is looked upon as an action which will clarify the citizenship status of the Nisei who were stranded in Japan.

## Ozark College Will Grant Scholarships

**Arkansas Institution Offers Assistance to Seven Nisei Students**

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—The College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Ark., has available seven scholarships of \$200 each for the use of Japanese American students, Nao Takasugi, placement counselor of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, reported this week.

Any Nisei student who is eligible for entrance to the college will qualify for consideration for one of the scholarships.

The College of the Ozarks is a small liberal arts college, offering a friendly and cordial welcome to Nisei students, it was stated. Two Nisei students already are enrolled at the college and another will enter in September. Credits earned at this school are transferable to the University of Arkansas, the University of Illinois and Yale University.

Interested Nisei may write to Dr. Wiley Lin Hurie, president of the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Ark., according to the Student Relocation Council.

## Tri-State Buddhists Publish Bulletin

DENVER—The "Tri-State Bussei Bulletin," official publication of the Tri-State Young Buddhist League, made its first appearance early this month under editorship of Ed Nakagawa.

The bulletin will appear monthly.

The first issue revealed that a total of \$70,000 in pledges and cash has been collected for the erection of a new temple for the Denver church.

## Washington News-Letter

# Palo Alto Does Outstanding Job of Evacuee Relocation

By JOHN KITASAKO

A clipping from our home town paper out in California, the Palo Alto Times, pleased us no end. Palo Alto, it said, has aided the relocation program in an outstanding fashion. No city, said the area WRA relocation supervisor in a message of appreciation to the people of the community, had done a "more complete job."

According to the WRA report, more than 300 domestic workers alone have been placed in the Palo Alto area. That is a tremendous figure considering that the entire prewar Japanese population was only about 165.

Our impulse to become jubilant over our home town's splendid showing is tempered somewhat by the fact that actually we do not have too much cause to be surprised or unusually pleased.

Palo Alto was not doing anything out of the ordinary. It was just being as American as it always has been. It believes in fair play, it believes in decency, it believes in applying a human intelligent approach to any issue. In any crisis, it has always kept its head.

It regarded the evacuation as an unjust, un-American undertaking, but instead of getting hysterically indignant about a fait accompli, it went about trying to prevent the evacuees from becoming disillusioned and bitter.

Palo Alto Nisei will never forget the manner in which their Caucasian friends aided and comforted and counseled them in the turbulent days before evacuation. And on the day of evacuation, the Caucasians from early morning transported evacuees from their homes to the point of assembly. The Gray Ladies of the Red Cross served refreshing drinks to the evacuees as they waited; the women of the Baptist church served coffee and donuts.

The large number of Caucasians who gave the evacuees a warm send-off was a strong proof of their genuine desire to let the evacuees know they were behind them.

Why is it that a community like Palo Alto can achieve such a wonderful showing, while others have fallen short? For one thing, since its very beginning, it has been a progressive city, whose social, intellectual, and economic life has been influenced to a great extent by a liberal school, Stanford University.

Then too, it is a strong church city, which should go a long way toward explaining a community's understanding attitude on any social issue.

Another potent factor in Palo Alto's friendliness toward evacuees has been the righteous policy of the city's only daily, of which our good friend, Elinor Vogswell, is the editor.

The Times has long been a champion of the Nisei and other minorities. Throughout the war it printed many items about its former Japanese residents scattered over the face of the nation. Through its editorial columns, it consistently lashed out at bigots and terrorists, it made frequent pleas for fair treatment and rational thinking.

The Times did a marvelous job of not letting the townspeople forget their Japanese friends who were away. It prepared the way for the eventual return of these evacuees and others.

While Palo Alto has always been good to the Nisei, the Nisei in turn through the years have endeavored to be upright citizens and residents. We sincerely hope that the newcomers who have been welcomed so wholeheartedly will do their utmost to retain the respect of the citizenry of Palo Alto, and that they will show their worthiness of the benevolence and faith of their Caucasian friends.

## Capital Notes

POSTSCRIPTS: Eiji Tanabe and Masao Satow are scheduled to arrive in Washington from Cleveland on June 11 for a five-day stay. Tanabe will speak to local Issei, while Satow will confer with Nisei. Their next stop will be Philadelphia.

Mike Masaoka, ubiquitous JACL troubleshooter, was in town over the week end, and had himself a busy time as usual. This, for example, was his schedule of conferences for May 27: 9 a. m. Senator Knowland of California; 10 a. m. Col. Campbell Johnson, executive assistant to General Hershey of Selective Service; 11:30 a. m. Oscar Chapman, Under Secretary of the Interior, and a courtesy call on Secretary of the In-

terior J. A. Krug; 2 p. m. Senator Ellender of Louisiana; 2:30 p. m. Representative Eberharter, author of the bill to stay deportation of Issei in hardship cases; 3 p. m. Representative John Lesinski, chairman of the House Immigration and Naturalization Committee; 3:30 p. m. Dillon Myer, WRA Director.

Joe Ichiuji, 442nd vet of Monterey, California, is starting work this week at the Munitions Division of the War Department. Joe, who was in the army before Pearl Harbor, was one of the first Nisei servicemen to be released when the army began eliminating Nisei from its ranks, but two years later, when the army asked for volunteers for its combat team, Joe was among the first to sign up.

George Tsujimoto, another 442nder, is out of uniform, and is now with UNRRA as a commodity expeditor.

Earl Finch, Mississippi benefactor of the 442nd, en route home from the Dillon Myer testimonial dinner in New York, stopped over in Washington to visit with Bob Oda, Hawaiian 442nd vet now attending George Washington University.

Hank Wakabayashi, of Hanna, Wyoming, last week received his gold bar from OCS at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Sgt. Roger Obata, only Canadian Nisei serviceman to be stationed in Washington, left last week for Canada, where he will receive his discharge. Obata was with the Allied linguist pool, first at Ritchie in Virginia, and later in Washington.

Fuki Seki, secretary at UNRRA, has been named to the board of trustees of the Washington Citizens' Resettlement Committee.

Miss Olive Hodges, director of the hostel, is scheduled to resign her post on June 30. A new director will not be appointed, as the building may be converted into a cooperative housing plant.

Betty Murata, former member of the local Nisei Council, and her son Stevie, returned to Washington last week after a year's stay in Sacramento, where she helped her parents resettle. Her husband Jack is a chemist at the Department of the Interior.

The Nisei USO will hold its monthly social on June 1. Serving on the committee are Hanako Nishio, Joy Takeshita, Fumi Nakayanagi, and Eiko and Yasu Naita.

Washingtonians Gay Tamaki, Ray Hashitani, and Scotty Matsumoto arrived in Tokyo on May 28 aboard the Marshall Victory after a rough 14-day trip from Seattle. . . . Mary Ogawa, research analyst in the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, has signed up for a year's service in Japan. She is scheduled to leave by mid-June.

## Counselling Service Offered Nisei in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—Japanese Americans in San Francisco in need of information, advice and services may see Mrs. Dorothy Harth, director of counselling service of the Japanese project of the International Institute, 1860 Washington street, according to an announcement from that organization this week.

Problems relating to health, welfare, financial needs, jobs and legal advice will be handled by the Institute.

Office hours for consultation are Monday through Friday, 9 a. m. to 12 noon, according to Mrs. Harth. Appointments may be made by telephoning Mrs. Harth at TR 5212. James Hikida is available on Monday and Friday mornings for interpreting.

Since the closing of the War Relocation Authority's district office in San Francisco on May 3, the International Institute has been carrying on the counselling services formerly provided by the WRA staff.



## Spokane Rites Honor Nisei Soldier Dead

Members of Purple Heart Unit Take Part in Ceremonies

SPOKANE, Wash.—A memorial service honoring the Nisei war dead of World War II was conducted on May 26 at Greenwood cemetery by the Spokane Chapter No. 208 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The service was sponsored by the Spokane Fujinkai. Mrs. I. Takami presided.

Participating in the rites were honorably discharged Nisei veterans, members of the Purple Heart chapter. They were Robert T. Mizukami and Spady A. Koyama, color bearers; Hiromu Heyamoto and George Aki Minata, color guards; Robert Yamauchi and Pete Yoshino, buglers. All of the veterans with the exception of Koyama, who served in the Pacific, were former members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Mrs. George Honda was soloist.

Participants in the remainder of the program included H. U. Kasai who gave a brief account of the Fujinkai's efforts toward maintenance of the Japanese cemetery; Rev. Terao, Buddhist temple; Rev. T. Goto; Joe Okamoto, representing the JACL; Harry Kadoya and Mrs. Muramatsu.

## San Jose WRA Head Thanks Evacuees For Cooperation

SAN JOSE, Calif.—In an open letter to all persons of Japanese ancestry in the Santa Clara and San Benito counties, James E. Edmiston, former head of the San Jose WRA office, expressed his appreciation for their cooperation during the relocation period.

The resettlement could not have attained its accomplished goal "without the complete cooperation and patient understanding" of the returning evacuees, Edmiston said.

"Let us never admit it (evacuation) was a military or any other kind of necessity," Edmiston declared. "Let us forever maintain it was a tragic and terrible mistake. But let us not be bitter. Forget the past and face the future should be our motto. But face the days to come with a firm resolve that this thing must never happen again to ANY group in this, our America."

The former WRA official declared that the problem of restitution for property losses "is in good hands."

"It is my profound conviction," he said, "that simple justice will prevail and that Congress in the near future will act favorably on the bill already introduced, designed to reimburse persons of Japanese ancestry for the terrible losses sustained through evacuation."

Edmiston reiterated that though the WRA has closed its offices, he is "as anxious to be of help to any of my friends as ever."

James Edmiston, as head of the San Jose office, has been credited with accomplishing the most successful relocation program of the WRA offices.

## Nisei War Veteran Reunited With French Bride in Hawaii

HONOLULU—A Nisei war veteran and his French war bride were together again in Honolulu this week after a separation of three months.

Mrs. Henriette Arakaki, wife of Alfred Arakaki, a veteran of the 442nd Combat Team, arrived in Honolulu on May 11 aboard the Army transport Acadia.

Her husband was on hand to greet her as she completed her 40-day journey from France.

She had left Marseilles on March 28 where the couple had been married last November.

The 19-year old French bride speaks no English, but according to an interpreter aboard the transport, she found willing help all along the route from Marseilles to New York, San Francisco and to Hawaii.

"Riri," her husband's nickname for Henriette, sailed from France aboard the Army transport George W. Goethals. Red Cross interpre-

ters accompanied her part of the way from Marseilles to Hawaii but "there was always someone who helped her on the way."

According to the Star-Bulletin, the couple met in Marseilles while the Nisei soldier was a supply sergeant with the 100th Infantry Battalion. Henriette's father, who speaks English well and was employed by the U. S. army at the time, introduced them.

"Her father tried to teach her English," the ex-sergeant explained. "But so far she only understands mine."

During the war Sgt. Arakaki saw action at Anzio and through most of the fighting in northern Italy. He holds three battle stars and was wounded in the fight to capture the gateway to Rome.

The ex-soldier has fixed up a honeymoon cottage for his bride in Honolulu. And, according to the Star-Bulletin, Mrs. Arakaki has indicated that there's a "petit infant" on the way.

## National Leaders Pay Tribute To Work of Relocation Agency

Mrs. Roosevelt Among Many Honoring Myer, WRA Chief

NEW YORK — Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace, Under Secretary of Interior Oscar L. Chapman and Secretary of War Patterson were among prominent Americans who last week sent telegrams and letters praising Dillon S. Myer of the WRA upon the occasion of the Myer Testimonial Dinner held May 22 at the Hotel Roosevelt.

Mrs. Roosevelt praised the "wonderful work" Myer had done and sent her greetings and regrets upon not being able to attend the dinner.

Oscar Chapman expressed his "great admiration" of Dillon Myer "as a man and as a distinguished public servant."

Secretary Wallace declared that the WRA director had "successfully completed a most difficult job for his country."

Utah's Senator Elbert D. Thomas sent a message to the dinner stating that "Few people can value the great service of Mr. Myer more than I and I am sorry not to be able to accept your invitation to pay tribute to him."

Stating that he would be kept in Washington during the Dillon Myer dinner, Senator James M. Mead of New York declared that in the visits of the Senate War Investigating Committee to American battle areas around the world he "gained a high appreciation for the loyalty, devotion and courage of the Americans of Japanese descent who were members of the republic's armed forces."

Hito Okada, national president of the Japanese American Citizens League, sent the league's tribute to "a great wartime champion of human rights." Saburo Kido, former president, declared that Myer's contribution to the welfare of all persons of Japanese ancestry during the critical war days "will be appreciated more and more as time goes by," and Dr. Makoto Yamaguchi, president of the Cincinnati JACL chapter, extended the "heartfelt appreciation" of his chapter for Myer's

"resolute leadership in the fight against undemocratic prejudices."

Myer's fight to retain constitutional rights for persons of Japanese Americans throughout the conflict was a source of great inspiration to the Nisei in winning "a chunk of America with their blood," Dr. Yamaguchi declared.

Other testimonials to Dillon Myer's work were given during the dinner by speakers who represented many sections of the government, private agencies and civil liberties groups.

Bishop James E. Walsh of Maryknoll declared that the WRA "inherited" and did not create the situation regarding the evacuees. The government does not possess the constitutional right to uproot any people even in wartime, Walsh said, and he added that Japanese Americans who went through the evacuation may have been strengthened, but the country was not.

John J. McCloy, assistant secretary of war during the war period, spoke of the beginning of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. McCloy declared that upon receiving many letters asking that the Nisei be drafted, he was so impressed by their sincerity and loyalty that he went to Gen. George Marshall in regard to the formation of a Nisei combat team.

The country cannot do enough to repay the Nisei for the loyalty they have shown, McCloy said, but it can work towards the elimination of all prejudices and support the right of all to live in this great country.

The director of the American Civil Liberties Union, Roger Baldwin, declared that Dillon Myer had "made the best of a bad job."

Myer "shares with all" a sense of shame in the decision of the Supreme Court, which put a "seal of approval" upon the evacuation, Baldwin said.

Baldwin urged the repeal of the Oriental Exclusion act, and stated that a claims bill must be passed to repay at least a part of the losses suffered during the evacuation.

The ACLU director paid tribute to the Japanese American Citizens League during his speech, stating that during the ACLU's 25 years of dealing with groups whose rights were attacked, no other group showed more cooperation or more complete understanding of democratic principles than the JACL. Many Americans, he said, can learn from the JACL "the meaning of true Americanism."

## NISEI DELEGATES ATTEND MARITIME UNITY MEETING

SAN FRANCISCO—Two Nisei labor leaders from Hawaii, Yasuki Arakaki and Richard Shigemitsu, were among the 50 delegates from the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union who attended the National Convention of Maritime Unions in San Francisco recently.

The convention set June 15 for an international strike of maritime workers to enforce demands for better wage and work conditions.

Arakaki and Shigemitsu are members of the ILWU in Hawaii.

## State of California Attempts To Confiscate Farm Property Of Japanese American Soldier

Postponement of Hearing Ordered Until November When Court Learns Katsumi Nagata Is Still in Service; Escheat Suit Involves Coachella Valley Farm

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—The State of California's attempt to confiscate the Coachella Valley farm of Kitsumi Nagata hit a snag on May 28 when the court learned that the Nisei defendant was still in the U. S. Army.

Charging violation of the Alien Land Law, which prohibits ownership or control of farm property by "ineligible aliens," the State has initiated proceedings to escheat the Nagata farm on grounds that the land, registered to an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, is allegedly operated by "ineligible aliens."

## Nisei Student Wins Wisconsin Essay Prize

Paper on Evacuation Experiences Wins School's Lewis Award

MADISON, Wis. — Ryosuke Mishima was awarded the Lewis prize at the eighth annual honors convocation of the University of Wisconsin on May 24 for the most outstanding freshman theme written during the college year.

Mishima's paper, entitled "Our Only Crime," was a treatment of the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast in 1942.

It was noted that this marked the second successive year that a Nisei student at Wisconsin has captured the Lewis award. Last spring Michael Morizono, a journalism student from Oakland, Calif., received the honor.

Mishima is a former resident of Berkeley and a former student at the University of California. He is studying veterinary science in the college of agriculture.

## Col. Bromley Will Speak at Colorado Testimonial Dinner

DENVER, Colo. — Col. Charles D. Bromley has been secured as one of the speakers for the Veterans Testimonial Banquet, honoring Japanese Americans from Colorado who have served in World War II, which will be held on June 15 at the Cosmopolitan hotel in Denver.

The Denver JACL has compiled a list of the names of the veterans and active soldiers from the State of Colorado.

The Executive Council, comprised of representatives from the Buddhist church, the Methodist church and the JACL, has been in charge of arrangements for the affair.

Col. Bromley recently returned from Japan where he served in Tokyo as the assistant to the Chief of Staff to General MacArthur.

## Donation Honors Memory of Son

SAN FRANCISCO—In memory of his son, Yoshio Fukuda, who passed away on May 1, 1946, at the Crystal City camp, the Rev. Y. Fukuda recently made a substantial donation to the San Francisco JACL.

## Social Work Groups Seek Ban on Naturalization Bias

BUFFALO, N. Y.—A resolution asking for the elimination of discrimination of race, color or country of birth in the granting of naturalization was passed by unanimous vote at a special meeting of the American Federation of International Institutes, National Council on Naturalization and Citizenship and the Common Council for American Unity held in connection with the National Conference of Social Work held in Buffalo last week.

The resolution also asked for amelioration by legislation of the elements in the immigration law and in administrative proceedings in regard to deportation which operates with special hardness.

The meeting was addressed by Edward Corsi, commissioner of industry for the state of New York. Masaow Satow of the JACL par-

ticipated in the "Methods of Social Action" section of the conference.

He participated in a panel discussion with A. A. Liveright, Walter White, Lester Granger, Charles Hendry and George Mitchell on the subject, "Dealing with Interracial and Intercultural Tensions."

Satow declared that the tensions caused by evacuation and resettlement have taught people of goodwill that they must speak out in such matters "or have their votes counted in the negative."

The denial of membership to Japanese Americans in the AF of L Teamsters union in the Pacific Northwest and the Alien Land Laws of the west coast states were cited as unsolved tension points.

Satow also urged naturalization rights for Japanese parents in America who "have earned that right as a result of their wartime record."

Another Shanghai Nisei Granted Passport by U. S.

NEW YORK — Clarification of the "man-without-a-country" status of another Nisei stranded by war in Shanghai, China, has been announced by R. B. Shipley, chief of the passport division of the State Department in Washington, the Nisei Weekender reported last week.

According to the report, Clifton Takaogi Kurizaki, a former resident of Hawaii and the father of three children, has been granted a passport which reestablishes his status as an American citizen. This was a necessary prelude to Kurizaki's enlistment in the U. S. Army, which prompted Kurizaki to write to the State Department.

The first post-war passport granted to a Nisei in Shanghai was to Tokiji Sugiyama, largely through the efforts of his sister, Mrs. George Yamanaka of New York, who went to Washington to intercede for him. She also presented Kurizaki's case in conjunction with that of her brother.

Both Sugiyama and Kurizaki are employed at present by a Chinese firm, the Shanghai Dyeing and Finishing Co., Ltd.

Honolulu Students Win Scholarships to Mainland Art Schools

HONOLULU—Two 17-year old McKinley high school seniors, Gary Adachi and Minoru Azama, recently won scholarships to leading mainland art schools in the 19th annual arts award program sponsored by Scholastic Magazine.

Adachi's scholarship is for the Colorado Springs fine arts center, while Azama will go to the Pennsylvania Academy for Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

The two are the only winners in the 1946 Scholastic contest who do not reside on the mainland.

## Nisei War Dead Honored In Memorial Day Services

Memorial services in many parts of the mainland United States and in Hawaii were held last week in memory of the more than 600 American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who died in World War II.

One of the largest affairs was a testimonial dinner in honor of the Japanese American GI which was held on Memorial Day in Chicago's Stevens hotel with nearly 1,000 persons in attendance. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell was the guest of honor and he paid tribute to the Japanese American soldier in his speech which climaxed the affair.

In Denver, Japanese American veterans marched in the Memorial Day parade behind the banner of the Legion's Cathay post.

Impressive rites were held last Sunday at Greenwood cemetery in Spokane to honor Nisei from the

eastern Washington area who gave their lives in war.

Wounded Nisei veterans at Letterman General hospital in San Francisco attended the first memorial service to be held since the return of the Japanese Americans to the West Coast at the Pine Methodist church on Memorial Day. The wounded veterans dedicated an American flag in memory of their fallen comrades.

Similar observances were reported in Los Angeles, Watsonville and other West Coast cities.

In Pocatello, Idaho, a ceremony was held at the Pocatello cemetery at which a stone monument, inscribed with the names of the seven Nisei soldier dead from the Pocatello area, was formally dedicated. The Pocatello post of the American Legion participated in the rites.



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LARRY TAJIRI ..... EDITOR

## EDITORIALS:

### Involuntary Deportees

With the pending deportation of a large number of Japanese aliens, many of whom find themselves "stateless persons" through no fault of their own, there has arisen a large amount of confusion and doubt not only in the minds of the general public but among these potential deportees themselves regarding their present status.

As pointed out by the New York Times in a special dispatch on May 29, many of these Japanese "served within the inner compartments of military intelligence here and abroad." Many of them have sons who served in the U. S. Army. In many instances minor children, American citizens, will accompany their alien parents to Japan. The harsh deportation orders, therefore, affect not only Japanese aliens but also American children.

The deportees include hundreds of treaty trader merchants, who were legally in this country until the abrogation of trade treaties in 1940 denied them their trade status. In a somewhat comparable situation are students, journalists and ministers. Many of these persons have since their entry into this country married and raised families. The American citizen children of these marriages, who are of minor age will not be forced to go to Japan, but will naturally accompany their parents.

The present Congress has been asked to pass a bill, now known as H. R. 5454, which was introduced by Rep. Herman P. Eberharter of Pennsylvania. It would delete the phrase "if not racially inadmissible or ineligible to naturalization in the United States" from subdivision 2, subsection c of section 10 of the Immigration Act of Feb. 5, 1917.

The bill, in effect, would give the attorney general the right to stay deportation in hardship cases involving persons of Japanese ancestry. It would not automatically stay deportation, but would give the attorney general the right to act.

This bill is at present in the House committee on immigration and naturalization.

However, deportation orders now pending will not be stayed pending action upon this bill.

There are, at the present time, only two ways in which to postpone deportation proceedings, but both require immediate action.

One method is through a test case brought in behalf of the individual subject to deportation. In these cases the government has been following a policy halting action until the outcome of the case has been decided. These test cases do not, however, in any way affect other persons who are in a like situation. Though they are generally construed as "test cases," they apply only to the persons directly appealing to the courts.

The second method by which deportation has been halted is through a private bill entered in an individual's behalf by a congressman. Some thirty such bills have been entered. Congressmen cannot accept full responsibility in such cases, however, unless the individuals concerned are bonafide hardship cases with good and sufficient reason for their present situation. The case of the treaty trader, certainly, who lost his legal status through the abrogation of trade treaties between the United States and Japan is worthy of such support.

It has recently been brought to the attention of the JACL that a number of persons ordered to be deported are, through fear or shame, reluctant to fight their deportation orders.

All persons who face involuntary deporta-

tion to Japan should act immediately to stay such proceedings. It must be remembered that the outcome of other test cases, though they resemble their own, will have no bearing upon their own future disposition.

### Unity in Hawaii

Hawaii's remarkable record of loyalty, unity and military support during the war just ended has been its best recommendation in its present campaign for statehood.

That unity, however, did not develop overnight, though it must be considered that its long history of interracial activity and harmony laid a strong foundation in minimizing suspicion and eliminating distrust during the war.

In a report by Robert Shivers of the FBI to the House sub-committee on statehood, it has been revealed that action for interracial unity in Hawaii started long before the actual crisis arose on December 7, 1941.

A committee for interracial unity in Hawaii began in December, 1940, a year before Pearl Harbor. It was called up by an American of Chinese ancestry and representatives of most of the racial groups in Hawaii were present. The group met to consider ways to combat a growing resentment against persons of Japanese ancestry which resulted from the aggression of Japan in the Pacific area. Fundamentally, however, this group acted to preserve Hawaii's "traditional pattern of race relationships, knowing full well," as Shivers reported, "that a war between Japan and the United States would place a severe strain on the racial harmony that was part of Hawaii."

Some of the aims of this committee, which functioned so well during the war, might be quoted as a pattern for other groups to follow:

"Overcome fear—fear on the part of the nationals of those countries with which we might become involved in a war that they will be mistreated and persecuted, and fear on the part of the rest of the people that these particular aliens might actively assist our enemies.

"Develop a strong sense of personal responsibility to do everything possible to make Hawaii and the entire nation strong militarily and otherwise.

"Be willing to give every loyal citizen, regardless of race, a place in the scheme of national defense. No group should be denied the opportunity to do its share merely because of racial considerations.

"Remember that loyalty grows only when it is given a chance to grow. It does not flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion, discrimination, and denial of opportunities to practice that loyalty."

Hawaii began and ended the war with a record of unity and harmony and loyalty. Much of that record can be credited to its state of early preparation and to its adoption of a guide for action.

### Business Restrictions

An effort was made in Portland, Ore., recently to induce the city council to rescind its present ban on business licenses for aliens of Japanese ancestry. The effect of this restriction, adopted following the outbreak of war, has been to deny means of livelihood to many of the returned evacuees. The Portland ban on business licenses to "enemy aliens," which is still in effect, represents one of the many types of discriminatory activity which has hampered the successful resettlement of returned evacuees.

During the absence of the evacuees legislation, frankly discriminatory in the case of the anti-alien fishing bill (prohibiting "ineligible aliens" from engaging in commercial fishing in California) or regulatory in the example of the new regulations for persons operating dyeing and cleaning establishments, has been passed which now prevent many thousands of the returnees from establishing themselves in their former trades.

Similar restrictions, adopted in a time of anger and prejudice, remain on the statute-books of many local communities. The denial of opportunity, which is the end result of such restrictive activity, will prolong the period in which many returned evacuee families will require assistance from public welfare agencies. Restrictions on the freedom of initiative in employment is condemning many family heads to menial jobs which can only result in a condition of maladjustment which cannot contribute to the welfare of the individual, his family and to the community in which they live.

# Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

## The Four Pillars of Racism

It may be that World War II and the participation of more than 23,000 Japanese Americans as GIs in that conflict has marked the end of an active, organized campaign of opposition against persons of Japanese ancestry in California. Although a number of anti-Japanese organizations still exist on paper, none today can boast any sort of mass public support for its program.

The Yellow Peril movement was felled by the activity of Nisei GIs overseas and the coup de grace was administered through the public relations program of the War Relocation Authority which utilized the Nisei war record to prepare the people of California for the return of the evacuees. One of the pioneers of anti-Japanese activity in California, ex-State Senator J. M. Inman, who helped organized the California Preservation Association in 1944, foresaw the failure of his efforts when he declared that California's anti-Japanese interests had made their greatest mistake "when they permitted Japanese Americans to serve in the U. S. Army."

The present activity of the onepowerful Joint Immigration Committee, which in its day influenced state and national legislation against persons of Japanese ancestry, is now represented by an occasional protest, usually in the letters columns of newspapers, against "dual citizenship," a charge which is one of the oldest chestnuts of the Yellow Perilists. Much of the vigor and most of the intelligence behind the anti-Japanese campaign was lost with the death of V. S. McClatchy ten years ago. The most recent wave of anti-Japanese activity which developed with the war and blossomed after the evacuation utilized the same race myths and slogans which had been effective against Japanese immigrants one generation before. This type of campaign, which had been effective against Japanese aliens and which had resulted in the passage of the Alien Land Law and similar restrictive legislation, failed to have a similar result when directed against the Nisei.

In 1942 and 1944 many of the representatives of political reaction in California sought to utilize the question of the state's Japanese Americans in their campaigns. It may be recalled that the Yellow Peril issue had been successfully exploited by two previous generations of California politicians, including Senators Johnson, Phelan and Shortridge, but in the midst of a Pacific war California's electorate was not swayed by appeals to race prejudice nor by the well-financed campaign promoted by commercial interests to prevent the return of the evacuees. Several of the most violent of the Nisei-baiters, including Congressmen Costello and Poulson, were defeated.

The 1946 primary election campaign, which was concluded this week, has been singularly free of any open display of racist appeals. There has not been a line published in any of California's leading newspapers during the present campaign in which any candidate has sought votes with appeals for restrictive legislation against the Nisei or their Issei parents. The political situation is in sharp contrast to 1944 when both Governor Dewey and Governor Bricker, the Republican presidential candidates, felt impelled to comment on the "Japanese situation" while stumping California. Governor Dewey was non-committal, merely recognizing that a problem existed, but Governor Bricker's recommendation that communities be given the right of local option to decide whether they desired to permit the Japanese Americans to return was a weaselly gesture which did little to enhance his political reputation.

The emaciation of the Joint Immigration Committee, once the fountainhead of anti-Japanese propaganda in California, is illustrative of the present status of organized opposition to persons of Japanese ancestry in the state. The four pillars which supported the Joint Immigration Committee during its most active period aft-

er World War I were the Native Sons of the Golden West, the American Legion, the State Grange and the American Federation of Labor. It is to be doubted that the committee now receives even nominal support from these groups.

The Native Sons, which have made a fetish of anti-Oriental activity for 40 years, last week concluded the annual convention of its leadership at Hoberg's in Northern California and, perhaps for the first time in those 40 years, reports from this convention have not mentioned its anti-Japanese program. The Native Sons, of course, remains a white supremacist group, with its membership restricted to white persons born in California, but this year there has been no mention of the organization's Japanese legislation committee, which functioned in previous years in the interests of promoting restrictive legislation against persons of Japanese descent.

The change in the traditional attitude of the American Legion, which once exhibited throughout California a film called "Shadows of the West" which contained most of the race myths used against the state's Japanese, was marked shortly after V-J day when the Legion's California department reinstated the charters of two Japanese American posts and announced that veterans of Japanese ancestry would henceforth be admitted into the Legion without special restrictions. Two decades of anti-Japanese activity are not easily forgotten, however, and some Legion officials are now advocating the formation of special segregated posts for Japanese Americans, along the racial lines similar to the organization's Chinese, Mexican and Negro posts.

With the exception of some of the teamsters organizations under Dave Beck, the AFL has shown little enthusiasm in recent years for continued support of the Joint Immigration Committee's program, although C. J. Haggerty, its state president during the war was a member of the board of John Lechner's Americanism Educational League. Some of the AFL's craft unions, particularly in the building trades, are still closed to Oriental Americans but most of the other AFL organizations have shown no appetite to continue the sort of racist activity in which the AFL once was a full-fledged participant.

The State Grange passed anti-evacuee resolutions during the war but has not taken any similar action in recent months.

The Joint Immigration Committee, backed by the Native Sons, the Grange, the Legion and the AFL, has represented the so-called respectable wing of the anti-Oriental movement. In addition, the war years revived a number of fringe groups, some reminiscent of the type of activity represented by the Ku Klux Klan, such as the Home Front Commandos which distributed "No Jap" stickers for windshields and store windows. Other organizations, like the Americans League, organized by wholesale produce and floral interests in Southern California, have represented the profit motif in the anti-evacuee campaign.

None of these groups has been active in recent months, despite the fact that California has experienced an intense political campaign, and the resettlement of returned evacuees has generally proceeded along the program set by the WRA.

Only time and circumstances can tell, however, whether the anti-Orientalists in California are dead or merely hibernating.

### Democracy Note:

"Paul Makabe, who fought with the Japanese American combat troops in Italy, returned to his native Loomis (Calif.) to find a sign near his home reading: 'No Japs in Loomis.' Makabe tore down the sign and tacked it up next to a Nazi helmet in his collection of war souvenirs. 'These,' he said gravely 'belong together.'" — Herb Caen in the San Francisco Chronicle of May 29, 1946.



## Vagaries

### Campaign . . .

Carey McWilliams, author of "Prejudice: The Japanese American" and other books on American race minorities, is now campaigning actively for the election of Attorney General Bob Kenny, governor of California. Mr. McWilliams has been delivering a series of radio talks on the subject, "Race, Creed and Color," as part of the Kenny campaign. Attorney General Kenny's opponent, incumbent governor, Earl Warren, was recently endorsed by the Japanese American Citizens alliance.

### VFW Affair . . .

Nisei war veterans are still fighting discrimination in the Spokane VFW post and the latest broadcast is a scheduled radio program to discuss the issue. . . . This is an America note: Three Japanese Americans were recently prosecuted in Honolulu, Hawaii for possessing and flying the Japanese flag. The government prosecutor was a Nisei, Honolulu's County Attorney, Tom Kimo.

### Concert . . .

Soprano Mariko Mukai and Kazuko Tajitsu, violinist were presented in their second annual concert at Carnegie chamber of music last Tuesday by the Japanese American Committee for Democracy. Miss Mukai who recently sang Earl Robinson's "The House I Live In" on the ABC network was portrayed lead roles in the annual operas at famed Julliard Conservatory of Music in 1943 and 1945. While attending the University of Washington, she had the eminence leads in "The Marriage of Figaro" and "The Barber of Seville." . . . Miss Tajitsu teaches the violin at Edgemont public school in Scarsdale, N. Y. For the last three years she has been a member and soloist of the Silver string quartet at Lake George, N. Y. A native of Seattle, she appeared on her first concert at the age of 11.

### Claims Bill . . .

It's reported Rep. Dan McGehee of Mississippi will sponsor the evacuation claims bill in the House. The Senate version of the bill has been introduced by Sen. Ellender of Louisiana. Consideration of the bill, as well as other "routine" legislation, was held up last week by the rail strike crisis. . . . Mary Howard Constable, whose poem "Nisei Soldier" was published in the Pacific Citizen last week, is the wife of Dr. William Y. Takahashi, formerly of Seattle and now in practice in Chicago. Mrs. Takahashi, a native of New England, is the author of many poems published in Common Ground and other magazines.

### The Angry Man . . .

Roy Imamura, OPA economist and steward of the appraisals section of the OPA unit of the CIO's United Federal Workers, was recently threatened by an angry congressman. According to the Nisei Weekender, the would-be assailant was California's Rep. Albert Elliot, a reactionary who hates the OPA as much as he opposes the democratic and fair treatment of Japanese American evacuees during the war. It all happened when Imamura participated with other government employees in a union-sponsored demonstration for a 30 per cent pay raise for all Federal workers. The Nisei and Daniel Freudenthal of the Civilian Production Administration decided to visit Rep. Elliot on behalf of the proposed raise. How will you vote on the 30 per cent pay raise for Federal workers? The congressman was asked. The congressman's answer was violent and unprintable. When he grew a little more coherent, he said: "I'll break your damn necks if you come back here." Then he hustled Imamura and Freudenthal to the door.

### Sinatra . . .

Jean Nakamura, last of twelve Nisei in the eastern area office of the WRA in New York City, is now en route to a War Department job in Japan. . . . Frank Sinatra, a front-line fighter against racism in America, received "the largest basket of flowers he'd ever

# The Nisei Soldier: GI AMBASSADORS WITH JAPANESE FACES

By LAWRENCE NAKATSUKA

(The following article on the effect of the U. S. Army's use of Japanese Americans in occupation duty in Japan is reprinted from the February, 1946, issue of New-Pacific, interracial monthly published in Honolulu and edited by Francis D. Kang.)

The Nisei soldier is rapidly becoming Uncle Sam's No. 1 "Ambassador of Good Will" in Japan. As American as democracy, this GI with a Japanese name and face is helping to bridge the gap between our occupation forces and the defeated Nipponese. He is doing a superb job in a unique role he can fill better than anyone else.

One of these "Ambassadors" was Master Sergeant Hakumasa Hamamoto, a Honolulu brewery sales promoter before he volunteered as an interpreter in the U. S. Army. He returned a few weeks ago after three and a half months in Japan, for discharge and reunion with his family at 918 9th avenue, Kaimuki.

What he saw in Japan convinces him that both the American authorities and the beaten Japanese appreciate the liaison job the Nisei has done and is still doing there.

Just the fact that hundreds of Nisei language experts have been sent to Japan is clear indication that the army considers their services valuable. The Japanese Americans are assigned to highly confidential work in the counter-intelligence corps, such as uncovering secret societies and documents. Others, like Hamamoto, accompanied demolition and confiscation squads to assemble and destroy war weapons.

The Japanese natives, fearful of our occupation troops, greeted the Nisei soldiers with obvious relief when they saw the Japanese Americans in the vanguard of the occupation forces. By overcoming the language barrier between conqueror and conquered, the AJAs smoothed over a delicate situation for both sides. Thanks to these interpreters, the initial stage of the occupation was accomplished with barely a hitch.

Hamamoto, now a civilian, recalls with well-deserved satisfaction the two years he spent training as a "language soldier" and the short tour of duty in Japan which climaxed his army career. He signed up for language training in December, 1943, with 327 other Hawaii AJAs, although he had a family and some of the 327 other AJAs in the group were young enough to be his sons. (He's now 40.) The volunteers were sent to Camp Savage, then to Ft. Snelling, both in Minnesota, to study at the military intelligence language school. His knowledge of Japanese was better than average—he had studied at the Japanese high school on Fort street and had used the language in his work as life insurance salesman and later sales manager for a Honolulu brewery.

Last summer his outfit was assigned to the Philippines. The 112th Cavalry Regiment Combat Team, to which he was attached, was to have participated in the invasion but the campaign had just ended. After camping in the hills of Antipolo, near Manila, for a month and a half, the regiment sailed for Japan, arriving at Chiba peninsula on September 1.

The war with Japan was over; that is, the shooting had stopped, but the Yanks were wary about the enemy, whose word wasn't worth a brass penny after his treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor. Hamamoto was in the "first wave" to land on Chiba peninsula, that strip of land which faces Tokyo and Yokohama from across Tokyo Bay. The town of Chiba had been 90 per cent levelled by B-29 fire raids.

"There was no skyline," Hamamoto related. "No buildings were left standing."

The Super-Forts had pounded with full force because three naval bases and the crack Third Imperial Guard Division were located on Chiba. From what he learned later,

seen" the other night in Chicago. The flowers were delivered to Sinatra on the stage of the Chicago theater by Donald Bourgois, 17-year old Negro youth, and 14-year old Ernest Yahiro, a Nisei, for Bishop Sheil and the Catholic Youth Organization. "We want you to know that we're for you and the things you are fighting for," Donald told Sinatra. The latter thanked the CYO youths for the tribute by singing "the most appropriate tune I can think of—"The House I Live In," a musical plea for better understanding among American race groups.

Hamamoto called Chiba a "real arsenal."

Small wonder the 112th regiment landed with combat orders. But the surprise came when beaming natives, not sullen or haughty Japanese, stepped forward to greet them. The Japanese actually were anxious to help the troops make a success of their occupational task. This unexpected welcome amazed the GIs, who, however, continued to be skeptical of the low-bowing and smiling inhabitants.

But experience of the months following showed the Japanese to be really friendly. "During the three and a half months I was on Chiba, not a single unpleasant incident occurred between the GIs and the Japanese," Hamamoto attested. "On the contrary, I found that the natives cooperated 100 per cent."

Hamamoto learned first-hand about Japanese cooperation and the Chiba arsenal. He accompanied the first squadron (cavalry equivalent to the infantry battalion) as interpreter in demobilization and confiscation of enemy materiel. This meant the outfit had to collect weapons, fuel, food, clothing and everything else that belonged to the military. Tanks, cannons and similar arms were destroyed; ammunition was towed to sea on fishing boats and dumped under GI supervision. Uniforms and foodstuffs were turned over to the Home Ministry for redistribution to civilians.

Hamamoto came in personal contact with hundreds of Japanese, both in the armed forces and in civilian life. Most of the soldiers had been demobilized on Chiba and sent home by the time the Americans moved in. Only maintenance crews were on the scene of military occupation.

The regiment cleaned up its work within three months, far ahead of schedule. This was a busy period for the Hawaii Nisei, who found travel outside of Chiba out of the question. But when things slackened, he visited Tokyo, where he met hundreds of other Japanese Americans in intelligence units.

Hamamoto estimates about 1,800 AJAs were in the Japanese capital during his visit. Most were with ATIS (Allied Translation and Interpreting Section), which occupied the NYK building. Some were stationed for permanent translation duty; others were assigned to various units for demobilization work similar to Hamamoto's; still others were with CIC (counter-intelligence corps.)

"The natives went out of their way to be nice to us Nisei," said Hamamoto. "They accorded us the highest respect. Before we landed, some of us were rather doubtful about the attitude of the natives, but we found they were happy to see us. Even the high military officers treated us well."

"I heard of several instances where officers and civilian officials praised and thanked the Nisei for their part in the occupation. They said that if the Nisei hadn't been around, there would have been a lot of misunderstandings because of the language difficulties."

The first phase of occupation has ended with singular success. Democratization of the Japanese is just beginning and the Nisei, equipped with American background and language skills, fits naturally into this program, Hamamoto believes.

"Who can do a better job of educating the Japanese in the democratic way of living and thinking?" Hamamoto asked with an authority in his voice that could mean only one answer. Yes, for Japan, the Nisei is our best "Ambassadors of Good Will."

## From the Frying Pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

### The Housing Shortage Grows More Desperate

Des Moines, Ia.

This is how desperate the housing shortage is getting to be. A middle-aged couple, without children, will have to vacate their home by July 1.

They expect to be transferred out of town by October. They have not been able to find a place to rent for the months between July and October.

He seriously is considering buying a home now, and selling it when he leaves. Incidental to he hopes to realize a profit of \$500 or \$1,000 in the resale of the property.

But he'll have to pay \$7,500 or more for a house that would have sold for \$3,000 in 1940.

### Piping Hot

There's a new firm that will deliver "a complete chicken dinner," piping hot, to your door for a dollar.

This is another bit of evidence that "normalcy" is meandering back. Also that service, ingenuity and originality will play a larger part than ever in competition for the public's purchasing power, once the first frantic demand for goods is satisfied.

## EDITORIAL

# DIGEST

### Segregated Posts

#### MOLALLA PIONEER

Americanism means inclusion, not exclusion, the Molalla, Ore., Pioneer declared in an editorial on May 16 on the practice of the American Legion and the VFW in establishing segregated posts for veterans of minority groups.

The Pioneer, whose editor is Monroe Sweetland who returned to the United States recently after serving as a Red Cross field director in the Pacific, said that "we think a few more cobblestones in the wrong direction are being laid by men of good-will in some of the veterans' organizations."

"Much publicity has been given to the new Cathay Post 185 of the American Legion in Denver, where Chinese and Japanese American veterans have a separate Legion post," the Pioneer said. "In Portland, too, some similar all-Oriental post is operating. In many cities all-Negro, all-Catholic, all-Jewish posts of the Legion and even of the usually-broader VFW have been set up.

"Only the new American Veterans Committee forbids all discrimination.

"The Legion, much-attacked for intolerance in matters of race, is glowing with self-righteousness over these new segregated posts. It may represent progress to them, but it doesn't look good to us. Can't we all work together as veterans? Didn't we all fight together? Aren't we all pledged to the welfare of one United States?"

The Pioneer added:

"These segregated posts look like a 'solution' concocted by those who think pigmentation or minority religion make a different kind of Americans.

"In our veteran organizations we pledge over and over our loyalty to 'One nation, indivisible. . . A long step ahead will be for the organizations themselves to be 'indivisible.'"

### Whittling

Our 5-year-old has emerged, chrysalis-like, into that period of life when whittling is of consuming interest. His material is any piece of wood. His tool is a discarded paring knife (it cost 15 cents new) which, we hope, is sufficiently dull so that he will not cut himself.

His primary objective is making shavings which he scatters about with abandon. But out of his whittling he shapes crude swords and daggers which, in his accelerated imagination, are wondrously fashioned creations.

In time he will be graduated to a pocket knife (when he becomes older and the knives become available), and like all boys he will treasure it, even when a couple of the blades are broken and the others no longer gleam with newness.

We note this event because it marks his departure from what might be called childhood to boyhood. He is on the threshold of such great and wonderful discoveries as bows and arrows and slingshots. He will make them himself and explore their possibilities with his buddies in thrill-packed hours in the woods near our home.

At night, exhausted, he will dream of Indians and cowboys, of covered wagons and stampeding buffaloes. These will be as much a part of his heritage as if his hair were blonde and his forefathers rode westward in prairie schooners.

We envy his day-dreams, his aspirations, his flights of fancy. For they are a part of boyhood which every grown man remembers and wishes he could relive again.

### Unsolved Mystery

One of the still-unsolved evacuation-connected mysteries is the form letters which the army sent out to a number of Japanese Americans in 1942.

These letters were printed, appeared under the name of Col. Karl R. Bendtsen, and started:

"Certain Japanese persons are currently being considered for repatriation to Japan. You, and those members of your family listed above, are being so considered."

Strangely enough, these letters were addressed to many prominent Nisei whose loyalty was beyond question.

The common reaction was anger and deep indignation, for in effect American citizens were being "invited" to agree to deportation from their own to an alien land.

Many strongly worded letters were sent to the army in reply and apparently nothing much came of the "repatriation" movement.

Almost four years have passed now, and the war that brought about such a weird incident is ended. But there has been no explanation. Certainly one is overdue.

## Forthcoming Book Will Tell Story of 442nd Combat Team

WASHINGTON—The history of one of the best-known U. S. Army units of World War II, the 442nd (Japanese American) Regimental Combat Team, will be published soon by the Infantry Journal.

The 150-page book which contains a roster with the name of every man who served overseas with the 442nd, showing the men who were wounded or decorated. More than 50 photographs and eight relief maps will be included.

According to Col. Joseph I. Greene, editor of the Infantry Journal, the 35,000 words of text in the book will be devoted to the "toughest battles and greatest victories" of the 442nd Combat Team, including "the rout of the Nazi SS Battalion at Belvedere for which the 100th Battalion was cited, the

week-long slugging match for Hill 149 on the 'Little Cassino' line and the 3rd Battalion's room-by-room battle for Luciano."

"There will be a section about the toughest scrap of them all, the fighting in the Vosges mountains, never before crossed by an army opposed by an armed enemy until the Seventh Army did it," Greene said. "We have included the battle for Bruyeres and the 442nd's heroic relief of the 36th Division's 'lost battalion,' including 'Suicide hill' and 'Banzai hill.'"

The book will also tell of the winter on the Riviera and the last campaign of the war for the 442nd, when the Combat Team battled through the 'marble orchards' to crack the western anchor of the Gothic line.



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Travel Clearance Procedure for Oriental Americans Clarified

HONOLULU — American war veterans of Japanese and other Oriental ancestry have encountered no difficulty in entering the port of San Francisco from Hawaii under recently initiated procedures, according to a communication to the territorial chapter of the American Veterans Committee from I. F. Wixon, San Francisco district manager of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Hawaii AVC had protested discrimination against Oriental American veterans in the matter of travel clearance between Hawaii and the United States mainland. Previously, "certificates of citizenship," requiring considerable red tape, had been required of Oriental Americans requesting passage from Hawaii to the West Coast.

(Similar protests had been filed by the ACLU, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Territorial Emergency Service Committee and other organizations.)

Following the filing of the protests, Deputy Commissioner T. B. Shoemaker of the Immigration and Naturalization Service had declared that the agency did not require Oriental Americans to obtain "certificates of citizenship" and had advised transportation companies to that effect.

Oriental American veterans who have produced birth certificates and discharge papers have experienced no trouble in passing immigration inspection at San Francisco, Mr. Wixon declared.

Snake River JACL To Hold Dance

NYSSA, Ore.—The Snake River Valley JACL will honor high school and college graduates of the upper Snake River area at a banquet and dance on June 7 at 7 p. m. in the banquet room of the Washington Hotel in Weiser, Idaho.

The club expects to honor more than 40 graduates from the Ontario, Nyssa, Vale and Weiser areas. Parents of the graduates will attend as guests of the JACL. Lloyd Snead's orchestra has been obtained for the dance.

Mamaro Wakasugi, Don Sugai and Mrs. Katie Hashitani are handling dance tickets.

Spokane JACL Plans Benefit Dance

SPOKANE, Wash. — A baseball benefit dance is being held by the Spokane JACL on June 14 at Liberty Hall to defray expenses of its team which is now in city competition. Tickets are \$1.00 per person and may be secured from any member of the team or from Roy Funakoshi, chairman of the dance.

Graduation Dance Held by Yellowstone

REXBURG, Idaho — Honoring local graduates, the Yellowstone JACL held a semi-formal ball on May 31 at the Playmore hall in Rexburg.

Leo Watts and his orchestra supplied the music.

Professional Notices

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Ogata Paces Keglers In Salt Lake League

With Doug Ogata blasting pins for a 614, the Wally's Flowers team paced the second round of the Salt Lake JACL Bowling league at the Temple alleys May 27.

Wally's shot a 2558, including 921 game, to defeat Murray's 2422.

Okada Insurance fired a 2422 defeat Dawn Cafe, 3 to 1.

The Ogden Vets split with Cafe, 2 to 2.

Next Monday's (June 3) schedule pits the league-leading Wally's team against Dawn Cafe. Okada Insurance meets OK Cafe, while the Ogden Vets, currently leading the Ogden Nisei bowling league, meets Murray.

The Standings

Wally's Flowers	6
Ogden Vets	5
Dawn Cafe	5
Okada Insurance	4
OK Cafe	3
Murray	1

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# RELOCATION DIGEST

## San Francisco

**SAN FRANCISCO**—With a substantial number of evacuees returning to San Francisco, a number of pre-war shops have reopened for business, some in their original buildings . . . Dr. Carl . . . recently a major in the . . . will open his dental practice shortly in the former Mori . . . studio building . . . Dave . . . department store at Post . . . Buchanan is scheduled for an . . . July reopening . . . The Nip . . . Goldfish company, which stock . . . many a goldfish pond in the . . . Francisco area, is reported . . . to reopen this week in its . . . original site. It will be operated . . . Koji Murata . . . Willy Ito, . . . evacuated from a candy shop . . . 1942, will begin business as a . . . a trade he learned during . . . evacuation . . . Three food . . . are now operating in the . . . American Fish, Morino Bros. . . Tomato Sakai's grocery, which . . . is the first to start . . . San . . . have also welcomed . . . reopening of its first postwar . . . newspaper, the Nichi-bei Times.

## New York

**NEW YORK CITY**—Mrs. Mae . . . and Mrs. Helen Umezawa . . . of Denver, together with Mrs. . . . sister, Dorothy Kikuchi, . . . nurse from Illinois, were . . . recent visitors to New . . . City . . . Also visiting in . . . city recently were Miss Mina . . . and Mr. and Mrs. M. Mor . . . all of Chicago and formerly . . . Seattle. Miss Kimura was the . . . of Mrs. Kahn Uyeyama of . . . N. J., and the Morishitas . . . with Mr. and Mrs. Albert . . . of New York . . . Special . . . arrangements for the Dillon . . . Myer dinner on May 22 were . . . tributed by Carl S. Iwasaki, . . . New York florist, whose efforts . . . evoked admiring comment even . . . from the hotel management . . . Nisei students at the Brigeton high . . . school in New Jersey will take . . . part in a commencement day pa . . . rant showing contributions made . . . to South Jersey by ethnic groups . . . represented in the graduating . . . class. Salutatorian of the class is . . . Nisei girl.

**DES MOINES, Ia.**—Mrs. Tome . . . and Mrs. Jackson Taka . . . were honored as the oldest

and youngest mothers respectively who were present at the May 12th Vesper service at the Central Church of Christ. . . Mrs. Tomoko Yamamoto exhibited several flower arrangements at the Des Moines Garden Club spring garden show May 5 to 11 at Younkers department store. Mrs. Yamamoto is a teacher in flower arrangement at Perkins school.

## Bias Against Nisei In Spokane Area Told at Meeting

**SPOKANE, Wash.**—Discriminatory practices against persons of Japanese ancestry in the Spokane area were told by Joe Okamoto, representing the Japanese American Civic club, at the interracial clinic sponsored recently by the Spokane Council of Racial Relations at the Davenport.

Okamoto, a native of Spokane and a graduate of Lewis and Clark high school, said there were many problems for the Japanese American group.

"In pre-war days when there were houses to buy and rent — there were none for members of my group because of discrimination," Okamoto said. "You can imagine how much worse the situation is now."

"It is hard to draw a line where preference and prejudice starts. Our children go to school to learn about democracy which they love and respect. Then they go into the business and social world and find disappointment. Those of my race receiving college degrees find they have to work on farms."

Dr. Frank Horne of the Federal Public Housing Authority from Washington, D. C., told those attending the interracial clinic that no child can grow up normally in a segregated community where there is discrimination of race, creed or color.

"Neighborhood contacts can either strengthen or weaken our democratic power," he said. "We can either build one nation in our states, cities and communities—or we can segregate the races and live in fear."

## Spokane Meeting

**SPOKANE, Wash.** — Details of the forthcoming installation banquet of the Spokane JA CL chapter will be discussed at the coming meeting on June 7 at the Community Church from 7:30.

## Vital Statistics

### BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. George S. Matsumoto a girl on May 14 in Thornton, Calif.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jim S. Nakagawa a boy on May 15 in Sacramento, Calif.

To Mr. and Mrs. Roy T. Takemoto a boy on May 15 in Lincoln, Calif.

To Mr. and Mrs. Travis Lafferty a boy, Travis Allan, on April 25 in Oakland, Calif. Mrs. Lafferty is the former Nori Ikeda of Oakland.

To Mr. and Mrs. George Teraoka a boy, Thomas Toshiyuki, on May 5 in St. Louis.

### DEATHS

Ryukichi Ogawa, 61, in Stockton, Calif., on May 21.

Kurazo Kono, 70, on May 21 at Sacramento, Calif.

Kenichi Sasagawa on May 10 in Palo Alto, Calif.

Kukoh Yasui, 72, in San Francisco.

Kunizo Muraoka, 63, on May 19 in Brighton, Calif.

## Marriage Rites

**GLENDALE, Ariz.**—Inaugurating the season of pretty June weddings, a formal ceremony on Saturday, June 1, at 4 p. m. united Miss Hideko Okabayashi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Okabayashi, and Mr. Toshiji Watanabe, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. Watanabe.

Attendants were Miss Eiko Oza, maid-of-honor; Miss Martha Okabayashi and Miss Chuckie Watanabe, bridesmaids; Jo Ann Tanita and Joyce Kimura, flower girls; Harvey Watanabe, ring bearer; Lindy Okabayashi, best man; and John Tadano and Edward Tanita. Ushers were John Sakato, Roy Otsuka, Ted Tsuji and Koki Nakazawa.

Organ music was played by Miss June Kohatsu. Miss Jamie Kohatsu, accompanied by Miss Terrie Yoshiga, sang three selections.

## Pueblo Chapter Holds Carnival

**PUEBLO, Colo.** — The Pueblo chapter of the JA CL held a successful carnival-dance on May 11 to raise funds for the organization. Visitors from Crowley, Ordway and Rocky Ford attended.

## Wedding

**DENVER**—Miss Mitsue Miyata, formerly of San Jose, recently became the bride of Mr. George Kuroki at a wedding ceremony held at the Buddhist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuroki will make their home in North Platte, Nebraska.

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# Believe Death of Nisei Soldier Result of Tragic War Mistake

HONOLULU — The death of a Japanese American war prisoner in a Nazi camp, the result of a tragic war mistake, was told here for the first time recently.

The prisoner was Itsumu Sasaoka, a member of the 442nd (Japanese American) Regimental Combat Team who was taken prisoner during the fighting in the Vosges mountains of France in October, 1944.

After listing him as "missing in action," the War Department last month notified Sasaoka's next of kin in Hawaii that he had been declared dead. Memorial services were held on April 7 and the story of the Nisei soldier's death was told by Staff Sgt. Michael M. Tokunaga who was in the German prison camp with him.

Itsumu Sasaoka had been wounded in Italy on Oct. 23, 1943, and had then returned to action and campaigned with the 442nd in France. On Oct. 22, 1944, his tank was knocked out while on a flanking mission and he was wounded again and taken prisoner.

The Germans forced the prisoners to move inland with them and

the column of 2,000 set out on a march over the snow-covered roads of Germany.

They had gone about two and a half miles from Stalag III, the prison camp, when the group was overtaken by an advancing Russian column. The Russians fired on the group, mistaking them for Hungarians who were fighting on the side of the Nazis.

"The column was excited and everybody scattered. Some ran to the rear. Others ran to the front in hope of liberation and were cut off," Tokunaga said. "The Russians had been in ambush and because of the closeness of the range, their fire was accurate. I could hear the screaming and shouting and cries of the wounded. It was every man for himself. A shell landed close to me and I was bleeding but I was well enough to crawl. Up to that moment I know Sasaoka was all right.

"One of the American boys took out a white handkerchief and started yelling 'Americanski' and a German guard walked up and killed him.

"Then another boy walked forward shouting and the firing stopped.

"I made my way back to the camp. I thought Sasaoka was with the others. They thought he was with me."

The band of prisoners was never reformed. The Russians later explained that they mistook the olive drab uniforms of the American prisoners for the uniforms of Hungarians fighting for Germany.

It was two weeks before Tokunaga met any of the other Japanese Americans who had been in the prison camp. Then he joined Sgt. Harry Kamikawa, now of Honolulu. Still later the two met Cpl. Robert Kim of Honolulu. None of them had seen Sgt. Sasaoka since the day of the ambush and none of them have heard from him since. The other Japanese Americans returned to the United States by way of Odessa, Cairo, Italy and Boston.

# Japanese Canadians Now Residing in All Of Nine Provinces

WINNIPEG, Man.—For the first time in Canadian history, persons of Japanese ancestry are now residing in all of the Dominion's nine provinces, it was noted this week as the New Canadian reported that Japanese Canadian evacuees were moving out of British Columbia temporary housing centers in record numbers for relocation in eastern and plains areas.

The ninth province to be settled by persons of Japanese ancestry was Prince Edward Island where the Mizuno family has relocated at a place called Central Bedeque.

A record high for relocation was noted in April when 519 evacuees left the British Columbia camps.

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# Racial Integration In Hawaii Told at P-TA Convention

DENVER, Colo.—The American "melting pot" has worked most successfully in Hawaii, Takao Yamauchi, Hawaiian delegate to National Parent-Teachers Association convention in Denver, told delegates last week.

Yamauchi said that Hawaiian society constitutes the world's best example of human brotherhood from the racial standpoint.

He said that economic equality prevails in Hawaii and the new immigrant of whatever race is encouraged to enter fully into democratic participation in all phases of life, while public opinion is strongly against any assumption of superiority.

Most residents of Hawaii, he said, have forebears of two or more races and the schools, which are fully equal to the better American standards, significantly never list any racial origin or color on a pupil's card.

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# Civil Rights Group to Fight License Bias

SAN FRANCISCO—The Japanese American Civil Rights League, which was formed recently with the assistance of the JACL, may soon enter the fight against discriminatory license regulations in California, the Nichi-Bei Times reported this week.

The CRDU decided last week that it would actively support legal action on discriminatory business license restrictions, in addition to its announced campaign on behalf of persons of Japanese ancestry who face the loss of farm property as a result of the State's escheat program.

Charging that license regulations which went into effect last year are discriminatory toward returned evacuees, a San Francisco group interested in reestablishing themselves in the dyeing and cleaning industry may form an organization to fight the new law. Regulations which have been established since the evacuation affect hit real estate and insurance agencies who have returned, it was stated.

The Nichi-Bei Times said there were approximately 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in the dyeing and cleaning industry in the San Francisco area before the evacuation.

Regulations of dry cleaners have been changed since the time of the evacuation and new rules make it difficult for an alien Japanese ancestry to obtain state license. The new regulations do not apply to persons who were in the dye and cleaning industry on Sept. 16, 1945, and it is pointed out that provision is discriminatory to the evacuees who were forced to abandon their businesses in 1942 and who are now unable to obtain new permits.

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