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Front-Line GIs Condemn Hood River Legion

Interior Secretary Ickes Urges Japanese Americans to Leave Camps for Outside Relocation

Magnificent Record Of Nisei Soldiers Told by Official

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Interior Ickes, in a statement issued on Dec. 29, urged eligible Japanese Americans who are still residing in war relocation centers to settle in normal communities as soon as possible.

He stressed that plans of the War Relocation Authority call for the closing of the relocation camps within a year.

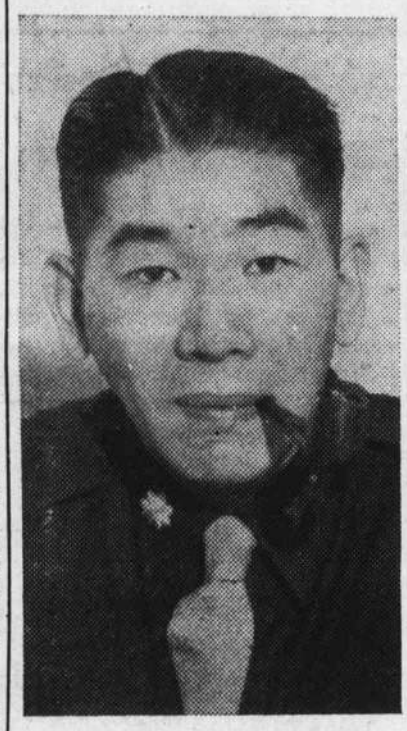
Ickes's plea was contained in a year-end message of praise to Americans of Japanese ancestry in the armed forces. Ickes said he was aware "that departing from the centers will involve difficult readjustments" but that "it is for their own best interests and for the interests of all Americans of Japanese descent."

He added that evacuees will be "given ample time" to make the move and that WRA and federal and state welfare agencies will aid families in need of special help.

In his message to the soldiers Ickes said the Nisei had "fashioned a magnificent record of service" to the United States and "all good Americans are proud of you."

He described the lifting of the West Coast exclusion ban as a "well-earned recognition of the loyalty" of the great majority of the evacuees and a victory for the "unflinching patriotism which has been so well exemplified by thousands of valiant American soldiers from the mainland and Hawaii whose parents came from Japan."

PROMOTED



MAJOR WALTER TSUKAMOTO, now stationed at Fort Snelling, Minn., is one of the highest ranking Japanese Americans in the U. S. Army. Major Tsukamoto, former national president of the JACL, was promoted recently from the rank of captain. Before the war he was an attorney at Sacramento, Calif.

15,000 War Jobs For Nisei Seen On Pacific Coast

SAN FRANCISCO—Urging Japanese Americans to return to the West Coast to help meet the manpower shortage in essential industries, Harold Boyd, San Francisco controller and chairman of the Council of Civic Unity, said on Jan. 5 that Nisei evacuees are hesitating about returning to the West Coast because of concern over housing and employment.

Pointing out that there are at least 15,000 vital industrial and farm jobs which the returning Nisei can fill, Boyd asserted that this hesitancy is "hindering the war effort" and that the concern of the Nisei has been due to a "misunderstanding" about available housing and employment.

Two Reported Killed, Three Hurt in France

Two Japanese Americans have been killed, three others are wounded, and one is missing in action on the Western Front, according to information received by next of kin in the mainland United States, the Pacific Citizen has been informed.

One soldier, Pvt. Tom T. Kanno of Ogden, previously reported missing in action, is now disclosed to be a prisoner of war in Germany.

Killed in Action

S/SGT. ATSUO SAHARA, brother of Kanaye Sahara, 7312-C, Tule Lake, killed in action on Dec. 15.

SGT. NED T. NAKAMURA, 28, (Los Angeles), husband of Mrs. Kimi Nakamura of Hunt, Idaho, killed in action. He was previously reported missing in action. Sgt. Nakamura is also survived by a daughter, Joyce, a brother, Kay K. Nakamura, 9L-11F, Granada, and a sister, Mrs. S. Sato, of Granada.

Missing in Action

PFC. HORACE KANGO SAGARA, 21, (Los Angeles), brother of Wallace Sagara, 9L-2E, Granada, missing in action since Oct. 23. Pfc. Sagara volunteered from Granada on May 20, 1943, and received his training in Camp Shelby, Miss., before going overseas with the 442nd Combat Team.

Wounded in Action

PFC. SATORU GEORGE MIYAKE, 35, (Atwater, Calif.), husband of Mrs. Kimi Miyake of 10H-11C, Granada, father of two children, Robert and Margaret, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Hidekichi Miyake, Granada, wounded in action on Nov. 30.

PFC. AKIRA MATSUMOTO, 30, son of Mr. and Mrs. Manki Matsumoto, 3903-A, Tule Lake, wounded in Germany on Nov. 20.

PFC. GEORGE T. KONDO, brother of Tadashi Kondo, 4116-E, Tule Lake, slightly wounded in action on Dec. 4.

Prisoner of War

PVT. TOM T. KANNO, 30, Ogden, Utah, previously reported missing in action, now reported held as a prisoner of war by the German government, according to information received by his relatives from the Red Cross.

War Correspondent Reports Soldiers 'Bitterly Angry' Over Reports of Anti-Nisei Prejudice

Members of Lost Battalion, Rescued by Nisei Troops, Write Letters Home Denouncing Actions Of Oregon Group Against Japanese Americans

DES MOINES, Ia. — "There were many bitterly angry doughboys in France today," Gordon Gammack, war correspondent of the Des Moines Register and Tribune in the European area, declared in a Dec. 30 dispatch from the U. S. 36th Division in France.

"They had read the Stars and Stripes story stating that the Hood River, Ore., American Legion post had scratched Japanese American servicemen's names from their honor roll and had inserted ads in newspapers urging Nisei not to return to Hood River county," Gammack reported.

"Thoughts of the survivors of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, went back to late October when they were in the 'lost battalion' which was cut off for six days in the Vosges mountains," the Des Moines newspaperman added. "There men knew that the troops trying to rescue them were Japanese Americans."

"When the Japanese American troops arrived they were hugged and kissed by the gaunt defenders," Gammack noted.

His report from the Western Front, published in the Dec. 31 issue of the Register, continued:

"Capt. John Harper, a Des Moines attorney in civilian life, wasn't with the 36th Division at the time of the lost battalion, but he said, 'I have talked with lots of soldiers who were there and who have been in battle with those Japanese Americans since and that Hood River business was the worst thing I ever heard of.'

"Two men cursed the Hood River Legion post with violent doughboy bitterness.

"'Why, the dirty, lousy . . . that's the lousiest thing I ever heard of,' said Lieut. Joseph Kimble of Scranton, Pa. 'We men who came off that hill in the mountains know that those Japanese aren't just as good as the average soldier—they're better.'

"Already some of the men have started writing letters to the Hood River legion. Sgt. Hiller Hull of San Antonio, Tex., was one.

"'I told them they are are the ones who ought to sell their property and get out,' he said. 'I said it's too bad we have to fight for the liberties of men who'll do a dirty thing like that. I said if that sort of thing keeps up we don't want any part of the Legion after the war and we'd like to know the attitude of other Legionnaires in the States.'

"Sgt. Hull said he is going to start the letter again and 'make it stronger.'

"'I don't like to call them Japs or even refer to their origin,' he continued. 'They are doing the same job as we are. I don't see why people back home are so narrow-minded.'

"'That's a shame, a dirty shame,' commented Sgt. Lester Hinz of Luverne, Ia. 'If it was not for them a lot of us wouldn't be alive today. They're real men, those Japanese Americans.

"'People who say things like that maybe don't know the lives of their boys have been saved by those Japanese,' said Sgt. Enrique Garcia of Brownsville, Tex. 'If it wasn't for those boys, our battalion would have been wiped out. A lot of those Japanese Americans lost their lives getting us out, too,' said Pfc. Virgil Lindell of Billings, Montana.

"Correspondents who have contact with the 36th and 34th Divisions shared the anger of the other doughboys at the Hood River action because we know how valiantly the Japanese Americans have fought not only to best the Germans but to win a place of respect in the United States as loyal Americans.

"One battalion of Japanese Americans fought through much of the Italian campaign with the 34th and I've heard one Iowan after another say it was the best battalion in the division.

"I have never heard anything but unqualified praise about these troops. Just two days ago I heard the nurses at an evacuation hospital say they are the best and bravest of all their patients. Incidentally, the Japanese American battalion came to fight at the side of the Iowans shortly after the Iowa legislature passed a resolution disapproving educational aid in state institutions to Japanese Americans."

Expose Produce Men's Deal With Union to Exclude Nisei

McWilliams Says Closed-Shop Agreement Offered Teamsters Union by Business Interests Is Basis of Group's Antagonism Toward Japanese Americans

A pending deal between the Teamster's Union in Los Angeles and dealers on the Los Angeles produce exchange by which the union is to be given a closed-shop provision in return for its agreement to exclude Japanese Americans from membership was exposed by Carey McWilliams, author and authority on race minorities, in his article. "West Coast Bows to Return of Nisei," in the Dec. 26 issue of PM in New York.

McWilliams declared that this "pending deal" is the basis for the "threatening and belligerent" resolution adopted by the Teamsters Council in Los Angeles opposing the return of the evacuees and stating that "western climate will not be healthy for Japs for a long time to come."

"I know a number of influential local officials of the Teamsters Union who are opposed to the stand that the Council has taken," McWilliams added, "and it is by no means clear that the membership, most of which is concentrated in locals now being operated as 'receiverships' by the Dave Beck hierarchy, would support the position of the union if they were given a chance to express themselves."

The Union, through their national publication, The International Teamster, has carried on an intensive campaign against the release of Japanese Americans from the relocation camps and against their return to the West Coast.

McWilliams pointed out that organized labor on the West Coast has, in the main, adopted a favorably policy toward the evacuees.

"The CIO has, of course, long been in favor of fair treatment; and, at its New Orleans convention in November, the AFL adopted a resolution against 'unwarranted persecution and discrimination' against persons of Japanese ancestry," he declared.

Few Evacuees Return to West Coast Homes

SAN FRANCISCO—The War Relocation Authority announced that "only a few" Japanese Americans left war relocation centers for their former homes on the West Coast on Jan. 3, the first day they could have moved under the Army's revocation of the coast exclusion orders.

At the time of the WRA announcement on Jan. 3 reports indicated that only two persons had left Manzanar, Calif.; one had left Poston, Ariz., permanently and eight others on short term leaves; and none had left either the Heart Mountain, Wyo., or Hunt, Idaho, centers.

No report had been received from Topaz, Utah, where most of the San Francisco Bay area residents were relocated.

The WRA said the resettlement trend for evacuees seemed to be eastward, although figures were too few to be conclusive.

Officials Discuss Return of Students

SACRAMENTO—County superintendents of schools met in Sacramento on Jan. 4 to discuss the reassimilation of children of Japanese ancestry into California schools.

U. P. Says Troops Indignant Over Reports of Anti-Nisei Acts

"Hundreds of veteran American soldiers" were reported indignant on Dec. 30 over an item in the Army newspaper Stars and Stripes, which said that an American Legion post at Hood River, Ore., had advised Americans of Japanese ancestry to sell any property they own and leave town, Clinton B. Conger, United Press war correspondent with the United States Seventh Army on the Western Front, reported.

Conger disclosed the dispatch, which moved dozens of GIs to prepare to write letters of protest to President Roosevelt and congressmen, said the Legion post had advertised in local newspapers that citizens of Japanese ancestry were unwanted in the Hood River valley.

"There was violent vocal reaction among doughboys of Lieut. Gen. Alexander Patch's original divisions—the 36th and 45th — who know the gallant record of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, composed mostly of local Japanese Americans, and with which the 36th Division fought in Italy," Conger said.

(The 442nd Regiment is now incorporated as part of the 36th Division in the fighting in France.)

The United Press correspondent added:

"Reaction was particularly vituperative against the Legion post's action among the 1st Battalion of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division — a battalion which just two months ago today

(Continued on page 2)

Sgt. Masaoka Wins Silver Star For Saving Lives of Comrades

Three Casualties Among Five Masaoka Brothers in Army

The latest honor to be received by the five fighting Masaoka brothers, formerly of Salt Lake City, is the Army's Silver Star, awarded for gallantry in action to Sgt. Akira (Ike) Masaoka, now convalescing from serious combat injuries at Gardiner General Hospital in Chicago.

Four of the brothers, Cpl. Mike, Pvt. Ben, Pfc. Tad, and Pfc. Henry, volunteered in February, 1943, for the Japanese American Combat Team.

Today Cpl. Mike Masaoka is the only one on active duty overseas. Sgt. Akira and Pfc. Tad Masaoka were both wounded in action in Italy in July, 1944. Pfc. Tad returned to action with the unit in France but was returned to a base hospital for further treatment of the wounds suffered in Italy.

Pvt. Ben Masaoka, who volunteered from the Topaz center, was reported missing in action on Oct. 30 on the day the Japanese American unit rescued the "lost battalion" of the 141st Regiment. Members of the Masaoka family have received no further word regarding him.

Pfc. Henry Masaoka was sent to an Oregon camp for training and volunteered and completed his training in the paratroops.

The five soldiers, all of whom went to school in Salt Lake City, are the sons of Mrs. Haruye Masaoka who is now residing at 1739 N. Wells St. in Chicago.

The Army citation for Sgt. Akira Masaoka notes that he saved the lives of four Fifth Army comrades on the Italian battlefront at the risk of his own. He crawled 40 yards across a battlefield swept by intense enemy fire to aid four seriously wounded men, members of a mortar squad which had suffered a direct hit. He brought them back to safety.

SALT LAKE NISEI WINS BRONZE STAR FOR ITALY ACTION

Pfc. Tadao Sako, brother of Mrs. Hisako S. Ikezoe of 144 W. First South St., Salt Lake City, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valorous conduct in combat in Italy near Suvereto, according to a news report this week.

It was reported that in the Japanese American Combat Team's first engagement against the Germans many men were injured. Pfc. Sako crawled over exposed ground in full view of the enemy to go to the aid of a wounded soldier.

As First Sgt. Jack K. Wakamatsu, formerly of Los Angeles, put it:

"Right under a German 88mm. gun to rescue a buddy. Not every man would do that."

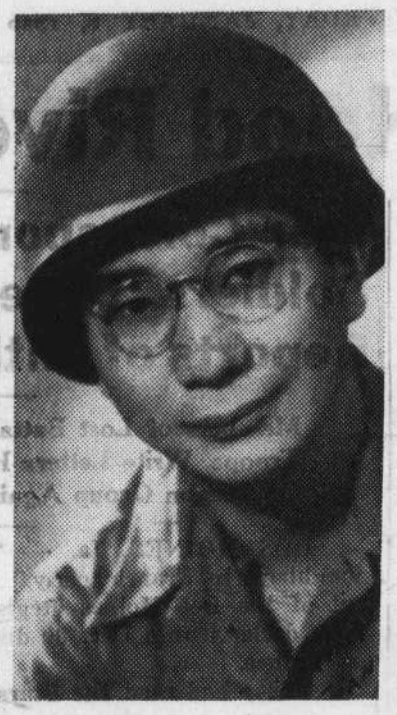
Pfc. Sako, who was formerly employed at a smelter hospital near Magna, Utah, is now on duty at an Army installation at Ogden, Utah.

California League Of Women Voters Urges Fair Play

SAN FRANCISCO — Impartial treatment of Japanese Americans who return to the West Coast is urged by the California League of Women Voters, the Chronicle reported on Jan. 3.

At a recent meeting of the executive board of the league this action was taken on a recommendation made by Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, chairman of the committee on minorities.

OVERSEAS



CPL. MIKE MASAOKA, national executive secretary of the JACL on leave, was the first mainland Nisei to volunteer for the Japanese American Combat Team. He saw action with the 442nd in the Italian campaign, and is now with the Nisei unit somewhere on the Seventh Army front. The above photo, latest to be received from Cpl. Masaoka, was taken in France.

Parlier Escheat Case Continued By County Court

Violation of State Anti-Alien Land Law Alleged in Suit

FRESNO, Calif. — Superior Judge Arthur E. Sheppard last week continued indefinitely the hearing of a petition for State seizure of 80 acres of orchard and vineyard land near Parlier from Tamigoro Chiamori and his two sons, Akira and Yasushi Chiamori, and a daughter-in-law, Tokoko Chiamori.

The suit is being pressed by Deputy District Attorney Harold V. Thompson of Fresno county who has charged that the land is being held in contravention to the California anti-alien law.

Thompson said the farm is valued at $50,000. He said the continuance was granted by stipulation with the case to be called for trial by either party on 30 days notice. He explained that the continuance was necessary in view of the absence of the respondents.

A demurrer has been filed by Iener W. Nielsen, counsel for the Chiamori family, in which he asserts the petition does not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action and that it is barred by the statute of limitations.

Nisei Graduated From Medical OCS

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — Second Lieutenant Paul Oyamada, son of Mrs. Masami Oyamada of 24-23-B, Ht. Mountain, graduated from the Officers Candidate School, medical administrative corps, at Carylyle Barracks, P., on Dec. 20, the Sentinel reported recently.

Nisei Gls Best Patients, Declares U. S. Army Nurse

NINETY-FIFTH EVACUATION HOSPITAL, ALSACE— Lieut. Lillian Smith, pretty, petite nurse from Brooklyn, Ia., told Gordon Gammack, war correspondent of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, that the wounded American soldier was the most courageous of all and "perhaps the best patients of all are the Japanese Americans."

"A bunch of us girls were discussing it the other night," the Army nurse said. "We've had German, British, French patients but Americans are the real soldiers. They stand terrible pain and don't complain. We have to move them around a lot with broken bones, but they don't cry out.

"The German wounded do, though. They moan and groan over every little thing."

"Maybe it shouldn't go in the paper," the front-line nurse continued, "but perhaps the best patients of all are the Japanese American soldiers who fought shoulder to shoulder with Iowa's 34th Division and other American units since the start of the Italian campaign.

"They are so grateful for everything you do for them. They always say please and thank you and they are so good about helping each other. All the girls talk about it. Why, a while back, one of them had a broken arm in a cast, yet he helped another wash his teeth."

War Department Announces Names of 16 Wounded Nisei

WASHINGTON—The War Department this week identified 16 soldiers of Japanese ancestry who have been wounded in action in the European area, presumably on the Western Front.

(Many of the names of mainland wounded has been published in the Pacific Citizen on the basis of information received from relocation centers and from next of kin.)

The War Department announced the following were wounded in action:

ALABAMA

FUJIWARA, Pfc. Yoshio — Pfc. Roy Fujiwara, brother, Fort McClellan.

ARIZONA

FUJITA, Staff Sgt. Hiroshi—Mrs. Kazue Fujita, mother, WRA center, Poston.

FURUYA, Pvt. George—Mrs. Iwa Furuya, mother, Poston.

COLORADO

NAKAGAWA, Pfc. Winston I.—Mrs. Shizue K. Nakagawa, WRA center, Amache.

IDAHO

FUSHIMI, Pfc. Herbert H.—Mrs. Yukiko T. Fushimi, mother, WRA center, Hunt.

MICHIGAN

NAITO, Cpl. Eden A.—Mrs. Lois A. Takagaki, sister, 4606 Moran St., Detroit.

MONTANA

HASHISAKI, Pfc. Hideo—Mrs. Motomi Hashisaki, mother, Joliet.

WYOMING

NAKAGIRI, Pfc. Masaichi W.—Mrs. Sonoye Nakagiri, wife, 1615½ Pioneer Ave., Cheyenne.

NAKATSUKA, Sgt. Keiji—Jim A. Nakatsuka, father, WRA center, Heart Mountain.

TERRITORY OF HAWAII

HONGO, Pfc. Manabu—Torakiyo Hongo, father, 204 Kilohana St., Hilo, Hawaii.

HONMA, Pfc. Lizo—Minoru Honma, brother, 1710 Fort St., Honolulu.

KANESHIRO, Pfc. Seichi—B. Kaneshiro, father, 45 Mamo St., Hilo.

MURAKAMI, Tech. 5th Gr. Ricardo T.—Mrs. Tashu Murakami, mother, 1016-A Gulick Ave., Honolulu.

NAKASU, Pfc. Shigemi—Frank M. Nakasu, brother, 1418-F Elm St., Honolulu.

NOMURA, Pfc. Frank M.—Ernest S. Nomura, father, 2124 Booth Rd., Honolulu.

NISHIDA, 2nd Lieut. Yoshiharu — Kyugo Nishida, father, 2371 Booth Rd., Honolulu.

Sacramento Nisei Knocked Out Nazi Machine-Gun Nests in Italy

Pfc. Miyaoka Given Silver Star for Gallantry in Italy

SACRAMENTO — Pfc. George S. Miyaoka of Sacramento, a rifleman with the Japanese American Combat Team, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, according to a report from Seventh Army headquarters in France.

The report said that a German machine gun nest was holding up the advance of Miyaoka's company and he volunteered to knock it out.

The citation added:

"Pfc. Miyaoka was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on July 18 near Colle Salvetti, Italy. When L Company was halted by two machine guns less than 100 yards away, Pfc. Miyaoka volunteered to go forward and destroy the machine gun position.

"Under steady machine gun fire, a machine pistol and supporting sniper fire he crawled within 20 yards of his target. He demoralized the enemy by throwing a fragmentation grenade into the nest and shot and killed three of the enemy, wounded one and captured one. After sending the prisoner to the rear he personally bandaged the wounded enemy. Pfc. Miyaoka's action cleared the way for the advance of the company. His determination and conspicious bravery in the face of imminent danger reflect credit on the armed forces of the United States."

Pfc. Miyaoka is the son of Mrs. Tsuru Miyaoka of Honolulu. He was also awarded a Bronze Star for being a member of the first Allied patrol to penetrate the inner defenses of Pisa, Italy, and also holds the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Two Nisei Soldiers Participate in Radio Program in Seattle

SEATTLE—A discussion of the State of Washington's Japanese Americans was presented over station KEVR, Seattle, on New Year's Eve under the sponsorship of the International Students' House at the University of Washington under the direction of Jay Wright.

Joining Mr. Wright around the radio round-table were Sgt. George Masuda, Sacramento, and Cpl. Tadao Kanemoto, Santa Barbara, both of whom are at present assigned to Fort Lewis; Robert W. O'Brien of the University of Washington, former national director of the Student Relocation Council; and Floyd Schmoe of the American Friends Service Committee.

Nisei Problem Part of Whole Race Question, Says Official

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American "problem" cannot be separated from the whole racial question, Supervisor John Anson Ford told the weekly meeting of the Lawyers Club last Tuesday.

Ford discussed race relations problems in Los Angeles, stressing that discrimination against Negro, Mexican and other minorities is hurting the pocketbooks of Los Angeles merchants by cutting off potential customers.

"In practical operation the Japanese American question may not be as serious as some think," he said. He felt that the returning Nisei would "approach the situation with caution."

"If race antipathy is the real reason for agitation against Japanese Americans, it should not be camouflaged under the guise of national security or a possible menace," Ford said.

Pittsburgh Area Leaders Back Nisei Relocation

Labor, Industry, Civic Groups Represented On Citizens Committee

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Wholeheartedly endorsing the program to assist evacuees in getting established in Pittsburgh, a group of forty leading residents met recently and formed the Pittsburgh Citizens Committee on Resettlement.

Among the Committee members were representatives of labor, industry, social and welfare agencies, governmental bureaus and churches of several denominations. Also a member is the wife of the mayor of the city.

Speakers at the meeting which was attended by reporters from each of the city's three newspapers, included Dr. A. B. Kinsolving, chairman of the Committee and leading Episcopal clergyman; Rev. Shunji F. Nishi, also an Episcopal clergyman, who works with the Cleveland Federation of Churches on relocation problems; and Robert M. Cullum, Great Lakes Area Supervisor of the WRA. Mr. Cullum discussed the Government's program; Rev. Nishi, the evacuees' viewpoint; and Dr. Kinsolving, the attitude of the residents of Pittsburgh.

Outcome of the meeting was the appointment of a nominating committee which was empowered to formulate sub-committees on housing, public information, community participation and employment.

The papers reported the proceedings very favorably and one prominent person in attendance commented that he had rarely seen so representative and influential a group take so determined a stand on a program as had been taken at this meeting.

The only other person of Japanese extraction present besides Rev. Nishi was Miss Minna Iwamoto, formerly of Tule Lake and Sacramento, temporarily loaned to the Pittsburgh office from Cincinnati where she is employed as a WRA secretary.

Carey McWilliams To Discuss Return Of Nisei at Forum

LOS ANGELES — Carey McWilliams, authority on racial minorities and author of "Prejudice," the story of Japanese Africans, will speak on the return of Nisei evacuees at the Wilshire Ebell theatre on Jan. 8 under the auspices of the Modern Forum.

U. S. Troops Indignant Over Anti-Nisei Action

(Continued from page 1)

was rescued from a German trap near Bruyeres by Japanese troops who slashed through German lines to the isolated battalion at great cost to themselves.

"There were 81 men on that encircled hilltop when they were resuced and 23 of those men still are with the company, including Lieut. Joseph Kimble of Scranton, Pa., and Sgt. Hiller Hull of San Antonio, Tex.

"Another said his father belonged to the American Legion but he 'won't when he gets the letter I'm writing.'

"Hull already has started writing a letter. Kimble said he also would write one, but was undecided whether to address it to President Roosevelt, some congressman or the Legion post in Hood River.

"Kimble called in four other veterans who were rescued on the hill, Sgt. Enrique Garcia, Brownsville, Tex.; Tech. Sgt. Clyde E. Armstrong, Farmers, Ky.; Pfc. Virgil Lindell, Billings, Mont.; and Pvt. Edwin J. Kuruowski, Chicago.

"'Those boys deserve a hell of a lot more than the men sitting back in the Oregon town who don't want them around,' one of them observed, 'and we feel pretty lousy having to fight for the rights and liberties of people who do something like that to these Japanese Americans fighting over here.'

"One of them said he was of German descent, but that didn't make him an unwanted enemy and that the same should apply to a person of Japanese ancestry."

Gen. Devers Honors Twenty Nisei Heroes

Hood River Soldier Among Those Awarded Bronze Star Medals

WITH THE SIXTH ARMY GROUP IN FRANCE — Bronze stars were awarded on Jan. 2 by Lieut. Gen. Jacob L. Devers to 20 Japanese American soldiers, including one from Hood River, Ore., where the names of Nisei servicemen recently were removed from a war honor roll by the American Legion.

The men who received the awards, three of whom are missing in action from a battle near Biifontaine, France, Oct. 22, are members of the 100th Battalion, Japanese American Combat Team, which has been described as "one of the most decorated units of its size in American military history."

Pfc. George Akiyama is the Nisei from Hood River.

The citation for Pfc. Akiyama declared:

"By his heroic disregard for personal safety Pfc. Akiyama contributed immeasurably to the subsequent attainment of the objective and reflects honor upon the U. S. Army."

Those missing in action were reported as Sgt. George Suyama, 1928 Cedar St., Helena, Mont.; Pvt. William Yamaka, Freeport, Ill.; and Sgt. Harry Kamakawa, Olaa, Hawaii.

Others receiving Bronze Stars were Sgt. Tokio Miyahara, Sacramento, Calif.; Cpl. Shiro Yamaguchi, Seattle; Cpl. Shuji Akiyama, Honolulu; Pfc. Henry Nakasone, Honolulu; Pfc. Terry Iohaya, Sacramento; Pfc. Mitsuo Furumoto, Lihue, Kauai; Kiyoshi Kami, Honolulu; Pfc. Takashi Kusunoki, Waipahu, Oahu; Pfc. Masato Mutaka, Waimea, Kauai; Pfc. Matsumi Masaki, Hilo; Pfc. Masaru Abe, Exeter, Calif.; Pfc. Walter Matsumoto, Honolulu; Pvt. Tadashi Hiyoto, Hilo; Pvt. Edward Nakashima, Paia, Maui; and, Pvt. U. L. Yokoi, Oildale, Calif.

UC STUDENT BODY GROUP WELCOMES NISEI EVACUEES

BERKELEY, Calif.—The Executive Committee of the University of California student body has adopted a resolution extending a welcome to returning students of Japanese ancestry.

The resolution reaffirmed the belief that "individuals should be judged by personal merits" and expressed opposition to "the doctrine of racism." The resolution lacked but one vote of being passed unanimously, according to Richard Bond, student body president.

Anti-Evacuee Group Formed in Vavaville

VACAVILLE, Calif.—Organization of the Anti-Japanese Association of Vacaville was completed at a meeting held at Vacaville grammar school with the election of George Kirbyson as president.

The organization will fight the return of Japanese Americans to Solano county.

Approximately 200 persons were reported to have attended the meeting, but this included representatives of similar groups in Winters, Fairfield and Suisun.

Jan Le Bleue of Woodland, one of the principal speakers, told of Japanese brutality in the Philippines where he was interned.

Assemblyman Lloyd Lowery of Yolo county was another speaker.

Legion Gifts for Wounded Nisei



When members of a New York American Legion post heard that the Hood River, Ore., post had erased the names of 16 Japanese American soldiers from an honor roll, the Manhattan Legionnaires passed a resolution condemning the action. Later members of the Legion post visited Halloran General hospital and passed out Christmas gifts to wounded war veterans, including several Japanese Americans, one of whom is pictured above receiving pipe tobacco and cigars.—Photo by PM.

World War II Post of Legion In Hollywood Asks Fair Play For Japanese American Group

Legion Post 591's Bulletin Points Out Constitutional Questions Involved in Return of Citizens of Japanese Ancestry; No State Can Deny Equal Protection of Laws

LOS ANGELES — Declaring "we don't care whether an American citizen is black, yellow or white, and we don't care where he or his parents came from," the Hollywood World War II Post No. 591 of the American Legion called for fair thinking on the subject of returning Japanese American evacuees in its Dec. 1944, information bulletin.

The World War II post's bulletin reprinted a clipping from the Los Angeles Times of Nov. 12 headlined "Wounded Nisei Reported Shoved Out of Shop," and added the comment:

"Somehow we felt a bit sick in the somach when we read this dispatch from the Associated Press. We think it is our duty to bring this matter to the attention of our comrades because it has a direct bearing on the whole American-Japanese question.

"Let's give this thing a few seconds of sober consideration. We don't want to get too emotional about the incident which at best involves a backwoods barber who doesn't know any better. But we as Legionnaires and Americans do, and that's what we are driving at.

"This is the way we feel about the whole question:

"We know that America has become a great country by living up to a philosophy of 'Fair Play.' We don't care whether an American citizen is black, yellow or white, and we don't care where he or his parents came from. All we know is that he is entitled to equal justice. An American can be punished for a crime or misconduct but never for race or ancestry.

"Now then, we on the Pacific Coast are faced with a practical application of this belief! American citizens of Japanese extraction are being permitted by the U. S. Army to return to California. We also know that their return is resented by some Americans in this State but it remains to be seen whether the hatred of these Americans is stronger than their love for the Constitution of the USA which after all embraces our American way of life.

"The Constitution declares very clearly that no State can 'deny—the equal protection of the laws' nor can it 'abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens.'

"And we Legionnaires upon opening our meeting declare that 'for God and Country we associate ourselves together—to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.' Let's be honest and realize that if we mean what we proclaim so enthusiastically we must protect the rights of ALL citizens, regardless of their national extraction or race, and that includes American citizens of Japanese extraction."

The Legion post's bulletin, edited by William E. Kent, 1206 North Flores Street, Hollywood 46, also quoted from a news item in the Pacific Citizen of Nov. 25, reporting 22 Japanese American soldiers from the western United States, the majority from California, killed in action in France.

Sono Osato Has Lead in Broadway Musical Hit

NEW YORK — Sono Osato, acclaimed for her dancing in "One Touch of Venus" last year, opened last week in a new musical, "On the Town," which Broadway critics hailed as the hit musical revue of the year.

"On the Town," directed by George Abbott with music by Leonard Bernstein, is adapted from Jerome Robbins' ballet, "Fancy Free."

Miss Osato's performance in the new show, in which she plays the romantic lead, was acclaimed by the critics.

Nisei Officer Cited for Action Against Nazis

Lieut. Okusako Led Eight Soldiers in Saving Command Posts

CHICAGO — A Chicagoan of Japanese ancestry was credited on Dec. 30, in a story released by the Seventh Army, with leading eight other members of a Japanese American combat team in a maneuver which prevented a group of 45 Germans from attacking their battalion and company command posts in France.

Second Lieut. Frank S. Okusako, whose sister, Mrs. Mary Yamashira resides at 6020 Harper Ave., and his men were ordered to encircle an enemy strongpoint and prevent the Germans from attacking.

The men surrounded the enemy and began to shoot, changing positions with every few shots. Throughout the maneuver they yelled like demons, giving the enemy force the impression that a much larger group of Americans were opposing them in that area.

After six hours the nine soldiers received reinforcements and were praised for saving the command posts from possible capture.

Lieut. Okusako won his commission in Italy during the Allied push from Rome to the Arno River. In addition to the Combat Infantryman's Badge, he wears the Purple Heart for wounds received in the drive on Leghorn.

On Dec. 29 the War Department announced that Lieut. Okusako had been wounded in France.

GENERAL PRATT ASSUMES WEST AREA COMMAND

SAN FRANCISCO—Permanent assgnment of Maj. Gen. Henry Conger Pratt, who announced the Army's revocation of the West Coast exclusion of Japanese Americans on Dec. 17, as commanding general of the Western Defense Command was announced on December 31.

Gen. Pratt succeeds Maj. Gen. Charles N. Bonesteel whose post he has been filling on an acting basis. Gen. Bonesteel has been given an important but undisclosed command, the Army indicated.

Gen. Patch Praises Combat Record of Famed 36th Division

Japanese Americans Now Fighting as Part Of "Texas" Division

WITH THE SIXTH ARMY GROUP ON THE WESTERN FRONT—Veterans of the hard-hitting 36th (Texas) Infantry Division have added another page to the long and brilliant history of their unit, Lieut. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, commander of the U. S. Seventh Army, declared in an official commendation last week.

(The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry, is fighting in France as a part of the 36th Division. The 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Combat Team, into which the 100th was incorporated, fought through the Italian campaign as a part of another famous U. S. Division, the 34th.)

For their "outstanding achievement," Gen. Patch sent the special commendations to his most travelled divisions—the 36th and 45th—and to all other 6th Corps troops.

(The Sixth Army Group under Lieut. Gen. Jacob Devers is composed of the U. S. Seventh Army and the French First Army.)

Each of the four commendations summarized accomplishments of the U. S. blitz up the Rhone valley, but concentrated particularly on the brilliant November and December successes in smashing the Vosges Mountain line, crossing into Germany and attacking the Siegfried Line.

Patch devoted special words of praise to the record of the veteran 36th Division which battled through 133 days of unbroken contact with the Germans and finally crushed a Nazi counter-offensive in the Colmar sector.

"Soldiers of the 36th Infantry Division," the commendation began, "You have pursued the enemy from the beachhead in Southern France to the Alsace Plain.

"You have received no rest and you have allowed the Germans none. In the foothills of the Vosges Mountains you dislodged a desperate and skillful foe from positions which gave him every natural advantage.

"You fought for weeks amid thick forests, rain and mud to pave the way for your breakthrough. Despite unfavorable weather, terrain and savage resistance, you pushed on with tenacious courage.

"You resumed your offensive from the high group south of St. Die. (It was in the St. Die area in which the Japanese American Combat Team rescued the "lost battalion" of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division.) Within a week you had outflanked a vital German position. You crossed the Meurthe River, surmounted the Vosges and captured Bonhomme Pass—thus speeding the fall of the German armed forces.

"Your task has been bloody, tedious and difficult. In its accomplishment you have added another page—a page of which you can be justly proud—to the long and brilliant history of your division."

UC's Stiles Hall Will Send Books to Nisei Combat Team

BERKELEY, Calif.—One thousand books for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team is the goal of residents at Stiles Hall, YMCA, Berkeley, who recently began a book collecting drive under Warren Nielsen, vice president of the university YMCA.

The drive was suggested by Larry Collins, Red Cross field director in France and former Stiles Hall staff member, who has been attached to the 442nd.

In suggesting the drive, Collins wrote:

"I am again with an outfit. This time with 'THE' outfit. It is the American-Japanese combat team. It is a fine organization and as far as war record goes, I don't have to say anything. It certainly has an enviable record among other combat soldiers — there are more awards in this organization than any other of like size in the Army. This unit also has the highest I. Q. of any in the army and it also has the most university graduates.

"Enough of that—the real reason for this page is to suggest a project for the boys at the Y if they wish to undertake it. Our organization, being a very literary gang—has a great appetite for books and in spite of all the chowder to the effect that 'our boys over there' are getting all that there kind of stuff, they do not get enough reading material. If someone wishes to send us books—please have them send ANY AND ALL KINDS IN GREAT QUANTITIES."

Lieut. Kimura of San Jose Wins Front-Line Commission in Italy

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — Staff Sergeant Arata Kimura, son of Mrs. Tsuji Kimura of 15-24-A, has been given a field commission of second lieutenant, the Heart Mountain Sentinel reported on Dec. 30.

A member of the 442nd Japanese American combat team, Lieutenant Kimura won his appointment while serving as an observer of the air liason section, flying 61 missions during the Allied drive from Rome to the Arno river in Italy.

During 83 hours and 10 minutes in the air, he made general observations of the progress of the attack and of enemy positions and concentrations, conducted base-point and check-point registrations of fire, directed counter-battery fire and shelling of opportunity targets and recorded the effect of prearranged firing.

During one action in support of the 442nd while it was crossing the Arno river, Lieut. Kimura took over for an officer observer who was evacuated to a hospital. He flew 13 sorties in five days, not only conducting fire of his artillery but also of several other field artillery battalions in the vicinity which were working in close coordination with the Japanese American infantrymen.

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in mechanical engineering, Lieut. Kimura holds a private pilot's license and has had some experience in commercial aviation.

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LARRY TAJIRI ..... EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Soldiers Speak Out

The men who are doing the fighting and the dying in this war have given their answer to the dollar patriots of the Pacific Coast who have sought to utilize war-bred hatreds as business assets. In Pacific jungles and on the bitter ground of the Western Front the young men of America have paused in their fighting long enough to warn the people at home that they are aware of the issues of the war and that they will not permit the freedom for which they fight to be negated in the comfortable valleys of home.

The vigorous reactions of the combat servicemen in Europe and in the Pacific to news of race prejudice at home should give pause to those who have libeled these men in uniform by performing acts of discrimination, as the Remember Pearl Harbor Leagues have done, in the name of men overseas.

Nisei and the Press

In these pages, week in and week out, there have been notations on the newspapers of William Randolph Hearst and on their disruptive work on the domestic front, with particular reference to the anti-Orientalism of the Hearst papers which has been reflected since Pearl Harbor in their attitude toward Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Last week, however, the Lord of San Simeon must have been a trifle confused. While his California papers were predicting havoc and generally dire results when the evacuees returned en masse to the State, his New York morning paper, the Daily Mirror, was running a headline, in bold type as usual, that 60,000 evacuees were descending like veritable locusts on the five boroughs of New York. Both the California and New York ends of the Hearst chain were wrong, of course, but the scare stories seem to us to be a serviceable illustration of the Hearst tactics of disruption for disruption's sake.

All this emphasis on the Hearst papers, however, should not obscure the fact that a great majority of the newspapers in America have been forthright in their denunciation of just the sort of racism which the Hearst press advocates. The American press as a whole can be proud of its handling of the subject of Japanese American evacuees. The Army's announcement of its revocation order and the Supreme Court's decision in the Endo case were victories for many of the leading newspapers in the country which had advocated just such a policy regarding Japanese Americans ever since the evacuation. Some of these newspapers are: Des Moines Register and Tribune, Milwaukee Journal, Washington Post, New York Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, New York PM, Detroit Free Press, Rocky Mountain News, Christian Science Monitor, Kansas City Star, Chicago Sun, Salt Lake Tribune and Telegram and the Deseret News, to name only a few (to name them all would mean running through most of N. W. Ayer's Newspaper Guide.)

It has been said that character of an individual or of a group can be judged by the nature of his or their enemies, and so the enmity of the Hearst press may have had its positive points. It would be far better, however, to judge a group like the Japanese Americans against the background of those who have maintained their faith in the loyalty of the Nisei and in the ultimate justice of democracy itself. The names of the journalistic supporters of Nisei rights present a roll-call of the distinguished newspapers of American journalism.

Hood River Legion

The embarrassing silence of the national executive committee of the American Legion on the action of its Hood River, Ore., post in erasing the names of 16 Japanese American soldiers, in failing to list the names of some 50 more Nisei from the county, and in taking newspaper ads to advise citizens of Japanese parentage to sell their property and not return to the orchard lands of the Oregon country, has not deterred individual posts of the Legion in many parts of the country from expressing their disgust regarding the action of their Hood River comrades.

In the face of overwhelming denunciation by press, public and servicemen and veterans' organizations alike of their attitude, the Hood River Legion post has countered with the reckless charge that Japanese Americans in the uniform of the United States continue to be servants of the Emperor of Japan. This is a grievious accusation, and one which casts further discredit upon the integrity and motives of the Hood River Legionnaires. The Hood River group has charged that Japanese Americans from that county hold dual citizenship, but it should not be necessary to remind these gentlemen that there are no dual citizens in the Army of the United States. As the United States district attorney at Portland reminds, the wearing of the uniform of the United States is prima facie evidence of loyalty, and Japanese Americans from Hood River wear the Army's uniform with honor and with distinction.

Teamsters' Union

In the years since the First World War organized labor groups on the Pacific Coast have gradually jettisoned the anti-Orientalism which characterized the early stirrings of trade union organization. The acceptance of Oriental Americans into the ranks of organized labor has been accelerated in the past eight years through the vigorous leadership of the CIO, but as far back as 1919 individual labor organizations in California were breaking away from the tradition of anti-Oriental policies and were advocating the inclusion of the Oriental worker into their ranks.

The abandonment of anti-Oriental prejudice as an instrument of union policy is not wholly complete as yet within the AFL on the West Coast, since the AFL remains one of the four organizations which constitute the Joint Immigration Committee and C. J. Haggerty, the AFL's California president, is an officer of John R. Lechner's race-baiting Americanism Educational League. But AFL unions, like those of the CIO, have indicated their support of the Army's recent proclamation revoking the West Coast exclusion order. The AFL Fisherman's union at Monterey, for example, recently declared that its Japanese American members were still in good standing in the organization.

The exception to the rule is the AFL's Teamsters' Union, whose Pacific Coast operations are headed by an old-line labor boss, Dave Beck of Seattle. Mr. Beck and his hirelings have waged an incessant campaign to prevent the return of Japanese Americans to the Pacific Coast and have collaborated with such advocates of racist action as the Remember Pearl Harbor League. The International Teamster, national publication of the union, has taken the cue from Mr. Beck and has conducted a vicious campaign of lies and slander against the integrity of the Japanese American population.

It is not surprising, therefore, to learn of the "pending deal" between the Teamsters Council in Los Angeles and wholesale produce dealers by which the union will get a closed-shop clause in exchange for an agreement to exclude Americans of Japanese ancestry from its ranks. Whether such an obviously discriminatory deal can be consummated is another question, however.

In a ruling on Jan. 2 the Supreme Court of the State of California acting on a case of Jim Crow practices by the AFL Boilermaker's Union, declared that "the union may not maintain both a closed shop and an arbitrarily closed or partially closed union," and ordered the union to admit Negroes to full membership or give up its closed-shop agreement. This decision appears to have considerable significance should the Teamsters Union decide to collaborate with produce dealers to freeze Japanese Americans out of the produce industry.

Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

Blueprint for Race Riot

There is an attempt under way to provoke racial outbreaks among Los Angeles' war-increased Negro population against returning evacuees of Japanese ancestry. The groundwork of suspicion and hate is being laid by race-baiters and the racist newspapers, the front-line forces for those selfish economic interests which fear and fight the return of the Japanese Americans. These forces, the architects of a proposed New Disorder, see in the fomenting of violence an argument with which to convince the Army and the administration of the inadvisability of the return of the evacuees during wartime.

The pattern of the so-called "zoot-suit" riots of 1943, which were in reality race riots pitting whites against Negro and Mexican Americans, is being repeated. Whether by design or by coincidence, the attempt is well-coordinated. Mayor Bowron, Chief of Police Horrall and District Attorney Howser already have proclaimed their incompetance in dealing with any racial outbreaks. Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times and two Hearst dailies, the Examiner and the Herald-Express, are slanting headlines and stories in a manner designed to stir the Negro population to overt action against the homecoming evacuees on the supposition that returning Japanese Americans will evict Negro citizens from their homes and businesses. Meanwhile, there are similar campaigns to pit Filipino, Chinese and Korean groups against the evacuees.

But the race-baiters will lose. There will be no race riot.

Negro Americans in Los Angeles have not been fooled by what Daniel G. Marshall, chairman of the Catholic Interracial Council, has termed "the crocodile tears" of the anti-Nisei interests.

Men of goodwill in Los Angeles are far better organized than they were in 1943 to neutralize the racist dynamite which has been planted by the provocateurs.

Negro newspapers in Los Angeles are doing magnificent work in dissipating fear propaganda, just as the Los Angeles Daily News, the Hollywood Citizen-News, the progressive labor daily, the People's World, the Catholic Tidings, the Pasadena Star-News and the Post, and other independent newspapers in the Los Angeles area are doing to counteract the hate mongers.

The race-baiters will not win because majority opinion in Southern California does not oppose the return of the evacuees, because organizations like the American Legion, which was in the forefront of the campaign to prevent the return of the evacuees, have announced that they will support the Army's decision rescinding the evacuee exclusion orders.

It is ironic, as Ted Le Berthon pointed out in his illuminating and challenging report in the Pittsburgh Courier, an outstanding national Negro newspaper, on Dec. 30 that the one West Coast racial group which more than any other has been sympathetic to the fight of the Japanese Americans for the restoration of Nisei rights should be the one to fear the returning evacuees. At the war's outset production demands brought thousands of Negro war workers to West Coast industrial centers. Many of these workers found that the only urban areas in which they were permitted to live were in the ghost towns left behind by the evacuated Japanese Americans. Housing is difficult to find on the West Coast, but doubly so for members on non-Caucasian groups who must cope with housing restrictions, restrictive covenants and the like. So there is reason for Negro workers to fear wholesale evictions and dispossessions. But much of that fear has been artificially introduced by the shrill warnings of Mayor Bowron and by the headline campaign of Hearst press and the Times, because most of the dwellings and buildings in the so-called Little Tokyos are not owned by persons of Japanese ancestry.

Japanese Americans have made their farewells to the segregated life of the Little Tokyos. It would be folly to attempt to reestablish such mono-racial communities. It would be a disservice to the war effort to suggest the wholesale eviction of war workers from their homes. The Little Tokyos will be reborn only if the dominant white community refuses to accept the Japanese Americans, as it has refused to accept certain other racial and ancestral groups. And there are Chinatowns, Harlems, Little Mexicos and even Little Italys in West Coast cities.

In his Courier article Ted Le Berthon, an outstanding figure in interracial journalism and formerly a columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News, reported a speech by Daniel Marshall of the Catholic Interracial Council which summed up the activities of West Coast groups which are seeking to provoke racial disturbances. Speaking before members of the Urban League, a leading Negro organization, Mr. Marshall warned that white predatory interests "which have no love for Negroes" are trying to set one non-Caucasian group against another.

"The same interests which favor the perpetuation of race restriction covenants against Negroes are now shedding crocodile tears over the prospect of Negroes losing their homes to Japanese American citizens," he declared.

Mr. Marshall pointed out to the Negro audience that one of the most shameless groups long opposing the return of the Japanese Americans, "born here just as whites and Negroes were," was a group of white produce dealers hiding behind the "patriotic" designation of "The Americans League of California."

"If Negroes help them dispose of Japanese competition," Mr. Marshall, a white attorney and a leading Catholic layman, said, "such groups will show their gratitude by getting someone else to disose of Negroes. That's their mentality."

The logic of Mr. Marshall's view, according to Ted Le Berthon, seemed borne out by the fact that the groups and individuals traditionally friendly to Negroes' rights have demanded fair play for Japanese Americans. These include the CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union, Carey McWilliams and Dr. E. C. Farnham, a Protestant clergyman who has been forging to the front as a forceful champion of Negro rights, Mr. Le Berthon reported.

Mr. Le Berthon who, it may be noted, is also a member of the Caucasian race, concludes:

"The sad uncertainty of future shelter on the part of Negroes (in Los Angeles) is merely highlighted by the imminent return of the Japanese Americans who have at last been given their Constitutional rights . . . bogus patriots and tricky politicians undoubtedly will do everything possible to set Negroes against the Japanese, because the latter may yet retain title or hold leases to some truck garden farms, produce markets and other properties which such white rascals would like to appropriate through intimidation."

Mr. Le Berthon's conclusions received partial collaboration within the same week in the report from a Southern California counay that a group of ranchers had succeeded in intimidating a Japanese American into the sale of his 50-acre farm and into leaving the state of California, to which the evacuee had returned only a few days before from a war relocation center.

It becomes increasingly apparent that the stakes in this hate campaign against Japanese Americans are economic ones and that the war situation has only provided a "patriotic" background for a wholesale land and business grab by greedy private interests.

But it should be stressed again that the racists and the land-grabbers will not win. California's minority groups are, on the whole, cognizant of the fact that the situation faced by the Japanese Americans is a part of the whole racial problem and they will not be provoked into overt acts of violence against the returning evacuees.

Vagaries

Silver Star . . .

Pfc. Bunjiro Ochitani of the 442nd infantry was recently awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action. He has a sister, Mrs. Bob Yamamoto, who is a resident of TOD Park, the Federal housing project for workers at the Tooele Ordnance Depot. Pfc. Ochitani's citation declared that together with two comrades he voluntarily advanced through German artillery, mortar and sniper fire to knock out an enemy machine gun which had been holding up the advance of his company. After knocking out the first gun, the same three men attacked another German machine gun and killed the two Germans operating it, using hand grenades and rifles. "The courage and determination displayed by Ochitani," the citation stated, "were a key factor in the battalion's successful attack."

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Cigarettes . . .

The cigarette shortage has hit the relocation camps. Typical of canteen practices to meet the shortage is the method of the Gila River co-op which is limiting purchases to cigarettes by way of a coupon system . . . A number of Japanese American soldiers of the 171st Infantry Battalion, Sep., at Camp Shelby, Miss., were among the servicemen guests who saw Duke defeat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl at New Orleans on New Year's Day . . . Several relocated Nisei in Utah were greeted by their employers with wage raises following the Army's revocation of the coast exclusion order. The employers were afraid their Nisei workers would leave immediately for the West Coast.

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Berlin Sally . . .

A report from the Western Front says that Berlin Sally, a Nazi woman propagandist, has been referring to Japanese American troops with the U. S. Seventh Army as "America's secret weapon." . . . Behind Idaho's Rep. Henry Dworshak's blast against Interior Secretary Ickes and the WRA last week are the ghosts of the recent presidential election. During the election campaign Secretary Ickes spoke in Salt Lake City for Intermountain Democrats. Ickes spoke of the administration's record in developing Intermountain resources. Hardly had Ickes finished speaking before Dworshak was on his way down from Idaho to counter Ickes arguments before a Salt Lake audience. There's no love lost between the New Deal curmudgeon and the Idaho congressman, and Dworshak jumped on the WRA to take another shot at Ickes.

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Army Hour . . .

One of the features of the Army Hour's Christmas broadcast over the NBC network on Dec. 24 was the appearance of the all-Japanese American choir, composed of servicemen and WACs at Fort Snelling, Minn. The 100 voices of this Nisei choir were heard throughout the world via the Armed Forces radio network which also carried the program. . . . The first two Japan-born "Nisei" to enlist in the U. S. Army following the recent announcement opening military service to qualified aliens of Japanese ancestry were members of the United Auto Workers, CIO, in Cleveland. The volunteers are Henry Ebihara and Roy Shiba. . . . ACLU Director Roger Baldwin's article, "American Japanese in Wartime," which appeared in American Mercury recently, was dramatized in a recent "American Mercury on the Air" broadcast over WOL. . . .

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Anecdote . . .

The following is from Robert O'Brien's column in the San Francisco Chronicle of Dec. 22: "An American soldier wearing the Purple Heart, a Presidential Citation emblem and several campaign ribbons, stopped a civilian on Powell street and asked the way to Chinatown. The civilian gave directions, and added, "But you'd better not go down there; I can tell by your features that you are of Japanese descent." The soldier smiled and said, "That is right, and I can tell by your features you are of German descent. I know that because I just got back from killing Germans — on the Italian front!".

The Supreme Court Decisions:

U. S. High Court Vindicates Faith That Bill of Rights Is Dynamic Reality in Nation's Life

By A. L. WIRIN
(Special Counsel, National JACL)

Vindication of the faith that the Bill of Rights is a dynamic reality in American life, in war-time as in time of peace came on Dec. 18 in the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States holding unconstitutional the detention of an American citizen in a Relocation Center, solely becauce of ancestry.

In ordering the unconditional release of Mitsuye Endo from the Central Utah Relocation Center, located at Topaz, Utah, the Court struck a vigorous blow against discrimination because of race. This despite the companion decision of the Court upholding the military evacuation orders against persons of Japanese ancestry in the case of Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu. Only over the stout disssents of Justices Murphy, Jackson and Roberts, however, were the evacuation orders upheld. The historic Endo decision was written by Justice Douglas; he spoke for a unanimous court with Justice Murphy, this time concurring in his now familiar staunch support of the Bill of Rights. The court reminded the nation of both the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the United States Constitution which guarantees liberty against denial without due process of law, and provide for special safeguards in connection with criminal prosecutions and suggested:

"We must assume that the Chief Executive and members of Congress, as well as the courts, are sensitive to and respectful of the liberties of the citizen. In interpreting a wartime measure we must assume that their purpose was to allow for the greatest possible accomodation between those liberties and the exigencies of war."

The Court unequivocally rejected the claim of the United States Solicitor General, seeking to support the military and WRA detention orders that they were warranted because it was in the interest of the Japanese Americans themselves to be free from possible violence from anti racial groups.

Rejected too was the claim by the government that there was constitutional authority to detain Americans of Japanese descent pending an investigation into their loyalty. Said Justice Douglas for the Court:

"A citizen who is concededly loyal presents no problem of espionage or sabotage. Loyalty is a matter of the heart and mind not of race, creed, or color. He who is loyal is by definition not a spy or a saboteur."

And more importantly, the Court spoke out against discriminatory action against a people solely because of ancestry. Justice Douglas ruled that Congress and the President did not intend that this discriminatory action (detention in WRA centers) should be taken against these people (persons of Japanese descent) "wholly on account of their ancestry."

Then Justice Douglas quoted with approval the noteworthy words of President Roosevelt:

"Americans of Japanese ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority as of all other minorities."

Accordingly the unanimous Court ruled that Miss Endo was entitled to an unconditional release by the War Relocation Authority.

This historic decision, while unanimous, was not without significant additional concurring opinions by both the most liberal on the one hand, and the most conservative on the other, members of the court—by Justices Murphy and Roberts respectively. Justice Murphy expressed the view "that detention in Relocation Centers of persons of Japanese ancestry regardless of loyalty is not only unauthorized by Congress or the Executive but is another example of the unconstitutional resort to racism inherent in the entire evacuation program." He protested that the Court did not make it clear that Miss Endo had the right to return to Sacramento, and observed: "It would seem that the 'unconditional' release to be given Miss Endo necessarily implies 'the right to pass freely from state to state.'" He thus concluded:

"If, as I believe, the military orders excluding her from California were invalid at the time they were issued, they are increasingly objectionable at this date, when the threat of invasion of the Pacific Coast and the fears of sabotage and espionage have greatly diminished. Even to suggest under these circumstances that the presence of Japanese blood in a loyal American citizen might be enough to warrant her exclusion from a place where she would otherwise have a right to go is a position this Court should not sanction."

Justice Roberts in turn objected to what he deemed to be the failure of the Court to pass more fully upon the constitutional issues in the case. He thought that the illegal detention was not attributable merely to an inferior executive officer. To him the detention orders were expressly approved by the executive branch of the government, presumably referring to the President. Said Justice Roberts:

"It is to hide one's head in the sand to assert that the detention of relator resulted from an excess of authority by subordinate officials."

He thus concluded:

"I conclude, therefore, that the Court is squarely faced with a serious constitutional question,—whether the relator's detention violated the guarantees of the Bill of Rights of the federal Constitution and especially the guarantee of due process of law. There can be but one answer to that question. An admttedly loyal citizen has been deprived of her liberty for a period of years. Under the Constitution she should be free to come and go as she pleases. Instead, her liberty of motion and other innocent activities have been prohibited and conditioned. She should be discharged."

At the same time the Court, this time speaking through Justice Black, over the dissents of three of the Justices, Justices Murphy, Jackson and Douglas, upheld the constitutionality of the evacuation orders. This time, the majority of the Court, in welcome contrast with the decision upholding the curfew orders in Hirabayashi v. United States, went out of its way to recognize the dangers of discrimination because of race. As Justice Black put it:

"It should be noted, to begin with, that all legal restrictions which curtail the civil rights of a single racial group are immediately suspect."

Although he continued:

"That is not to say that all such restrictions are unconstitutional," he immediately explained:

"It is to say that courts must subject them to the most rigid scrutiny. Pressing public necessity many sometimes justify the existence of such restrictions; racial antagonism never can."

But the Court arrived at the view that there was a definite and close relationship between the evacuation and the prevention of espionage and sabotage. The Court gave the following reasoning:

"Like curfew, exclusion of those of Japanese origin was deemed necessary because of the presence of an unascertained number of disloyal members of the group, most of whom we have no doubt were loyal to this country. It was because we could not reject, the finding of the military authorites that it was impossible to bring about an immediate segregation of the disloyal from the loyal that we sustained the validity of the curfew order as applying to the whole group. In the instant case, temporary exclusion of the entire group was rested by the military on the same ground. The judgment that exclusion of the whole group was for the same reason a military imperative answers the contention that the exclusion was in the nature of group punishment based on antagonism to those of Japanese origin. That there were members of the group who retained loyalties to Japan has been confirmed by investigations made subsequent to the exclusion. Approximately five thousand American citizens of Japanese ancestry refused to swear unqualified allegiance to the United States and to renounce allegiance to the Japanese Emeror, and several thousand evacuees requested repatriation to Japan."

But the Court made it clear that it intended no sweeping approval of the military action. On the contrary it stated:

"We uphold the exclusion order as of the time it was made and when the petitioner violated it."

That even the majority of the Court arrived at the conclusion to uphold the evacuation orders reluctantly, may be seen from the following hesitant concluding words in the opinion:

"We cannot—by availing ourselves of the calm perspective of hindsight—now say that at that time these actions were justified."

As we already indicated, three of the Justices dissented; this is in welcome contrast with the decision of the Court upholding the curfew orders, and in the Hirabayashi case none of the Justices dissented, although Justice Murphy in a courageous concurring opinion laid the ground work for his dissenting opinion in the Korematsu case and the unanimous opinion of the Court in the Eendo case.

(Concluded next week.)

Letter-Box

FROM OUR READERS

Welcome Home!

Pacific Citizen
Dear Editor:

There is a Christmas card in our Post Office this year; a card that thrills me more than all the rest. It's a Proclamation—saying to one hundred thousand people—you may come home again. Home! I can hardly say the word without a catch in my throat.

This has been a dark Christmas; the darkest we have ever known. But it has a bright and shining spot in it. We are returning to a minority group full rights under our Constitution. Liberty, that beloved treasure without which we scarcely care to live, is being returned to People.

We seem to be setting aside hysteria and using a little reason even in the midst of war. Are we beginning to see that believing in our Constitution means abiding by it through foul days as well as fair? Are we beginning to see that denying liberty to others will sooner or later limit our own, while extending that priceless heritage will enlarge our own?

1945 will be brighter than I had thought possible in the midst of this terrible turmoil. Welcome Home! My American neighbors of Japanese ancestry!

HUBERT KIDDER,
Costa Mesa, Calif.

From the Frying Pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

Nisei Civilians Owe Debt to Men in Uniform

The last, pitiful possessions of a Nisei G. I. Joe have come home. He died almost a year ago, under enemy fire. And now through the slow, inevitable unraveling of government red tape, the little things that were dear to him and gave him individuality in the regimentation and anonymity of the army have been returned to the next of kin.

There were a few snapshots, meaningful and full of memories to the Yank who had treasured them. There was an overseas cap, worn jauntily in one of the photos. And ribbons: Good Conduct, pre-Pearl Harbor, Asiatic theater, a couple of battle stars.

There was one other item, a wrist watch rusted with sea water, and with a few grains of sand ground into the worn leather of the strap. That was all.

A few days before these personal effects arrived, the army had ruled that loyal Japanese Americans were free to return to their prewar homes in the evacuated areas. One part of the army's proclamation reads:

"The outstanding record which these men (the Nisei) have made fighting for the United States in Italy, in France and in the Pacific has shown conclusively that it is possible to make sound judgments as to their loyalty."

In considering the various factors that prompted the army to rescind the evacuation orders, we wonder if the Japanese American public realizes fully the part its men in service had in this restoration of the rights of all Nisei.

It is not necessary to review the meaning to the Nisei of the evacuation order's end. Every loyal Nisei knows—and he needs no one to tell him—that a dark, depressing cloud has been dispersed after its shadow had hung over every act of his life in every minute of almost three years.

Now the cloud is gone, and the Nisei is no longer a restricted citizen. He can walk erect and unflinching in every part of his country.

The individual Nisei was hardly responsible for the cloud that hung without respect for personalities over all Nisei. But it was in his power to help disperse that cloud after it had filled the nation's sky.

And the Nisei as a group proved their mettle by seizing as an opportunity, not a burden, the necessity for proving a loyalty taken for granted in citizens of other national extractions.

The methods of proving loyalty have varied. But the most spectacular, dramatic and costly way was through national service in the armed forces. The Nisei who bear arms have kindled the public's imagination, and they have paid the price.

Gold stars hang in many a Japanese American household's window, and now the little packages of faded and wrinkled pictures and brave bright ribbons are coming back. The Nisei who wore them are the ones who made the supreme sacrifice.

But they and each of their buddies, maimed and unscathed alike, went into combat with a double responsibility. In addition to carrying out unflinchingly the duties expected of every American soldier, these Nisei fought with the knowledge that the lot of all Japanese Americans would be influenced in large measure by the valor in battle of a chosen few.

Many Nisei G. I. Joes will never see the victory for which they are giving so much. Many have given their all already, and many others will fall before the Axis is crushed.

But if there is comfort to be had, they deserve it richly in the knowledge that they have had a great part in the restoration of rights to their fellow Nisei. Nisei soldiers have proven gallantly their right to be called Americans, and we civilians have been caught up in the reflection of their glory.

We civilians owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to our fighting men.

American Way Group Will Aid Returning Nisei

PASADENA, Calif. — The Friends of the American Way through its chairman, William C. Carr, this week offered "friendship and help in finding housing and employment" to "our returning Pasadena neighbors."

"We are relieved that America will no longer banish people on a racial basis," his statement declared.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Sezaburo Abe, 39-10-E, Topaz, a girl on Dec. 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. Toshio Murai, 26-11-B, Topaz, a boy on Dec. 17.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tokuo Okamoto, 1-2-C, Topaz, a girl on Dec. 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hatsue Nishimoto, 42-1-E, Topaz, a boy on Dec. 20.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sentaro Yamada, 27-24-E, Ht. Mountain, a boy on Dec. 24.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yajiro Yamamoto, 2-11-B, Ht. Mountain, a girl on Dec. 26.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hisamitsu Kuramiya, 14-3-F, Ht. Mountain, a girl on Dec. 26.

To Mr. and Mrs. Umio Nomura, 7-8-F, Ht. Mountain, a girl on Dec. 29.

To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Matsumoto, 12G-8F, Granada, a girl on Dec. 11.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Akao, 8E-3C, Granada, a boy on Dec. 12.

To Pvt. and Mrs. John Arishita, 8F-11F, Granada, a girl on Dec. 21.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harumi Otsuji, 10T-6D, Granada, a girl on Dec. 22.

To Mr. and Mrs. Terumitsu Kano, 11K-1B, Granada, a girl on Dec. 7.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kenji Mizota, 12K-2B, Granada, a girl on Dec. 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Suzuto Tsukiji, 61-8-C, Gila River, a boy on Dec. 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yoshio Takashiro, 55-7-A, Gila River, a girl on Dec. 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yuichi Shiroyama, 55-6-A, Gila River, a boy on Dec. 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. Masayoshi Yoshinaga, 48-6-C, Gila River, a boy on Dec. 20.

To Mr. and Mrs. Eichi Taniguchi, 47-8-A, Gila River, a girl on Dec. 16.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Soyeshima, 63-13-D, Gila River, a girl on Dec. 18.

To Mr. and Mrs. Junso Kawamoto, 61-3-D, Gila River, a boy on Dec. 18.

To Mr. and Mrs. T. Kosaka, 12G-8A, Granada, a girl on Dec. 6.

To Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Tsukamoto, 8G-10A, Granada, a girl on Dec. 6.

To Mr. and Mrs. K. Murata, 8G-8C, Granada, a girl on Dec. 6.

To Mr. and Mrs. Masayuki Royal Kaji a girl, Shirley Ann, on Dec. 15 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

To Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Yamamoto a girl in Denver.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dick C. Yanase a boy in Denver.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Handa a girl in Denver.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hiraki, 3605-C, Tule Lake, a girl on Nov. 29.

To Mr. and Mrs. Masami Mizumoto, 2205-B, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 4.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nakagawa, 907-A2, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 5.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kiyoshi Toge, 8011-E, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 5.

To Mr. and Mrs. Minoru Okusako, 1618-B, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 5.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yoshio Tamura, 4816-D, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 6.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shinichi Miura, 2215-D, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 7.

To Mr. and Mrs. Takeshi Sato, 3217-D1, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 7.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tadao Tochioka, 7807-E, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yoshinori Kaneko, 5116-B, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Minoru Imamura, 8207-B, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Toshio Yoshida, 3814-AB, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 9.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tanaki Nakahira, 7504-E, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 9.

To Mr. and Mrs. Masakazu Nakanishi, 4816-EF, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 9.

To Mr. and Mrs. Toichiro Kada, 4702-D, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 10.

To Mr. and Mrs. Zaichi J. Sunada a boy in Denver.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wataru Sakata, 24-10-C, Rohwer, a boy on Dec. 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Fukuyama, 39-3-E, Rohwer, a girl on Dec. 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. Iwaichi Matsumoto, 4-1-B, Rohwer, a girl on Dec. 22.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mitsuo Nakamura, 33-1-B, Rohwer, a girl on Dec. 25.

To Mr. and Mrs. Joichi Yasui, 19-4-A, Rohwer, a boy on Dec. 18.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kameichi Fukumoto, 519-C, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 13.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yutaka Hamada, 2217-D, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 13.

To Mr. and Mrs. Katsumi Shimoda, 8307-I, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 13.

To Mr. and Mrs. Noboru Ota, 4018-F, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 14.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yutaka Mutow, 7903-H, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 14.

To Mr. and Mrs. Chiyoji Nagatoshi, 1703-B, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sadami Doida, 8307-G, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. Akira Watanabe, 3706-A, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kiyoshi Nitta, 8415-E, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Genishi, 6811-D, Tule Lake, a girl on Dec. 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. Seikaku Takesono, 7912-B, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 20.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yoshio Hori, 2719-F, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 21.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yasuo Murakami, 7512-I, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 21.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shigeo Kashima, 6613-A, Tule Lake, a boy on Dec. 21.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mansho, 8-5-A, Topaz, a boy on Dec. 20.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Masao Sato, 22-6-C, Topaz, a boy on Dec. 25.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Akagi, 40-11-E, Topaz, a girl on Dec. 27.

To Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kazumi, 36-8-C, Topaz, a boy on Dec. 28.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tom Aochi, 4-9-A, Poston, a girl on Dec. 25.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shihei Inouye, 208-5-A, Poston, a boy on Dec. 25.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shimahara, 325-9-D, Poston, a boy on Dec. 25.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sato, 214-2-A, Poston, a boy on Dec. 26.

To Mrs. Rose Kurihara of Wilder, Idaho, a girl on Dec. 21.

DEATHS

Tomoshige Sekimura, 64, 13-7-A, Topaz, on Dec. 17.

Hasajiro Mayumi, 80, of 15-2-F, Ht. Mountain, on Dec. 25.

Shotaro Kubo, 77, of Hiwatha, Utah, on Jan. 3 in Salt Lake City.

Naokichi Shoji, 65, in Price, Utah, on Jan. 1.

Mitsuru Nishikawa, one-month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Shigeru Nishikawa in Salt Lake City on Jan. 2.

Tami Miura, 33-6-D, Gila River, on Dec. 16.

Yukiju Kawashiri, 67, 5004-D, Tule Lake, on Dec. 15.

Mitsuko Kanaya, 50, of 6706-A, Tule Lake, on Dec. 4.

Masaru Yamasaki, 12, 6805-C, Tule Lake, on Dec. 7.

Masataro Narita, 61, of 2206-B, Tule Lake, on Dec. 8.

Utanosuke Matsuura, 62, 35-11-F, Topaz, on Dec. 21.

Sandra Kay Harada, 9 months, 16-10-F, Topaz, on Dec. 22.

Infant Ukai, 3-9-E, Topaz, stillborn, Dec. 25.

Harry K. Yoshida (Berkeley, Calif.), 43, in Salt Lake City on Dec. 30.

MARRIAGES

Pat Nakamoto to Pvt. Ben Matsumura on Dec. 26 at Twin Falls, Idaho.

Michiko Katayama to Pvt. Isamu Aoki on Dec. 26 in Salt Lake City.

Mitsuye Wakiba to Harry Heijiro Nakao on Dec. 16 at Gila River.

Hisaye Wakamatsu to Harry Kiyomura on Dec. 29, in Salt Lake City.

Toshio Yamamoto to Hideko Takata on Nov. 27 at Tule Lake.

Yoshiko Takemiya to Minoru Kamibayashi on Dec. 2 at Tule Lake.

Jitsuo Okikawa to Hideya Akita on Dec. 10 at Tule Lake.

Kiyoko Muranaka to Yoneo Nakada on Dec. 10 at Tule Lake.

Kenichi Kito to Tomiko Anna Iseri on Dec. 10 at Tule Lake.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Frank T. Ota, Kiyomi Omokawa in Denver.

Lee D. Iwata, Helen Kurachi in Denver.

Joe Yamashita, Larene Kano in Denver.

Roy Teranishi, Yasuko Moriya in Denver.

TEIKO ISHIDA DISCUSSES NISEI ON KGO PROGRAM

SAN FRANCISCO — A radio discussion on West Coast attitudes toward returning Japanese American evacuees was presented on Dec. 23 on the Citizens for Victory program over KGO.

The broadcast featured A. McKie Donnan, radio chairman of Citizens for Victory, and Miss Teiko Ishida, San Francisco representative of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Miss Ishida who returned to San Francisco in October reported that the reception in the city had been "truly wonderful."

"Everybody has been so cordial and natural that I have come back and fitted right into life almost as though I had never been away," she said.

Miss Ishida had been employed as secretary at the San Francisco Interracial church, but rejoined the JACL staf with the reopening of the JACL office this week in San Francisco at the International Institute, 1860 Washington street, until permanent quarters are found.

Tom Hatakeda Elected Head Of Idaho Group

POCATELLO, Ida. — Tom Hatakeda will lead the Pocatello JACL in 1945, following elections held on Dec. 10.

Supporting him will be Tom Mori, vice-president; Aya Sato, recording secretary; Shige Tanabe, corresponding secretary; Novo Kato, treasurer; Jeanne Kawamura, reporter; Masa Tsukamoto, social chairman; and Paul Okamura, Isao Morimoto, Kolie Matsushita, and Guy Yamashita, executive board.

Nisei Couple Wed In Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Miss Mary Naoko Uyeno, daughter of Mrs. Shizuko Uyeno of Milwaukee, was married to Mr. James Asaka Okamura, son of Mr. J. Okamura of Manzanar, at the Immanuel Presbyterian church on Saturday, Dec. 16, at services conducted by Dr. Andrew Gladstone Finnie.

Attendants were Miss Yuri Uyeno, maid of honor, Miss Tatsuyo Uyeno, bridesmaid, Mr. Harry Okamura, best man. The Messers. Roy Hoshizaki and Lynn Wells acted as ushers.

Davis County JACL Elects Cabinet

KAYSVILLE, Utah — Yori Kosaiku was elected president of the Davis county Japanese American Citizens League at the December meeting of the organization

Supporting the president will be Tome Shiba, vice-president; Sumiko Akasaka, recording secretary; George Fujiki, corresponding secretary; Kiyoshi Miya, treasurer; S. J. Kikuchi, reporter; and John Nakano, Roy Miya and Ruth Imada, social chairmen.

Ht. Mountain Youth Wins Wings and Boots

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — Pvt. Stanley Sagara, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ushikichi Sagara, 21-22-B, Ht. Mountain, has completed his four weeks of jump training at Fort Benning, Ga., and won the right to wear the "Wings and Boots" of the U. S. army para-

Ann Nisei's Column:

Relocated Evacuees Find Wider Horizons in East

Several thousand Nisei who last year broke their ties with the relocation camps found within past months new contacts, greater opportunities and wider horizons than any they had known before.

The limited social and economic confines not alone of the evacuee centers but also of pre-war Pacific coast life held no such promises as the Nisei are finding today in other, less prejudice-ridden parts of the country.

It is no longer true that the Nisei are in positions for which they once were considered "racially" fit, doomed by an economic racial discrimination to menial tasks and drudgery.

The Phi Beta Kappa'd college graduate is making use of his training and skills, not behind the fruit stands but in industry. His college degree is a recommendation for a suitable job, not a bit of parchment outlawed by the color of the holder's skin.

We find it heartening today that many Nisei are teaching in universities, that one is an instructor at the Julliard institute of music, that some are nurses and others are doctors, that many are welders and others are scientists. We find it heartening that a Nisei girl made her debut as a singer in Chicago, that some are dancing—and even that one is a coming crooner. We find the Nisei in the whole range of the occupations and the arts—and not lumped together toward the bottom.

This did not come about wholly because of the war and its attendant manpower shortage.

It came about because the Nisei were highly trained, they were ready for work, and they proved consistent and responsible workers. It is our belief that many of these Nisei will remain in their present jobs after the war.

Of course we can speak only in generalizations. Some Nisei have proved irresponsible, and particularly so in plants where a large and steady turnover of workers has indicated unsatisfactory working conditions. Others are in war jobs which will cease with victory. Those holding jobs of servicemen overseas will grant that these veterans are entitled to their old jobs upon return.

But it remains true nonetheless that a vast body of employers and fellow workers have found that Japanese Americans make good employees and good fellow workers.

This is the year that 60,000 more Nisei and aliens will learn of the world beyond the barbed wire fences. As 1945 begins its scheduled 365 days, it is a good time to evaluate the possibilities still before Japanese Americans.

It is a time to decide for or against return to the coast. It is a time to weigh one's responsibilities, evaluate one's capacities, and judge one's total possibilities.

The sudden, heartening decision of the Western Defense Command to reopen the evacuated areas to loyal persons of Japanese ancestry makes urgent the problem of individual relocation. But it is not so urgent that one should rush immediately from the center into the first job offered. It should not be so urgent that one takes a lesser job, when one is fitted for better work.

Rushing into an under-paid job — and there are still many of them today—can bring far more disaster.

Nevertheless, there can be no more senseless stalling, no more endless quibbling on whether to remain within the centers or go out. That part of the question has been settled.

The Nisei are entering at this time their period of greatest opportunity and greatest responsibility. Nisei women share that responsibility and can share that opportunity.

WRA Debunks Hearst Paper's Story on Evacuee Relocation

No Truth in Mirror's Scare Story, Comments Newspaper PM

NEW YORK—The Newspaper PM reported on Dec. 30 the War Relocation Authority has "thoroughly debunked" inflammatory stories, played up particularly by the Hearst Daily Mirror, warning that 60,000 Japanese evacuees from relocation centers were about to descend on New York City.

The stories charged that the WRA was "selling" New York City to the Japanese as a place to live because there is no discrimination here. The Hearst Mirror solicited statements from Mayor LaGuardia, veterans' organizations and borough presidents who warned of "dire results" if the evacuees were to come to New York.

In reply, Leo T. Simmons, acting relocation supervisor of the WRA for the Middle Atlantic area, pointed out that official figures show that 1051 evacuees have resettled in New York City, about one to each 7500 persons of the total New York population.

The source of the stories was a routine report sent out by the WRA to relocation center residents, advising about conditions in the New York area.

"The report," Simmons said, "said nothing about 'selling' New York to the center residents. Nor did it urge the 60,000 persons still eligible to relocate to come here en masse."

Simmons said that WRA expects some evacuees to come to New York, but there is 'no way of predicting how many or how few will go to any one community."

"No Truth in Mirror's Anti-Nisei Scare Story," the PM headline declared.

Shigeki Ushio Re-elected Head Of Murray JACL

MURRAY, Utah — Shigeki Ushio was re-elected president of the Mt. Olympus JACL at a meeting Dec. 27 at the Jensen home.

Others elected to office were George Fujii, vice-president; Yukus Inouye, treasurer; May Matsuda, corresponding secretary; Ruby Tashima, recording secretary; Chi Terazawa and Min Matsumori, social chairmen; and Shig Hoki, reporter.

Recently the organization has held a swimming party at Wasatch Springs and a Christmas party on Dec. 27.

Nampa Soldier Returns To U. S.

NAMPA, Ida.—Pvt. Frank Maenaka, wounded in France on Nov. 6, has returned to this country by bomber to receive further treatment, his father, Mr. K. Maenaka of Nampa, Idaho, was notified recently.

Mr. Maenaka has received the Purple Heart awarded his son.

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Expect Nisei College Students To Register at Coast Schools

University Students Have Campaigned for Nisei Civil Rights

NEW YORK—College and university students of Japanese ancestry, in undetermined numbers, are expected to resume their studies in West Coast institutions with the lifting of the Army restrictions, the New York Times reported in a dispatch from Lawrence Davies, their San Francisco correspondent, on Dec. 30.

The University of California, which had several hundred Japanese students before evacuation, has received several inquiries from prospective students among the evacuees, Davies reported.

Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, provost at Berkeley, was quoted as saying that "if they meet academic requirements for admission we will admit them and treat them as any other students.

This policy applies to all of the university's campuses in California and apparently will be followed by institutions all along the coast, Davies said. He noted that the Universities of California, Washington and Oregon and several privately endowed institutions had expressed willingness to accept qualified students of Japanese ancestry even before the Army's announcement of the evacuation order.

Davies reported that Pasadena Junior College was the first to admit a Nisei student and that college students, through campus newspapers, have been hammering for months on the subject of civil rights of loyal Nisei and have been critical of those who would continue to bar the Japanese Americans.

The Stanford Daily had charged that pressure groups "with typical demagoguery" were stirring up emotions and asserted that "these groups must be resisted with every means available to conscientious citizens who realize that this war is being fought to protect the principle of the United states Constitution."

Editorials on behalf of the Nisei have appeared in other campus newspapers, including the California Bruin at UCLA and the Los Angeles Collegian, issued at Los Angeles City College.

At the time of evacuation, according to Davies, about 2,500 students of Japanese ancestry were attending West Coast colleges. Since then about 3,000, including many high school graduates from relocation centers, have been enrolled in more that 550 institutions outside the West Coast area.

Since July, 1942, scholarships valued at $162,000 have been awarded to 595 Japanese American students through the National Student Relocation Council, headed by Dr. John W. Nason, president of Swarthmore.

Nisei Bride Flies To Salt Lake To Wed Soldier

Miss Hisaye Wakamatsu, Japanese American tennis player, flew from Chicago to Salt Lake City to wed Harry Kiyomura, who had a week's furlough from Camp Blanding, Fla., before leaving for a port of embarkation, the Deseret News reported on Jan. 1.

Soldier Kin of Tule Residents Reported Casualties in Europe

NEWELL, Calif. — Six Japanese Americans with next of kin residing at the Tule Lake evacuee center have ben reported as recent war casualties, the Newell Star reported here recently.

The casualties included two dead and one missing in action.

Reported killed in action were Private John Okada and S/Sgt. Atsuo Sahara. Pvt. Okada, formerly of Palo Alto, and the nephew of Mrs. Itsuji Takeuchi of 2619-E, was killed in action in France. Sgt. Sahara, brother of Kanaye Sahara of 7312-C, Tule Lake, was killed in action on Dec. 15.

The Star reported that Sgt. John Hashimoto, son-in-law of Mrs. Kanzo Marumoto of 6817-E, has been missing in France since Nov. 14.

Reported as wounded in action were Pfc. Yasuaki G. Abe, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Yasukichi Abe of 4706-D, wounded on Oct. 29; and Pfc. George T. Kondo, brother of Tadashi Kondo of 4116-E, slightly wounded on ec. 4.

Pearl Harbor League Plans Double Boycott Against Evacuees

SUMNER, Wash. — Members of the anti-evacuee Remember Pearl Harbor League went on record on Dec. 28 as determined to boycott all persons of Japanese ancestry who return to the Puyallup and White River valleys and anyone catering to the Japanese Americans.

First Citizen Action Against Evacuees in Orange Area Told

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — The Times reported on Dec. 31 that the first citizen action had been taken in Orange county against Japanese Americans returning to the area when a sign stating "This ranch operated by a pro-Jap" was placed on property owned by George Iwakoshi, an American citizen, who returned to the Talbert area this week from an Arizona relocation center.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that the Santa Ana post of the American Legion, although deploring the return of the former residents, urged complete cooperation with local authorities and offered the services of its 600 members for law-enforcement purposes.

The Times report said that Hill Mohnicke, who has been operating the Iwakoshi property on lease, had stated that he had completed negotiations for purchase of the property from the Japanese American.

Following placing of the sign on the property, a group of ranchers was reported to have served Orange county authorities with a resolution condemning the return of the evacuee group.

Tulare Supervisors Favor Seizure of Evacuees' Property

VISALIA, Calif.—A resolution proposing the taking over of all property of persons of Japanese ancestry to prevent further land acquisition and the eventual deportation of citizens and aliens of Japanese ancestry was passed unanimously on Dec. 19 by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

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Southern California Groups Commend Gov. Warren's Stand

Will Support All Public Officials Who Maintain Democracy

LOS ANGELES—A joint statement by eight community organizations commending Governor Warren's stand on the return of Japanese Americans to California and promising support to all public officials who "maintain the principles of democracy in this State" was released on Jan. 2.

The statement reads:

"We commend Governor Warren for urging public officials to assist in bringing about cheerful and adequate compliance with the Army's revocation of its mass evacuation order directed against American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident Japanese aliens.

"We likewise commend and will support the position of all other public officials seeking to maintain the principles of democracy in this State.

"This episode is a test of the people of this State. We are confident that by their American attitude and conduct they will demonstrate to all nations that democracy had validity and vitality, even in time of war, and will thereby contribute in a most important way to the ultimate success of our armed forces."

The organizations joining in the statement are: Church Federation of Los Angeles, Free World Association of Hollywood, Friends of the American Way, Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, Interracial Council of the Catholic Church; Negro Interdenominational Pastor's Alliance of Pasadena, Pastor's Union of Pasadena, and Southern California Council of Protestant Churches.

70 Tule Segregees Leave for Santa Fe

NEWELL, Calif.—Seventy segregees at the Tule Lake segregation center have renounced their citizenship and are being transferred to a camp for enemy aliens at Santa Fe, New Mexico, it was announced last week by Ray N. Best, director of the Tule Lake project.

MAYOR LAPHAM BACKS RIGHTS OF EVACUEE GROUP

SAN FRANCISCO — Evacuees of Japanese ancestry "are entitled to the same treatment and fair consideration as residents of every other extraction or color," Mayor Roger D. Lapham of San Francisco declared last week.

"I call upon all our citizens to recognize that the military is allowing only those to return whom they consider loyal Americans. When the story of this war is told completely, I know there will be many incidents related where men of Japanese ancestry have fought as heroically in the armed forces as other American citizens of various ancestry," Mayor Lapham said.

Chula Vista Legion Post Will Readmit Japanese American

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Little friction is likely to arise over reentry into the American Legion of veterans of Japanese ancestry who were members in good standing before the West Coast evacuation order was issued, it was indicated last week.

In one case, that of Joseph K. Sano, formerly active in Jean Frederic Loba post No. 434, Chula Vista, the post's policy was made clear by its adjutant, John F. Bernhard.

"He was a helpful and cooperative member," said Bernhard, "and we will undoubtedly allow him to rejoin his post."

Three Evacuees May Return to Gresham

GRESHAM, Ore.—Formal notification of the intended return of at least three Japanese Americans to their eastern Multnomah and Clackamas county farms have county farms have been received by farmers who have letters mailed from relocation centers stating the evacuees want to terminate the leases, it was reported here.

Pacific Citizen Non-Member Rate Raised to $3.00

The Pacific Citizen's yearly subscription rates for non-members of the JACL will be raised from $2.50 to $3.00 on February 1, Hito Okada, business manager, announced this week. It was stated that the decision to raise the rates had been reached because of increasing operating expenses and production costs. Heretofore, the operating deficit of the Pacific Citizen had been met through a subsidy provided by the National JACL but these funds will not be available in the future. It was also pointed out that War Production Board newsprint restrictions will limit any step to cover production costs through increased circulation.

The new rate will be effective Feb. 1 but all subscriptions and renewals postmarked on that date will be accepted at the $2.50 rate, it was stated. Single copy rates will be 7 cents from Feb. 1.

Purple Heart Given Posthumously to Cpl. James Kokubu

CHICAGO, Ill. — The Purple Heart was awarded posthumously to Cpl. Jimmie T. Kokubu, 25, for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death on October 17 in France. It was received by his sister, Miss Rose Kokubu of Chicago, from the War Department this week, it was reported.

Cpl. Kokubu is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. I. Kokubu of Hunt, Idaho. He is formerly of Portland, Oregon and is a graduate of Benson Polytechnic. He was inducted in February, 1942 at Fort Lewis and received his training at Camp Robinson, Camp Crowder and Camp Hale. He completed his training at Ft. McClellan and was sent overseas in August, 1944 where he was a member of the 442nd Combat Team.

He is survived by his parents and three sisters, Hideko of New York City, Rose and Pearl of Chicago.

Daughter Born to Wife of Lieutenant

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Lt. and Mrs. Yasuo Abe announced the birth of a daughter, Carol Sumi, on December 24 at Deaconess Hospital. Mrs. Abe is making her home here with Mrs. Fukuda, wife of Capt. Mitsuyoshi Fukuda, while their husbands are serving overseas. Both families are from Hawaii.

Nisei War Veteran Joins Omaha American Legion Post

CHICAGO — Corporal Tachio John Ando, who recently was given a medical discharge from the Army, became a member of the American Legion Post No. 1, Omaha, Nebraska, on November 22, 1944.

Corporal Ando was born at Joliet, Montana, where his family is engaged in farming. He entered the service on October 29, 1941, was assigned to the Coast Artillery and received his training at Camp Wallace, Texas. His overseas assignment was in the Caribbean area.

At the present time Corporal Ando is recuperating at the Veterans' Hospital at Hot Springs, South Dakota, and states that the attendants are doing everything possible to restore him to good health, and that he is receiving every consideration by the hospital staff and the townspeople of Hot Springs.

With reference to his becoming a member of the American Legion Corporal Ando stated: "I joined the American Legion and I am proud to be a member as the records clearly show what the Legion has done for the boys to date, and I know that they are going to work even harder to improve conditions for the service men. The Legion representatives of this small community keep in touch with us and are always glad to help in any way possible."

When asked for further comments relative to the evacuation and the relocation program, Corporal Ando stated: "The Nisei have proved their loyalty on the fighting front and I feel that we can further prove our loyalty in going forth from the centers and help out in any way possible at this critical time when the country is suffering from a labor shortage. It would benefit the war effort as well as be a personal financial gain. Relocation is the golden opportunity to start up again instead of waiting for the end of the war."

Riverside Officers Pledge Protection

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Both Sheriff Carl L. Rayburn and Police Chief J. A. Bennett have pledged full protection under the law to returning evacuees of Japanese ancestry.

The Board of Supervisors has authorized Sheriff Rayburn to employ members of his reserves on a per diem basis for any emergency which may arise with the return of the evacuees.

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