STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

"We, the American citizens of Japanese ancestry, have continued to keep faith in our Government with a firm belief:
1. That the basic principles of our Country will not be changed for transient causes;
2. That the unprecedented actions taken by our Government against one racial group on the grounds of military necessity will be rectified;
3. That it is with the realization of this justice that will determine whether we as American citizens entering the armed forces will or will not sacrifice our lives in vain.

"We firmly believe that the application of Selective Service procedures to our birthright is a sound and basic foundation for full restoration of our inalienable rights to every and all American citizens of Japanese descent; the rights embodied in the Constitution of the United States.

"We firmly believe that our birthright under the Constitution with the fulfillment of our duties as citizens deserves an early recognition by our Country for the sacrifices made by our people.

"We recognize that the reinstitution of Selective Service procedures for Americans of Japanese ancestry on the same basis as all other Americans is a significant step forward in the restoration of our inalienable rights as American citizens. Accordingly, we accept the duty and privilege of service in the armed forces of our Country."

--Community Council of Topaz
THE SELECTIVE TRAINING AND SERVICE ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the Congress hereby declares that it is imperative to increase and train the personnel of the armed forces of the United States.

"The Congress further declares that in a free society the obligations and privileges of military training and service should be shared generally in accordance with a fair and just system of selective service compulsory military training and service...

"...Every male citizen of the United States, and every other male person residing in the United States, who is between the ages of eighteen and forty-five at the time fixed for his registration, shall be liable for training and service in the land or naval forces of the United States..."

---Selective Service Manual
Section II, amended 1-15-43
...It shall be the duty of every male citizen of the United States, and of every other male person residing in the United States, who, on the day or days fixed for the first or any subsequent registration, is between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five, to present himself for and submit to registration at such time or times and place or places, and in such manner and in such age group or groups, as shall be determined by rules and regulations prescribed hereunder.

REGISTRATION

Every man is personally charged with the duty of presenting himself at his nearest local board for registration. Although men between the ages of 18 and 55 are required to register, only those up to the age of 45 are liable for training under the terms of this Act. At the present time, the army is not accepting men over 37 for induction.

Certain aliens are exempt from registration, but these are diplomatic representatives or other employees of a foreign country who have not established residence in the United States. All other aliens, whether or not they have declared their intention of becoming citizens of the United States, are required to register.

INTERVIEW OF REGISTRANT

Every person is registered on a Registration Card which is kept by the local board. The information on the card forms the record on which all other Selective Service records are based. The place of residence determines, once and for all, the local board which has jurisdiction over the registrant, and that jurisdiction will never be changed. If a registrant declares Topaz to be his place of residence, then local board #30 in Fillmore will have jurisdiction over him. If he declares his place of residence to be in California, his Registration Card will be sent to the proper local board in California.

The mailing address if different from the place of residence is also important because that is the address to which all notices will be sent. Any further changes of address must be reported to the local board. After the Registration Card has been completed and signed, the registrar prepares a Registration Certificate to give to the registrant. He is required to have this Certificate in his personal possession at all times.

Boys who reach their eighteenth birthday in Topaz should register at 1-10-D.

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS

The first registration was held on October 15, 1940. Since then, there have been five other registration days, each one adding a different age group to the first group of registrants.

Group 1—Registrants born on or after October 17, 1901, and born on or before October 16, 1919.

Group 2—Registrants born on or after October 17, 1919, and born on or before July 1, 1920.

Group 3—Registrants born on or after July 2, 1920, and born on or before December 31, 1921; and registrants born on or after February 17, 1897, and born on or before October 15, 1904.

Group 4—Registrants born on or after April 28, 1877, and born on or before February 15, 1897.

Group 5—Registrants born on or after January 1, 1922, and born on or before June 30, 1924.

Group 6—Registrants born on or after July 1, 1924, and born on or before December 31, 1921; and those reaching the eighteenth anniversary of the day of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.
Every registrant has both a serial number and an order number. The serial number merely indicates the arrangement of Registration Cards (alphabetical, chronological, or otherwise) and provides the basis for assigning order numbers. Registrants are classified, called for preinduction physical examination, and inducted in the sequence of order numbers. Order numbers were assigned to registrants in Groups 1, 2, and 3 by national lottery.

The order numbers of registrants in Groups 5 and 6 follow the last order number in Group 3. Registrants in Group 6 are numbered in the order of their birth dates, regardless of the day when they register.

**Questionnaires**

The Selective Service Questionnaire (Form 40) furnishes information from which the local board determines a registrant's classification. In addition, the registrant is entitled to present any written information which he believes necessary to assist the local board in determining his proper classification. The local board also may request information from local welfare and governmental agencies where such information is needed.

A registrant who claims to be a conscientious objector may request a copy of Special Form for Conscientious Objector (Form 47) in order to offer information to substantiate his claim.

The Selective Service Occupational Questionnaire (Form 311) provides the local board with information about the registrant's training and skill in certain occupations. The bottom portion of pages 1 and 2 is forwarded to the U.S. Employment Service.

**Induction of United States Citizens of Japanese Extraction or Parentage**

"Registrants ages 18 through 37 who are natural-born United States citizens of Japanese extraction or parentage are now subject to induction for service in the United States Army but only after the War Department has determined in each case that the registrant is acceptable."

Heretofore, upon submission of a Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry (Form 304A), or, upon other information, the War Department has determined that many Japanese-Americans are acceptable or are not acceptable for service. In many cases, local boards have been advised of this determination either by the receipt of a DSS Form 304A on which the determination is stamped or by a form letter.

"...The local board will mail each registrant...four copies of Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry (Form 304A) unless the local board has been notified by the War Department that such registrant is acceptable or not acceptable...

"...Upon return of the completed DSS Forms 304A to the local board, it shall forward all four copies of the forms to the Director of Selective Service through the State Director...

"Upon receipt of notice from the War Department that a Japanese-American is acceptable, the local board shall reopen his classification and classify (him) in the same manner as any other United States citizen. (If the registrant) is not acceptable, the local board will retain or place (him) in Class IV-C..."
Every citizen of the United States has the right to petition for the correction of any grievances. However, the institution and application of Selective Service are independent of other problems and considerations, and no real or fancied grievances can be allowed to interfere with its operation.

**PETITIONS**

Petitions may be circulated, or the opinion of groups or individuals otherwise expressed, declaring the participants' loyalty to the United States but requesting that the rights of persons of Japanese ancestry to complete freedom of movement including freedom to return to the West Coast or other rights be restored before their young men of military age are drafted for military service.

**EXPATRIATION**

Young men of military age may file written requests for expatriation in the anticipation that such requests will preclude or make less likely their being accepted for military service.

The request is not, of course, conclusive evidence of disloyalty, but it is a factor to be considered in arriving at a judgment on this question. Any such requests cannot fail to have a seriously adverse effect on the future of the persons making the request in the United States, and indirectly on the future of the whole evacuee population.

**REFUSAL**

Some persons may announce that they will refuse to report for military service when called, or they may actually fail to report when they receive their induction notices.

Any evacuee in a relocation center who refuses to report for induction, when called, is guilty of a violation of the Selective Service Act, and is subject to criminal penalties. This is just as much true of the evacuees as it is of people who receive induction notices in any other community.

**INTERFERENCE**

Misguided or malicious individuals may participate in propaganda activities interfering with the Selective Service laws.

If any evacuee should engage in any effort to persuade others to refuse to report for induction, they too, will be guilty of a violation of Federal statutes for which criminal penalties can be imposed.

The reestablishment of Selective Service was a major step toward the restoration of the rights of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and if properly accepted can lead to the restoration of many other rights which evacuees feel they should have. Any action to resist or avoid the Selective Service taken on the part of any individual or group would react to the serious detriment of the whole evacuee community. I sincerely hope that the responsible leaders among the evacuees understand this and will assist in any way possible to avoid the drastic effect which might come from the unthinking actions of a few prospective or actual draft-dodgers.

—Dillon S. Myer

WRA, Washington

February, 1944
Class I-A—Available for military service
In Class I-A shall be placed every registrant who, upon classification, has not been placed in Class I-C, Class IV-E, Class I-A-O, or in a deferred class.

Class I-A-O—Available for noncombatant military service; conscientious objector
In Class I-A-O shall be placed registrants who have been found, by reason of religious training and belief, to be conscientiously opposed to combatant military service but not conscientiously opposed to noncombatant military service in which he could contribute to the health, comfort, and preservation of others.

Class I-C—Member of land or naval forces of the United States

Class II-A—Man supporting the national health, safety, or interest
In Class II-A are placed registrants who are regularly engaged in an activity in support of the national health, safety, or interest. In addition, registrants age 18 through 29 must be necessary to the activity in which they are engaged, and registrants age 18 through 25 must meet all conditions for deferment which have been established for registrants in this age group.

Class II-B—Man in war production
In Class II-B are placed registrants who are regularly engaged in an activity in war production. In addition, registrants age 18 through 29 must be necessary to the activity in which they are engaged, and registrants age 18 through 25 must meet all conditions for deferment which have been established for registrants in this age group.

Class II-C—Man in agriculture
In Class II-C are placed registrants who are regularly engaged in an agricultural occupation or endeavor essential to the war effort. In addition, registrants age 18 through 29 must be necessary to the occupation in which they are engaged, and they must be persons for whom a satisfactory replacement cannot be obtained.

Class II-A, II-B, and II-C deferments are for periods of six months or less. Registrants will be continued in the same classification if the same conditions for deferment exist at the end of each period. See Occupational Deferments, page 13, for further information.
CLASSIFICATIONS

Class III-D—Men deferred by reason of extreme hardship and privation to wife, child, or parent.
In Class III-D shall be placed any registrant if it is determined that his induction into the land or naval forces would result in extreme hardship and privation to a wife, child, or parent with whom he maintains a bona fide family relationship.

Class IV-A—Men deferred by reason of age.
In Class IV-A shall be placed registrants liable for training and service who have attained the forty-fifth anniversary of the day of their birth.

Class IV-B—Official deferred by law and men relieved from liability for training and service.

Class IV-C—Registrants not acceptable for training and service because of nationality or ancestry, neutral aliens requesting relief from training and service, aliens not acceptable to the armed forces or to the Director of Selective Service, and aliens who have departed and are not residing in the United States.
In Class IV-C shall be placed any registrant who because he is an alien or because of his ancestry is, under procedure prescribed by the Director of Selective Service, found by the land or naval forces to be unacceptable for training and service or by the Director of Selective Service to be unacceptable for work of national importance under civilian direction.

Class IV-D—Minister of religion or divinity student.

Class IV-E—Available for work of national importance; conscientious objector.
In Class IV-E shall be placed every registrant who has been found, by reason of religious training and belief, to be conscientiously opposed to both combatant and noncombatant military service.

Class IV-F—Morally, physically, or mentally unfit.

--- Selective Service Manual
Section 822
Amended 5-15-44
CLASSIFICATION PROCEEDURE

It is the responsibility of the local board to decide in which class registrants are to be classified. Each registrant shall receive equal and fair justice. There shall be no discrimination for or against him because of his race, creed, or color, or because of his membership or activity in any labor, political, religious, or other organization.

INFORMATION CONSIDERED FOR CLASSIFICATION

The local board will classify a registrant as soon as practicable after receiving his Selective Service Questionnaire. The classification will be made solely on the basis of the Questionnaire, affidavits of dependency, affidavits of occupational necessity, and other such written information as may be contained in his file. Oral information will not be considered unless it is summarized in writing.

TRANSFER OF LOCAL BOARD FOR CLASSIFICATION

When a majority of the members of a local board, because of conflicting interest, bias, or other reason, cannot classify a registrant, his local board may be transferred to another for classification. This may also be done if the registrant is so far from his local board as to make complying with notices a hardship.

The local board to which the registrant is transferred retains the sole right to classify him, and no other board may reconsider his case.

CLASSIFICATION BEFORE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Local boards are instructed to consider a registrant's classification in the following order and to classify him in the first class for which grounds are established:

Class I-C (Member of armed forces)
Class IV-A (Over 45 years of age)
Class IV-D (Minister)
Class IV-E (Deferred by law)
Class II-C (Agricultural deferment)
Class II-B (Work in war production)
Class II-A (Needed in war effort)
Class III-D (Dependency deferment)

If a registrant cannot be classified in any of the above classifications, he will next be considered for Class IV-C. American citizens of Japanese ancestry are required to fill out the Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry (Form 304A). This form is sent to the War Department which determines whether or not such registrants are acceptable for service in the U.S. Army. If a registrant is not acceptable, he is classified IV-D.

If a registrant cannot be classified in any of the above classifications, including Class IV-C, then it must be determined whether the registrant is disqualified for service under the moral standards of the armed forces. If he is found so disqualified, he is classified IV-E.

Finally, if the registrant cannot be classified in any of the above classifications, he is classified I-A. However, if he is found to be a conscientious objector, he will be classified in Class I-A-0 or IV-E, whichever is applicable.

NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION

After the local board has classified a registrant, it will mail a Notice of Classification to the registrant. Every registrant is required to keep this Notice in his personal possession at all times along with his Registration Certificate.

---Selective Service Manual
Section 623
Amended 1-4-44, 2-14-44
Every registrant, before he is ordered to report for induction, will be given a preinduction physical examination unless he is a delinquent or unless he signs a Request for Immediate Induction (Form 219).

CALL FOR PREINDUCTION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
The State Director of Selective Service specifies to each local board the number of registrants who are to be called and the time and place of the examination. The local board will fill its quota first from volunteers, then from nonfathers, and finally from fathers. The selection is made by order numbers in each group.

The term "father" is defined to mean a person who was married before December 8, 1941, who has been living with his family since that date, and who has a legitimate child born before September 15, 1942. A stepchild, adopted child, or foster child may be included too, if they were part of his family before December 8, 1941.

LOCAL BOARD EXAMINATION
Any registrant who has an obviously disqualifying defect may present himself for examination at his local board at any time. The local board examining physician will determine whether the registrant has such a disqualifying defect or not.

If the registrant is unable to present himself for examination because of his defect, a reputable physician may file an affidavit stating the character of the defect. The local board will refer the affidavit to its examining physician for review.

TRANSFER OF LOCAL-BOARD
If a registrant is located so far from his own local board as to make reporting to it a hardship, he may request a transfer to the local board of the area in which he is located. This request is made by filling out Form 216, Transfer—Preinduction Physical Examination, at his nearest local board.

The Director of Selective Service has issued instructions that certain groups of registrants are to be transferred for preinduction physical examination by his order. The registrant's own local board will complete the transfer and forward all documents to the proper local board. This is being done for Nisei evacuated from the Pacific Coast in accordance with Local Board Memorandum No. 179.

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE INDUCTION
Any registrant in Class I-A or in Class I-A-O may be inducted into service at the time of his preinduction physical examination if he signs and files with his local board a Request for Immediate Induction (Form 219). If he is found qualified for service, he will be inducted into the Enlisted Reserve Corps and classified I-C.

REPORTING FOR PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
Registrants are called to report for their physical examination in groups. Registrants leaving from Topaz will be given individual round-trip tickets at Delta. The examinations will be held at Fort Douglas where meals and lodging will be provided. The WRA allows three days of authorized leave with pay from work.

The local board will mail to each registrant a Certificate of Fitness showing whether he is accepted or rejected. If there is any doubt, the registrant will be forwarded for another examination at a later date.

Selective Service Manual
Section 629
Amended 2-2-44, 3-22-44, 5-15-44
APPEALS

It is possible to appeal certain decisions made by a local board to a board of appeals and then to the President of the United States. As long as the appeal is pending, the registrant will not be inducted.

WHO MAY APPEAL

The right to appeal a classification made by a local board or a board of appeals is granted to the registrant, dependents of a registrant, and any person who files written evidence of the occupational necessity of a registrant. But no such persons may appeal the decision on the registrant's physical or mental condition made by an official examining physician.

The appeal must be made within 10 days of the date the Notice of Classification is mailed by the local board. If the registrant is living some distance away, 30 days may be allowed. The right to appeal expires after the 10-day or 30-day period has elapsed. But as long as the local board has not mailed the Order to Report for Induction, it may still accept appeals if it decides the registrant was unable to do so within the time allotted.

PROCEDURE FOR MAKING APPEALS

Any person who is entitled to do so may make an appeal by filing with the local board a written notice of appeal. He should attach to this notice a statement specifying in what ways he believes the local board was in error, or he may bring out any information which the local board failed to consider. All of this should be done in writing.

When an appeal is taken from classifications I-A, I-A-0, or IV-E, the registrant is first ordered to report for his preinduction physical examination. If he is found to be qualified for service, his case will then be sent to the board of appeals. If he does not pass the examination, he is classified IV-F.

Appeals taken from classifications other than I-A, I-A-0, and IV-E are sent to the board of appeals without delay.

REVIEW BY BOARD OF APPEALS

The board of appeals reviews cases in the order in which they are received. It considers only the information contained in the record transmitted by the local board. However, it may use general information about economic, industrial, and social conditions, and in the case of conscientious objectors it may ask for advice from the Department of Justice.

The decision of the board of appeals is final, unless the appeal is taken to the President.

APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

Appeals to the President may be made only if the registrant was reclassified I-A, I-A-0, or IV-E and if one or more members of the board of appeals dissented from such classification. A 10-day period is allowed in which a written notice of appeal may be filed. The local board will send the registrant's file to the State Director who will check to see whether any new information has been added that would affect the classification. If so, he will instruct the local board to make such change. Otherwise, he will forward the file to the Director of Selective Service in Washington, D.C.

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Selective Service Manual
Sections 627, 628
Amended 5-8-43,
12-10-43, 1-8-44,
2-2-44
The armed forces have indicated that their greatest immediate need is for physically fit men in the younger age groups, capable of the highest degree of efficiency under combat conditions. Accordingly, occupational deferment policies have been adopted which should release large numbers of men to engage in activities in war production or in support of the national health, safety, or interest who are in the older age groups.

Under these policies, the prospect for registrants ages 18 through 25 is service in the armed forces unless they meet the specific conditions for deferment which have been established by the Director of Selective Service.

The prospect for registrants ages 26 through 29 who are found to be necessary to and regularly engaged in activities in war production or in support of the national health, safety, or interest is that they will remain in civilian life for the time being, subject to adjustment as the needs of the armed forces change.

The prospect for registrants ages 30 through 37, regardless of their physical condition, and for registrants of any age who are either disqualified for general military service or qualified for limited military service only, and who are regularly engaged in activities in support of the national health, safety, or interest is that they will remain in civilian life for an indefinite period, subject to adjustment as the needs of the armed forces change.

A registrant age 18 through 25 who has been found disqualified for military service or found qualified for limited military service only may be placed in Class II-A if he is regularly engaged in an activity in support of the national health, safety, or interest, or in Class II-B if he is regularly engaged in an activity in war production.

No other registrants in this age group will be placed in Class II-A or Class II-B unless the local board finds that they are necessary to as well as regularly engaged in an essential activity.

Either Form 42-A (Special) or Form 42 (Special) must be filed with the local board. Form 42-A (Special) is presented by the registrant's employer to the State Director for his endorsement. Form 42 (Special), which is an affidavit that the registrant is working in one of the essential activities listed on page 15, is submitted directly to the local board.

A registrant age 26 through 29 who has been found disqualified for military service or found qualified for limited military service only may be placed in Class II-A or Class II-B if he is regularly engaged in an essential activity.

Other registrants may be placed in Class II-A or Class II-B if they are found to be necessary to as well as regularly engaged in an essential activity.

Fathers ages 26 through 29 will normally be accorded occupational deferment in preference to nonfathers in this age group.

A registrant age 30 through 37 (whether or not he has been found disqualified for military service or qualified for limited military service only) will be placed in Class II-A or Class II-B if he is regularly engaged in an essential activity.

Form 42B may be used for making requests for occupational deferment of registrants in this age group.
SEASONAL OCCUPATIONS

A registrant engaged in a seasonal occupation is qualified for occupational deferment even though he moves from one locality to another for the purpose of following local seasons. During the off season he must engage in some other essential activity and upon reopening of the season, he must return to his seasonal occupation.

LIST OF ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

The activities contained in this list, which was prepared by the War Manpower Commission, represent on a national basis the most important activities in war production and support of the national health, safety, or interest. Consideration for occupational deferment may be given on a local basis to registrants engaged in other activities not listed which are related to utilities, food, clothing, fuel, housing, health, safety, and other services or endeavors required for the preservation and effectiveness of the life of a Nation at war.

In determining whether a registrant should be classified in Class II-A or Class II-E, all available information from national, regional, state, and local levels will be used. Local boards will request information from local employment offices whether there exists or is likely to exist in the near future a national or local shortage of persons with the registrant's claimed qualifications.

—Local Board Memorandum No. 115
Amended 5-12-44

AGRICULTURAL DEFERMENTS

Only registrants described as follows may be considered for agricultural deferment in Class II-C:

(a) Registrants found disqualified for any military service or found qualified for limited service only who by reason of being engaged in an agricultural occupation or endeavor are found to be making a contribution to the war effort.

(b) Other registrants who are necessary to and regularly engaged in an agricultural occupation or endeavor, essential to the war effort, and for whom it is established that a suitable replacement cannot be obtained.

AGE FACTOR

For registrants, ages 18 through 25, the provisions of the above paragraph will be applied with full consideration of the extreme need for physically fit young men in the armed forces.

For registrants ages 26 through 29 the provisions of the above paragraph will be strictly applied.

For registrants ages 30 and over, the provisions of the above paragraph will be applied less strictly with the increased age of the registrant.

Fathers will normally be accorded occupational deferment in agriculture in preference to nonfathers.

The war units plan, formerly in effect, for measuring agricultural activities is now withdrawn.

REGISTRANTS LEAVING AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATION

A registrant who has been placed in Class II-C must not leave his agricultural occupation or endeavor for other work without first securing a determination from his local board that it is in the best interest of the war effort for him to leave his occupation. Unless this permission is secured first, such registrants will be promptly reclassified 1-A.

—Lewis B. Horsley, Director
Selective Service System
Local Board Memorandum No. 114
Amended 4-5-44
LIST OF ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

1. Production, maintenance, and repair of aircraft and parts
2. Production, maintenance, and repair of ships, boats, ship and boat parts, and equipment
3. Production of ordnance and accessories
4. Production of ammunition
5. Agriculture and fishing
   (a) Agricultural products—Livestock and livestock products; fiber, oil crops, and potatoes; field crops; pineapples, tree fruits, small fruits and berries; medicinal, insecticide and rubber plants; vegetables for fresh consumption and processing; vegetable plants and seeds; other food and specialty crops, including honey, tree nuts, sugar cane, sugar beets, sorghum, and tobacco.
   (b) Agricultural services—Agricultural, horticultural, and animal husbandry services such as: commercial poultry hatcheries, seed processing, animal breeding, crop disease protection services, initial processing services such as ginning, compressing, threshing, cleaning, shelling and curing, irrigation services, farm repair and maintenance services, farm product assembly services, all of which are performed on a substantially year-round basis to essential activities related to essential crops and livestock enterprises; grist milling (custom); ice harvesting.
6. Commercial fishing—Including fish hatcheries (conservation or commercial) and spoons.
7. Processing of food—Meat packing and slaughtering (including poultry), production of dairy products, eggs, fish and nuts, fruits and vegetables and their juices, soups, flour and other grain mill products, prepared foods for animals and foods, starch, cereals, rice, bread and other bakery products, sugar, leavening compounds, corn syrup, fats and oils, ice. Includes dried, preserve, dehydrated, frozen, canned, and other special-processed foods.
8. Forestry, logging, lumbering, and forest industries
9. Coal mining
10. Metal mining
11. Nonmetallic mining, processing, and quarrying of essential products
12. Smelting, refining, alloying, rolling, and drawing of metals used in the production of war materials; also scrap salvage
13. Production of metal shapes and forgings
14. Finishing of metal products
15. Production of industrial and agriculture equipment
16. Production of machinery
17. Production of chemicals and allied products
18. Production of industrial and agriculture equipment
19. Production of machinery
20. Production of textiles—Includes the processing, manufacturing, bleaching, dyeing, printing, and other finishing of textile cordage, fabrics (excluding wool or fur felt for hats and fancy fabrics), fibers, nets, rope, twine, and yarns.
21. Production of apparel for the armed forces; work clothing; snowsuits; infants' and children's wear
22. Production of stone, clay and glass products
23. Production of petroleum, natural-gas and petroleum and coal products
24. Production of transportation equipment
25. Transportation services

Local Board Memorandum No. 115
Amended 5-12-44
SELECTIVE SERVICE POLICY

STUDENT DEFERMENTS

To supply the needs of the armed forces, the Army and Navy Specialized Training Program is taking over the training of a large number of men in scientific and specialized fields and in certain professions. As inductees, they will be in uniform and outside the jurisdiction of Selective Service. Therefore, other students occupationally deferred will be limited to a number sufficient to meet civilian needs in support of the war effort.

The induction of students 18 or 19 years of age, in the last semester of their high school year, will be postponed until the date of their graduation.

STUDENTS GRADUATING BEFORE JULY 1, 1944

In accordance with a previous announcement, students graduating before July 1, 1944, will be automatically deferred in 22 different courses of study. Most of these are engineering and scientific courses.

STUDENTS GRADUATING AFTER JULY 1, 1944

A national quota of 10,000 has been established for students who should be occupationally deferred at any one time in chemistry, engineering, geology, geophysics, and physics. This quota applies only to full-time students in good standing at recognized colleges and universities who will graduate after July 1, 1944.

Students in premedical, predental, preveterinary, preosteopathic, and pretheological fields will also be considered for occupational deferment. For these preprofessional students a quota has been established which provides that the total number of such students to be occupationally deferred shall not exceed 50% of the total average number of students in schools of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, osteopathy, or theology, respectively, in the years 1938-1939 and 1939-1940.

PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS AND INTERNES

No quota is set for students who have passed their preprofessional stage and are training in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and osteopathy. They will be considered for occupational deferment during their training period provided that they are full-time students in good standing at recognized colleges.

Internes who have completed their professional training and preparation as doctors, dentists, or osteopaths and who are undertaking further studies in hospitals or institutions giving recognized internships will be considered for occupational deferment. These deferments are limited to nine months.

REQUEST FOR STUDENT DEFERMENTS

The institution where the student is registered will file requests for occupational deferment with the local board. The college or university must certify that the student is majoring in the course for which he is to be deferred, and that he gives promise of successful completion of his course of study.

Students, majoring in courses over which quotas have been set, must be certified that they will graduate in 24 months from the date of certification. In addition, the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel of the War Manpower Commission must certify that these deferments will be within the national quota for such students.

--- Selective Service Activity and Occupational Bulletin No. 33-6 Effective Feb. 15, 1944
The Secretary of War issues to the Director of Selective Service requisitions for the number of men required by the Army. This number is allocated to the states and from the states to the local boards. Registrants are allowed at least 21 days after their Certificate of Fitness (result of physical examination) has been mailed before they will be called to report for induction.

**ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION**

At least 10 days before the date fixed for induction, the local board will mail an Order to Report for Induction to every man selected. Volunteers will be called first, then non-fathers, and finally fathers, in the sequence of order numbers for each group. The term "father" is defined on page 9 under Call for Preinduction Physical Examination.

In case of death or extreme emergency in a registrant's family, or serious illness of the registrant, the local board may postpone the date of induction for a period not to exceed 60 days. One further 60-day postponement may be allowed in cases of imperative necessity.

**PREPARATION OF RECORDS**

The local board assembles for each registrant the following records: Report of Physical Examination and Induction (Form 221); Certificate of Fitness (Form 218); any waiver of disqualification; any order terminating civil custody; any Alien's Personal History and Statement (Form 304) or Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry (Form 304A) bearing the armed forces endorsement of acceptability for military service; all records available bearing upon the medical, social, and educational history of such registrant; and all other information bearing on the fitness of the registrant for military service.

**TRANSFER OF LOCAL BOARD FOR INDUCTION**

When a registrant is located so far from his own local board that reporting to it for induction would be a hardship, he may be transferred to the local board of the area in which he is located. Application for transfer may be made either at the time the registrant is ordered to report for preinduction physical examination or as soon as he receives his Order to Report for Induction.

The registrant may do this by filling out a Request for Transfer of Delivery (Form 154) at his nearest local board. This transfer will be made for nisei by order of the Director of Selective Service in accordance with Local Board Memorandum No. 179. The transferred inductee is credited to his own local board and not to the board of transfer. All of his records will be returned to his own local board when he has been inducted or rejected, or if he fails to report for induction.

**DUTIES OF REGISTRANTS**

When the registrants who are to be forwarded for induction have assembled, the local board will call the roll and appoint a leader and assistant leaders. The local board will instruct all registrants in the group that it is their duty to obey their leaders during the time they are going to the place of induction; that they will be met by proper representatives of the armed forces; and that they must present themselves and submit to induction.

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Selective Service Manual Sections 632, 633
Amended 1-2-44, 2-2-44
OUR FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

"...The Citizens Committee of Topaz is opposed to the discriminatory segregation of all Japanese American draftees. Therefore, we make the following recommendations to the President of the United States and to the War Department:
1. No further segregated units of Japanese Americans be formed;
2. Draftees not to be made replacements for the segregated 100th or the 442nd Battalions;
3. All draftees to be assigned to various units of the Army as other Americans are;
4. If qualified, all branches of the armed forces to be opened to Japanese American draftees.

"In making these recommendations we are thinking of the postwar advantages in fighting side by side with other Americans. Our fight for equal rights, equal privileges will not stop with the armistice. Our fight must continue; because we must fight the war of American prejudice...Buddies, regardless of color or ancestry, made on the battle fields can best help to accomplish this great task that is before us—a task that is for a greater America."

—Citizens Committee of Topaz
Frank Yamasaki, Chairman
February 26, 1944
"It is the policy of the War Department that all men inducted into the Army will be employed in a manner most useful to the prosecution of the war. In furtherance of this policy it is contemplated assigning many of the citizens of Japanese ancestry as replacements for the 120th Battalion and for the 442nd Combat Team.

The new inductees may thus be assigned to various branches of the service including Infantry, Field Artillery, Engineers, and Medical Corps, and also to the Military Intelligence Service. In general, however, the assignment of individuals in this category will be governed by the existing needs at the time of their entry into the military service."

--- Maj. Gen. J. A. Ulio
The Adjutant General
March 20, 1944

**REASONS**

The War Department does not consider it advisable to utilize Japanese Americans in the Pacific theater of operations. If a Japanese American unit were present in combat in the Pacific, it would be possible for the enemy Japanese to secure American uniforms from dead soldiers and mingle with American Japanese units, thereby causing considerable confusion and increasing hazards of enemy infiltration. Should this occur it would jeopardize the American Japanese soldier inasmuch as his facial characteristics make it difficult to distinguish him from the enemy infiltrator.

"Again, if a Japanese American were captured in the Pacific, it is felt that retaliation measures taken by the Japanese would be in the form of extreme torture, since it seems apparent from past Japanese actions that such individuals might not be considered as prisoners of war..."

Certain Japanese Americans have been employed as interpreters in the Pacific theaters, but this use has been made of Japanese American personnel with the full realization by the War Department of the risks involved to these individuals.

"May I point out that the privilege of requesting assignment in a specific branch is not an obligation upon the War Department to see that these requests are always granted..."

"...As the character of the war continues to change from defensive to offensive operations, the number of different types of units which are required will change in increasing measure. This necessitates a constant conversion of units from one type to another, and in this conversion the wishes of the individual will often have to be subordinated to the overall military need."

--- Lt. Col. Harrison A. Gerhardt
General Staff Corps
March 14, 1944

**ENLISTED RESERVE CORPS**

"...We are now informed that all niseis inducted into the Army are to be placed in the Enlisted Reserve Corps and presumably will return to centers for a few days still out of uniform but under jurisdiction of Selective Service. When sufficient men have been accumulated all will be ordered by the Service Command to report at a specified time and place to begin training. No furlough is in-

---

Roscoe E. Bell
Acting Project Director
March 15, 1944

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"...We are now informed that all..."
Draftees who wish to go to the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage should apply by letter to Captain Paul F. Rusch, Director of Personnel, Camp Savage, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Men already placed in the Enlisted Reserve Corps may also apply.

We are continuing to examine volunteers for Military Intelligence Service Language School to determine if they are linguistically qualified. This procedure is now being carried on by mail upon receipt of letter of application from individuals. By this method we are able to decide their language qualifications. Upon their actual induction through the normal procedure of the draft, and after acceptable applicants have notified us of their induction, army serial number, organization and station, we then request their transfer to Camp Savage.

So many volunteers, previously accepted by us, have been rejected for physical reasons. To prevent this loss by physical rejection, we are not requesting men until they have passed the Army physical and actually inducted into the Army.

—Capt. Paul F. Rusch
March 16, 1944

This headquarters is selecting physically and linguistically qualified Americans of Japanese ancestry for additional classes at Camp Savage. Classes are being formed for June, day to be announced later. Those found qualified will be called as soon as they are cleared.

—Colonel Rasmusson
MIS Language School
March 31, April 4, 1944
The third nationwide test for students who wished to be considered for the Army Specialized Training Program and the Navy College Program was held on March 15, 1944. A summary of this test is given here since it is likely that future tests will be based on this one.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
EDUCATION—High school graduate or high school senior in last semester.
AGE--Students between the ages of 17 and 20 may apply for either Army or Navy. Students between the ages of 20 and 22 may apply only for the Army.
OTHER QUALIFICATIONS—Evidence potential officer qualifications, including appearance and scholarship records.

NATURE OF TEST
The test is designed to measure the aptitude and general knowledge required for success in the college programs. Familiarity with elementary mathematics is essential. The test takes two hours and is divided into three parts: the first part tests knowledge of the meaning and use of words; the second part asks questions about scientific matters which are of general knowledge; the third section consists of a number of problems in mathematics.

All questions are of the "best-answer" type in which several answers are given for each question or problem, from which one is to be selected as the best or correct one.

ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM
The purpose of the Army Specialized Training Program is to provide technicians and specialists for the Army. Those selected for this program will study, at government expense, at colleges, and universities in fields determined largely by their own qualifications. They will be soldiers on active duty, in uniform, under military discipline, and on regular Army pay. All trainees are subject to call to other active duty at all times.

Some of the major fields of study for ASTP trainees are: Chemical, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Marine, and Sanitary Engineering; Medicine and Dentistry; Personnel Psychology; Foreign Area and Language Study; Veterinary Medicine; Surveying; Internal Combustion Engines; Communications and Optics; Military and Physical Training. The curricula for these courses vary in length from one to eight 12-week terms. Medical and dental curricula are the same length as at accredited colleges.

Upon induction, candidates who received satisfactory scores on the qualifying test are sent to special Army training stations for their thirteen weeks of basic military training. During this basic training period selection is made to fill the vacancies in ASTP courses.

RESERVE PROGRAM
Candidates not over 17 years and 9 months of age on July 1, 1944, who were notified by the War Department that they made a qualifying score on the test may apply for immediate induction. If they are found physically qualified and meet certain other requirements, they will be enlisted in the Enlisted Reserve Corps for participation in the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program. The reserve program assures a candidate of training in the ASTP. Other candidates of draftable age must wait until called for induction by their local selective service board.

On June 1, 1944, the War Department authorized the enlistment of non-soldiers for participation in the ASTP.
The following information was taken from Booklet FA-1, Monthly Allowances for the Dependents of Soldiers; from the Training Circular No. 25 of the Office of Dependency Benefits, Revised Nov., 1943; and from section 50.9.7A of the WRA Manual concerning the War Department's ruling of evacuee status.

ALLOWANCE FOR DEPENDENTS

Under the Serviceman's Dependents Allowance Act of 1942 as amended, the Government will help enlisted men in all grades to take care of dependents by means of family allowances. The War Department Office of Dependency Benefits, Newark 2, New Jersey, an activity of the Army Service Forces, administers and pays family allowances for the Army.

The family allowance is made up of money deducted from the soldier's pay and money contributed by the Government.

The relatives and dependents of a soldier are divided into three classes: Class A, Class B-1, Class B.

CLASS A DEPENDENTS

In this class are the wife and children of the soldier and a former wife divorced to whom alimony is payable. Class A relatives do not have to be dependent upon the soldier to be eligible for family allowances.

Lawful wife includes wife living in soldier's household, also wife living separate and apart (not legally separated) or, if legally separated, under terms providing for maintenance or support. Also includes common-law wife if the marriage was contracted in a state which recognizes common-law marriages.

Former wife divorced includes only the former wife who has not remarried and to whom alimony is still payable.

Child includes soldier's legitimate child, an adopted child, a step-child, if a member of the soldier's household, or illegitimate child if proof of paternity is submitted. Also any child to whom the soldier has stood in loco parentis (in place of parent) for at least one year prior to date of application.

To be eligible, a child must be unmarried and under 18 years of age, or of any age if incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical defect.

CLASS B-1 DEPENDENTS

This class includes parents (father and mother), grandparents, adopted parents, minor brothers and sisters including those of half-blood, step-brothers and sisters, brothers and sisters through adoption. They must be dependent upon the soldier for their chief support.

To be eligible, a brother or sister must be unmarried and under 18 years of age, or of any age if incapable of self-support because of physical or mental defect.

CLASS B DEPENDENTS

This class includes parents, brothers and sisters who are dependent upon the soldier for a substantial portion of their support. Class B dependents may receive a family allowance only if there are no Class B-1 dependents named in the applications.

DEPENDENTS IN WRA CAMP

The War Department has ruled that the fact that Class B dependents of Japanese nationality reside in a relocation center, where food, shelter, and medical care are provided by the government, does not render them ineligible for an allowance, if all the elements of dependency are present.

The question of dependency will be decided by the War Department after all of the circumstances affecting the individual are considered.

...Regarding deductions for subsistence from allowances...to rela-
tives of servicemen of Japanese ancestry, the War Department gives consideration to the basis upon which relocation centers are operated. No deductions for subsistence will be made...

—E. J. Utz
Acting Director
WRA, Washington
March 13, 1944

HOW TO APPLY

The soldier should apply for the family allowance himself if practicable. He should file the applications with his Commanding Officer on the official application form (WD AGO No. 625) which will be given him at the reception center. These forms are also available at Army recruiting stations, local chapters of the American Red Cross, and the War Department Office of Dependency Benefits.

Instructions are printed on the forms. The copy marked Applicant's Copy should be retained and all remaining pages mailed to the Office of Dependency Benefits, Newark 2, New Jersey. The Topaz welfare section, 2-9-F, will have application forms and will assist you in filling out the forms and instruct you as to what documentary evidence is necessary to accompany the application.

Although it is preferable for the soldier to apply, dependents may apply too. The wife or child of a soldier (also a divorced wife who has not remarried and to whom alimony is still payable) may receive this benefit, with or without the soldier's consent. But Class B-1 and Class B dependents may receive it only if the soldier agrees.

HOW SOON ALLOWANCE IS PAYABLE

For Class A and Class B-1 dependents, an "initial" payment (contributed entirely by the Government) is payable for the month in which the soldier enters active duty on pay status, provided that he applies within fifteen days of his entry on such duty. Regular monthly payments thereafter are payable from the first of the month following the month in which application was made.

For Class B dependents no "initial" family allowance is payable. The regular monthly family allowance is effective for the month in which application is made.

DEDUCTION FROM SOLDIER'S PAY

$22.00 per month is deducted from a soldier's pay if the family allowance is for any one of the three classes. The deduction is increased to $27.00 if there is more than one class of dependents.

TABLE OF ALLOTMENTS

Class A dependents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wife alone (no child)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife and 1 child</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife and 2 children</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional child</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former wife divorced</td>
<td>up to $42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former wife divorced and 1 child</td>
<td>up to $72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former wife divorced and 2 children</td>
<td>up to $92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional child</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class B-1 Dependents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 parent</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 parents</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 parent and 1 brother or sister</td>
<td>$68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 parents and 1 brother or sister</td>
<td>$79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 brother or sister but no parent</td>
<td>$42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional brother or sister</td>
<td>$11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class B Dependents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 or more Class B dependent</td>
<td>$37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This amount is a flat rate, no matter how many dependents there are, and is payable only if there is no family allowance to any Class B-1 dependent.
VOLUNTARY ALLOTMENTS-OF-PAY

A voluntary Class E allotment-of-pay is a voluntary allotment authorized by a man in the Army, by Wacs, by Army nurses, and by certain civilian employees of the War Department on duty outside of the United States. The allotment-of-pay is deducted from the allottee's pay each month. The Office of Dependency Benefits sends an equivalent amount to his dependents in the form of a government check. It may be in any amount the allottee wishes to authorize, provided (if he is an enlisted man) he leaves himself not less than $10 a month.

An allotment-of-pay is a sum deducted entirely from the serviceman's own pay. It is not to be confused with a family allowance, which consists of a sum deducted from the soldier's pay plus a sum contributed by the government, and which is payable only to certain relatives or dependents.

U.S. ARMY PAY

The monthly pay for enlisted men in the Army and for Wacs is as follows:

- Privates, less than 3 years service: $50
- Privates, First Class: $54
- Corporals, Technician 5th Grade: $66
- Sergeants, Technician 4th Grade: $78
- Staff Sergeants, Technician 3rd Grade: $96
- First or Technical Sergeants: $114
- Master Sergeants: $132

Enlisted men receive additional monthly pay on the following qualifications:

- Use of fire arms, first class, $5; second class, $4; third class, $3; fourth class, $2; fifth class, $1.
- Medal of Honor, $2; Distinguished Service Cross, $2; Distinguished Service Medal, $2; Distinguished Flying Cross, $2; Soldier's Medal, $2.
- For each bar in lieu of Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Medal, Flying Cross, or Soldier's Medal, $2.

PAY OF CAPTIVES

A soldier who is captured is entitled to his pay during the time of his captivity. While it is obviously impossible to deliver pay to a captured soldier, such amounts as may have been allotted from his pay for the support of his dependents, insurance premiums or savings continue to be paid during his absence. Upon return to the control of the U.S. Army, he is paid the amount that has accrued to his credit less amounts that have been paid for the purposes mentioned above.

PAY FOR MEN MISSING IN ACTION

In the case of soldiers who are reported missing in action, Public Law 490, which was signed by the President on March 7, 1942, authorizes such soldiers to be continued on pay status for a period of one year following the date on which they are reported missing. Their pay will be accumulated and allotments will continue to be paid to their beneficiaries as in the case of captive soldiers. If at the end of one year the status of the missing soldier has not been clarified, he is assumed to be dead and all payments on his account cease. If at a later date it is determined that he is still alive, his account is reopened and payments are resumed.

—World Almanac, 1943
The Women's Army Corps is a branch of the U. S. Army. Pay allowances, and all other benefits (such as medical and dental services, life insurance at Army rates, free mail, special rates on railroad tickets) are the same for Wacs as for Army men. A Wac's term of service is for the duration of the war plus a period not to exceed six months, the same as with Army men.

Wacs must be citizens of the United States, 20 to 45 years of age. They may be married or single but must not have children under 14 years of age. Two years of high school and a satisfactory aptitude rating meet the educational requirements.

Wacs may be assigned to the Army Air Forces, Army Ground Forces, or the Army Service Forces which includes the Signal Corps, Quartermaster Corps, Ordnance Division, Transportation Corps, and the Medical Department. All three forces of the Army are open tonice girls.

Basic training for Wacs takes five weeks. WAC training centers are located at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. After basic training a Wac who had a civilian training that fits her for an Army job may be sent directly to duty at an Army post.

For many Army jobs, Wacs receive technical training at various specialist schools. There are WAC schools offering studies in keeping military records in a Clerks' Course; management of mess halls in a Cooks' Course; mechanics and driving in a Motor Transport Course. Wacs also attend Army schools for Photographic Laboratory Technicians; Code Clerk; Enlisted Technicians, including Medical, Surgical, Dental, Laboratory, and X-Rays courses; and Army Finance.

Persons in the active service of the armed forces may purchase insurance which will be paid to the widow, widower, child, parent, brother, or sister of the insured. Nationals of Japan may be named as beneficiaries of such policies, even though they have been evacuated to a relocation center or have been interned for the duration of the war.

A soldier is given 120 days in which to decide whether he wants a policy. Such insurance is issued in any multiple of $500 and the amount of such insurance with respect to any one person cannot be less than $1,000 or more than $10,000.

The government also protects soldiers against loss of their existing policies in commercial companies in an aggregate amount not exceeding $5,000 for non-payment of premiums during the training period or one year thereafter. If a policy is to lapse for non-payment of premium, the Government sends to the life insurance company a certificate bearing interest which becomes security for the premiums due.

The Government is protected by executing a lien on the policy for the amount of its certificate and interest. At the end of the soldier's service, the policyholder has one year in which to pay past due premiums plus interest. If he fails to do so, the policy lapses and the government executes its lien upon the cash surrender value.

WRA Manual 50.9.7D

—World Almanac, 1943
The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.  

"We mothers of American citizens of Japanese descent, have fully cooperated for years with the American educational system so that our children would be worthy American citizens. We have taught our children to affirm their loyalty especially in time of a national emergency. This is in keeping with the traditional spirit of Japanese mothers. As you may know, before the evacuation we did not in one instance oppose the drafting of our sons, but willingly sent them with our encouragement.

"...The Government has already impressed upon the public the fact that many have volunteered before evacuation, have gone overseas and established brilliant records. A number of our boys have volunteered even from the War Relocation Centers. The motivating impulse behind our sons' willingness to serve with loyalty, courage and self-sacrifice is not only love for their country, but also the hope that their families will be accorded greater consideration and the restoration of their rights.
With the reinstitution of selective service for Japanese Americans on the same basis as other citizens, we mothers deplore the discriminatory measures directed against them. We desire for our sons the privilege of receiving full benefits accorded American citizens.

"...Because we firmly believe that sincerity on the part of the Government can best be proved by proper action, we humbly request that civil rights be restored to our children now. Then can we courageously send forth our sons to fulfill their responsibility to their Country without any fear whatever for their own or for their families' security.

"Therefore, we trust that the Government will keep faith with the democratic principles upon which America was founded.

"We, the undersigned mothers respectfully submit this statement for your consideration.

—The Committee of Six
for the Mothers of Topaz
March 11, 1944
"Two years ago...—on the 18th day of March, 1942—the War Relocation Authority was created by an executive order of the President of the United States. This new agency was confronted with a problem of unusual complexity in a field of human relations where misconceptions, confusion, and emotions stirred by the impact of the war were destined to produce wide and vigorous discussion...

"The evacuation of 112,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast in the spring of 1942 was an undertaking without parallel in our national history. On February 19, the President issued an executive order authorizing the Secretary of War, or military commanders designated by him, to prescribe military areas from which any or all persons might be excluded, or in which their movements might be restricted...

"I want to emphasize that neither the President, in his orders authorizing the designating exclusion areas and creating the War Relocation Authority, nor the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command in any military proclamation, ever ordered or suggested that the people to be evacuated should be confined or restricted in their movements outside the exclusion areas on the Pacific Coast. It was soon apparent, however, that 110,000 people could not be ordered to leave the coastal area and migrate inland without some kind of assistance and supervision...

"The evacuation was accomplished under army orders, according to a definite schedule. The people were moved, first, into 15 temporary assembly centers where they remained under army supervision until the relocation centers, operated by the War Relocation Authority, were ready to receive them.

"...We began in the late summer of 1942 to gear up a program for relocating the evacuees in year-round employment and in normal communities outside the evacuated area. One problem that had to be given major consideration in our planning from the start was the necessity of taking adequate precautions to safeguard the national security.

"...We started almost immediately building up records on the relocation center population. The most important step in this process was taken in February, 1943. In collaboration with the army, the War Relocation Authority conducted a mass registration of all persons in the centers above 17 years of age. Both men and women, citizens and aliens, were required to fill out questionnaires calling for information on such matters as education, previous employment, relatives in Japan, knowledge of the Japanese language, investments in Japan, organizational and religious affiliations, and other pertinent matters.

"In addition, the citizen evacuees were asked to pledge allegiance to the United States, and the aliens were asked to promise that they would abide by the Nation's laws and not interfere with the war effort. The information obtained from these questionnaires has been extremely useful in identifying strongly pro-Japanese
or potentially dangerous individuals who are denied the privilege of leave under our regulations...

"Our biggest problem today is to find ways and means of relocating thousands of families which include children and young people whose alien parents desire to remain in America. Our job is to get them away from the relocation centers into normal communities where they can develop into normal men and women. This relocation process cannot be accomplished, however, until we have opened the door for their parents to regain the means of self-support that they lost when they were evacuated...

"Several thousand young American volunteers of Japanese descent, recruited from the American mainland and Hawaii, are now undergoing vigorous training to prepare them for battle against our Axis enemies. The officers who command them have repeatedly praised them for earnest and intelligent devotion to duty. In Italy, in the battle for Cassino and elsewhere, the fighting men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of Americans of Japanese descent, have won the praise of their commanders for their valor in battle...Many of these American soldiers of Japanese ancestry have parents who are still living in relocation centers.

"Fundamentally, the campaign against Americans of Japanese ancestry is a campaign of hate. The forces leading this drive have deliberately set out to foster mass hatred, and in many parts of this State they have already reaped a bumper crop. One of their favorite devices is to identify the people in relocation centers as closely as possible with our real enemies across the Pacific. Basically, this strategy is a denial of the potency of American institutions. It assumes that merely because an individual is of Japanese extraction, he is somehow immune to the effect of our public school system and of all the other Americanizing influences that operate in a normal American community. Let me say emphatically that I have more faith than that in the strength of our American institutions. And I feel positive that they have been far more influential in molding the minds of the nisei than the transplanted institutions of Japan.

"The War Relocation Authority in the execution of its responsibilities is working to preserve the principles of justice and equality guaranteed in the Constitution of our Country. We are working to uphold the principles of human decency that distinguish civilization from barbarism.

"We are looking to the future with an earnest hope that our efforts may greatly minimize the post-war problem of readjusting our Japanese American population into normal living. There is no need for the problem to be difficult if it is handled with intelligence and courage."

—Dillon S. Myer
Pasadena, California
March 14, 1944
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This summary contains the latest information available to the editors at the time of printing. Since all parts of the summary are necessarily subject to change with the fortunes of war, it is planned to issue supplements from time to time to take care of any changes that do occur.

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REINSTITUTION OF SELECTIVE SERVICE is a publication of the Citizens Committee of Topaz and the Community Council in cooperation with the Project Reports Division, Central Utah Project, Topaz, Utah; L. T. Hoffman, Project Director; Corliss A. Carter and J. Hugh Turner, acting for Local Board No. 39, Millard County, Utah; Russell A. Lankson, Reports Officer; Frank Yamasaki, Chairman, Citizens Committee; Dr. George Ochikubo, Chairman, Community Council.
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.

That we here highly resolve that these dead should not have died in vain; that their nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TOPAZ CITIZENS FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (NON SEGREGATED UNITS)

In a public statement directed to the Sec'y of War Stimson, on Feb. 1, 1943, President Roosevelt expressed his views on the nisei's exercising their responsibilities of citizenship as follows:

The proposal of the War Dept. to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly 5,000 loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country. This is natural and a logical step toward the reinstatement of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

"No loyal citizen of the U.S. should be denied the democratic right to exercise his responsibilities of his citizenship regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contributions—whether it be in the ranks of the armed forces, war production, agriculture, civil service, or other work essential to the war effort."

"I am glad to observe that the War Dept., the Navy Dept., the War Manpower Commission, the Dept. of Justice, and the VRA are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort."

After reviewing the action of the 100th Battalion in Italy, the War Dept. has taken a great step in reinstating the Selective Service to American citizens of Japanese descent: The excellent showing which the combat team has made in training and the outstanding record achieved by the 100th Battalion, a former Hawaiian Nat'l Guard unit now fighting in Italy, were major factors in the present plan.

Before and after Pearl Harbor, through evacuation, and relocation the nisei, American citizens of Japanese descent, have shown their loyalty by complying with all government regulations although it meant undue hardship. After a thorough investigation of the activities of the nisei prior to and after the war, responsible government agents have made the following statements:

a. James Rowe, Jr., assistant to the Attorney General on April 20, 1942: "Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has advised me there was no sabotage committed there (in Hawaii) prior to Dec. 7, on Dec. 7, or subsequent to that time."

b. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, on March 30: "The War Department has received no information of sabotage committed by Japanese during the attack on Pearl Harbor."

c. Honolulu Chief of Police, Gabrielson: "....There were no acts of sabotage committed in the city and county of Honolulu Dec. 7, nor have there been acts of sabotage reported to the Police Department since that date."
Chief Agent, Hawaii, Federal Bureau of Investigation to Blake Clark, summer of 1948: "You can say, without fear of contradiction, that there has not been a single act of sabotage."

To further test our loyalty to the U.S. the 100th and the 442nd Japanese American Infantry Battalion combat teams, composed mostly of volunteers, were organized. Tried as no other citizens have been tried and proven to be worthy Americans, we feel no further proof of our loyalty is necessary.

We are not only fighting for the sameness of purpose with other fellow Americans, but we are also fighting the war of American prejudice and intolerance at home.

President Roosevelt has stated that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry, but in actual practice the acceptance of the people of this statement can only be achieved by fighting side by side with other free Americans of other descent; and with the cooperation of the War Department.

With the above facts and the principles of American democracy in mind the Topaz Citizens Committee is opposed to the discriminatory segregation of all Japanese American draftees. Therefore, we make the following recommendations to the President of the United States and to the War Department.

1. No further segregated units of Japanese Americans be formed.
2. Draftees are not to be made replacements for the segregated 100th nor the 442nd Battalions.
3. All draftees to be assigned to various units of the army as other Americans.
4. If qualified, all branches of the armed forces to be opened to the Japanese American draftees.

In making these recommendations we are thinking of the post war advantages in fighting side by side with other Americans. Our fight for equal rights, equal privileges will not stop with the armistice. Our fight must continue, because we must fight the war of American prejudice. As well as winning the war at the battle front we are desirous of winning the war against intolerance that has subjected the minority groups at home. Buddies, regardless of color or ancestry, made on the battle fields can best help to accomplish this great task that is before us—a task that is for a greater America.

Topaz Citizens
Chairman: Frank Yamasaki
Secretary: Seiko Yakahi
Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us, to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

By President Abraham Lincoln
A salesman comes to our door. He shows us his wares and tells us how good they are. We examine them. We like them. We buy them. Or we don't like them. We turn the salesman away.

The social acceptance of a racial minority works the same way. Up till just lately our acceptability to a community depended on our own individual efforts and salesmanship. The evacuation changed all that. Some of us thought that our government was against us. We had our gripes, plenty of them. We talked about what social and economic positions our parents had been able to build up and of the way in which all that was destroyed by this war. We saw the sad faces of our parents, we heard the tearful voices of our brothers and sisters. Those of us who had children asked, What is to become of them, their future?

On January 28, 1943—a date we Japanese-Americans will never forget—a proclamation from Washington told us that our government is definitely interested in our welfare and that it is prepared to take a definite action to help us solve our problems; it told us that it was going to sell us to the Americans by telling them in a dramatic manner how capable, how dependable, and how completely loyal we are to our country. One of the ways in which our salesman Uncle Sam was to sell us was to form a VOLUNTEER COMBAT UNIT for us, so that our fellow-countrymen could say to each other, "Look at them. They are NOT ONLY LOYAL but they are VOLUNTEERING in a combat unit. And look what good soldiers they make! Fellows who bait these people just don't know what they are talking about!"

Thanks, Uncle Sam! You're great! By selling us to the American public you are creating for us a future which is going to be far greater than anything we in our little communities have ever (Continued on Page 5)
Dear —,—

I have volunteered to be enlisted as a soldier in the Army of the United States. I did this because it is my firm conviction that the destiny of the Japanese American people is here in America. I say this fully aware of the fact that we, as a minority among 130,000,000 people, have for years suffered from racial discrimination and prejudices, and have found life in this country a continuous and bitter struggle for the elevation of our social status.

I am as much embittered as any other evacuee when I consider how our race was singled out to be uprooted from our homes, farms and business on the Pacific Coast and herded behind barbed-wire fences, even though we were American citizens and our parents were law-abiding pioneers who have been denied citizenship by the U.S. naturalization laws.

But my faith in America and in our destiny here is something that, I am certain, can be understood and shared in by every thinking evacuee—or by any other person who, though oppressed through discrimination, knows that there is in the American way of life something that stands as being incompatible with totalitarianism.

The fundamental reason which prompted him to offer himself to the armed forces is this: Because he so cherished the American way of life, he felt that future generations of the Japanese American people must not, through the possible blindness, selfishness or reluctance of those of us living today, be denied their right to live in a democratic America as respected and proud American citizens.

We, the Japanese Americans, in our present plight have innumerable reasons to feel embittered. To most of us, evacuation—the mass uprooting of our families, friends, and ourselves from homes and businesses on the Coast—appears totally unjust.

But whether anyone objects or not, evacuation has become a grim reality. There remains for us now but one choice: We must make up our minds today whether we in our bitterness will discard our only chance to find our rightful place in American society, or whether we will hold back our personal grievances in the realization of the truth that the future of our posterity as well as ourselves rests on our courage and sacrifice.

The United States government is offering us, through Secretary of War Stimson’s statement of January 28th last, an opportunity to present the one solid evidence which none can refute—the evidence that we are loyal enough to fight in the U.S. Army; that we are worthy to live, work, fight and die as Americans. Only with evidence as strong as this can we most effectively prove to American public opinion that the Congressional, State legislatural and private factions which seek to crush us through proposals calling for the deprivation of our citizenship, mass deportation after the war, Army control of relocation centers and other discriminatory measures.

Even a possible future removal of the Pacific Coast evacuation boundaries by the Fourth Army Defense Command and the Federal Government would not insure our security or the return of our former status, unless we have in our hands the one weapon with which we could turn away any opposing tide of public opinion—an invincible weapon, the indisputable proof of our loyalty to the United States.

DANIEL C. OTA
Commenting editorially on the War Department announcement that nisei volunteers will be accepted for active military service, we said in our Feb. 3rd issue: “What we face is the acid test. If we flunk it, we damn ourselves and our posterity.”

Project Director Stafford’s statement in today’s Irrigator, based as it is upon the latest clarifying declarations from the War Department, unmistakably underlines the thesis that the entire future of the Japanese in the United States rests with the success or failure of the volunteer program. The alternatives before us are to speed the alleviation of the situation in which 100,000 of America’s Japanese are now stagnating, or to aggravate it and face rougher going along the road ahead.

Eligible nisei who have been sitting back in the misleading hope that they will be drafted later, and that they therefore need not step forth now, can no longer “leave it up to the other guys.” It is now clear that the War Department’s program does not provide a fence which can be straddled conveniently by those who are unwilling to discard their complacency. There can be no more holding back with “yes, but” rationalizations.

And if it should be charged that we are being forced to volunteer, let it be remembered first that the compulsion arises only from our own dilemma. Our dilemma, it is true, may not be of our making, but that does not alter the fact that we are in it and cannot afford to refuse or make ill use of the opportunity that is now ours to grasp. And let it be remembered, secondly, that it is “doubtful” that we will be given another chance to show, with dramatic effectiveness, the solid American stuff which we claim we are made of.

The hard, unrelenting fact is that the fix we are in—and the extent and importance of all that is at stake—does not permit petty quibbling and squirming of hyper-sensitive criticism at the one great chance we have. For the burden we bear is that we are to decide in no small measure, whether the generations to follow us will walk the main streets of America as equal citizens, or seek the side streets as despised pariahs.

—D.D.M.

Dyke Miyagawa wrote last week in an editorial in the Irrigator: “For the burden we bear is that we are to decide in no small measure whether the generations to follow us will walk the main streets of America as equal citizens, or seek the side streets as despised pariahs.”

As a parallel to the thought expressed by Mr. Miyagawa, I refer to Winston Churchill’s tribute to the handful of Hurricane fighter pilots who defended London against the German blitz of 1940. Churchill said that never in history did “so many owe so much to so few.”

I am positive that future generations of Japanese Americans will look back upon the voluntary Japanese military unit of 1943 with a similar observation. The question is: Will a sufficient number of Japanese Americans of this generation act now to secure their posterity? As I have learned to know the people of Minidoka, both old and young, I am confident that the boys have the “solid American stuff” necessary, and they will do it. H.L. Stafford

The articles on this page have been reprinted from the February 13 and 17 issues of the “Minidoka Irrigator,” the weekly newspaper of the WRA center at Hunt, Idaho.
HERE’S WHY WE’RE VOLUNTEERING

TARO KATAYAMA: “My reason for volunteering is simple. America is the only country I have ever known. Whatever benefits in life I have received up to now, I have received as an American citizen. Whatever I may make of my life in the future, I want to do so in this country. I could not do this with a clear conscience, nor would I be deserving of the chance, if I shirked now the duty and the opportunity I have as a citizen to serve this nation in her fight for survival.”

WALTER NAKATA: “I volunteered because I felt it was the natural thing to do.”

ROBERT S. INO: “One of the privileges of having principles is to be able to fight for them.”

HENRY H. BEIHARA: “You can say that I volunteered for a selfish reason. Yes, perhaps that is true, because first of all I want to assure happiness and security in America for my parents, brothers and sisters, This is their country, This is my country, There is no other country for us, It is our struggle for survival so that we can assure for ourselves a place in our country, the United States of America. Our future in America is at stake—our acts now will decide how we are to live in America—whether as free people or looked upon with suspicion and hate, because we refused to take part when the security of our nation was endangered.”

GEOGE KAWAI: “I am a stateless person and am not an American citizen. But I am willing to fight for any government which gives me a gun to fight against fascism. That is my reason for volunteering.”

JAMES KI: “I consider myself an educator. I have been doing what little I could to advance the cause of common man’s struggle against tyranny. My volunteering in the armed forces of the United States is merely an extension of my daily activities as a humble teacher. I am against the military-fascist dictatorship that rules Japan, Germany, and all the other Axis-dominated nations. I am for true democracy everywhere. And I am willing to die for my principle, which is at the same time the principle for which the United Nations are fighting. This is the only important reason for my volunteering.”

NOBUO KITAGAKI: “My one desire has been to join my closest friends, the sons of our neighbors back home, and my brother in this fight for freedom—now I can be near them.”

ERNST S. IYAMA: “I have always believed in fighting for the freedom and right of the “common man.” Believing that these principles for which we have been struggling are at stake in this war, and believing that a victory over our enemies abroad will be a victory over our enemies at home, I want to take up arms to help hurry this people’s victory and the people’s peace to follow.”

S. KITAOKA: “I volunteered to serve in the armed forces of the United States, because I am convinced that the government is really sincere in its efforts to give us and our families a chance to prove ourselves loyal Americans beyond a doubt. The formation of a successful all volunteer combat team should prove our loyalty to the land of our birth.”

KANO E. ARIMOTO: “For the sake and future of all Japanese who are staying here in the United States, I am volunteering my services to this, my country.”

TED YAMAN: “I’m no chump, tho’ knows, I may be rejected for one reason or another, But no one can say I'm not trying. Ever think of your future—your family’s and your friends? I have.”

KARE AKIYA: “I was educated in Japan where I learned the meaning of fascism and where I learned to fight against its oppressive measures, I fought its police dogs and its military lackeys. As I now volunteer to serve in the United States Army I am thinking not only of defending American democracy against all foes, but also of whatever contribution I may be able to make toward the emancipation of all peoples, including the common people of Japan, from their fascist masters. I am happy to know that many of the so-called “kibei”, who have often been characterized as “pro-Axis”, have joined our ranks, and I hope that I shall be able to see more of them as my comrades-at-arms.”
WAR DEPARTMENT STATES REASONS FOR "AJ" UNIT

In a wire sent here recently, Colonel Scoby of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War made the following statement on the reasons behind the separate Japanese American combat unit plan:

"The question that has arisen most frequently is "Why is a segregated unit being formed and will the combat team fight in the same battle areas with Caucasian troops?" The Secretary of War has directed that the following reply be brought to the attention of all Japanese Americans within your center:

It is only because the War Department desires to aid the loyal Japanese Americans that a separate unit is being formed. Millions of people are not familiar with the Japanese Americans. By their forming an all Japanese American combat team on a voluntary basis the American people will be presented with the incontrovertible fact that there are loyal Japanese Americans who are willing to fight for the United States. If involuntarys were spread throughout the Army their enlistments would attract little attention but the formation of an all Japanese American combat team composed entirely of volunteers will help tremendously to convince those who oppose the Japanese American.

It is hoped that the Japanese American combat team will become one of the outstanding units of the American Army. This combat team will fight with and as a part of a Caucasian force. The War Department has faith in the loyal Japanese Americans. This is a splendid opportunity to demonstrate to the American people and to the War Department that Japanese Americans have faith in America. A success of the program and the voluntary feature of induction will be a great step forward in the rehabilitation plans for Japanese Americans.

A VOLUNTEER'S LETTER (Continued from Page 1)

A giga sion of man's will to fit and strive for the betterment of his position.

I believe that it is the desire of every Japanese American today to have his children live as respected citizens in a democratic America, and not as a hated people, destitute of hope, courage and contentment.

Yet we cannot have this desire realized unless we are willing now—when the War Department offers us the chance to fight for America on the battlefront—to devote the utmost of ourselves to this cause, and to let not the darkness of our present situation or our grievances prevent us from proving our worth before the eyes of the American public.

KOZO KITAIURA

INSURANCE FOR INDUCTEES NOW MADE POSSIBLE

Every inductee who makes an application in writing (made within 120 days after entrance into the Army) will be granted insurance on the five-year level premium term plan by the United States against the death of that person occurring while his insurance is in force.

The payments will be made to the following beneficiaries and in the order named: (a) to the widow or widower of the insured, if living and unmarried; (b) to the child or children, if living, in equal shares, if the insured leaves no widow or widower; (c) to the dependent mother or father, if living, in equal shares, in the event the insured leaves no widow or widower, or child.

The premium rates will be based upon the American Experience Table of Mortality and interest at 3% per year.

The insurance becomes effective from the first day of the month following the date of application. It will be issued in any multiple of $500 and the amount of the insurance for one person will not be less than $1,000 or more than $10,000.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE? (Cont. from Page 1)

Known. We'll help you, Uncle Sam, by showing ourselves worthy of your support so that the future of us and our dear ones will not be the life of pariahs.

"Before coming here I served with the army in California and commanded California troops," the general said. "Among the men under me were many Americans of Japanese ancestry, and I want to say they were among the best soldiers we had.

"We are proud of them and the record they made. They are very fine, high class soldiers and the type of soldiers who present no disciplinary problems. We were very sorry to lose them when they were sent east."

(The American Japanese soldiers of whom Gen. Mittelstaedt refers were California nisei who were in training at various U.S. Army posts in California before evacuation. At the time of evacuation the nisei soldiers were also reassigned to new posts outside the Western Defense Command.)

Gen. Mittelstaedt had high praise for the part the Americans of Japanese extraction have played in the general war effort.

**HERE'S THE 'FIGHTING 100TH'**

This picture drawn from an official U.S. Army photo shows a trio of anti-tank troops attached to the famous 100th Infantry Battalion of Camp McCoy, was formerly a Hawaiian National Guard Unit. The "Fighting 100th," composed mostly of Americans of Japanese ancestry, won generous commendations from military officials.

**GENERAL PRAISES NISEI TROOPS**
SOLDIERS ARE UNDER 1942 DEPENDENTS ACT

The Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act of 1942 authorizes the payment of monthly family allowances to certain relatives and dependents of enlisted men.

For the purposes of family allowances, the relatives and dependents of a soldier are divided into two classes, Class "A" and Class "B". Class "A" relatives do not have to be dependent upon the soldier in order to be eligible for a family allowance. In Class "A" are the wife and children of the soldier. In Class "B" are the parents, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren of the soldier. Class "B" dependents must be dependent upon the soldier for a substantial portion of their support.

Each allowance is made up of money deducted from the soldier's pay and money contributed by the government. For example a wife (no children) receives a check for $50 every month. Of this, the government has contributed $28. The remainder, or $22, has been deducted from the soldier's pay. The government contributes for each child an additional $10. The monthly allowance of the Class "B" dependents runs on a similar basis.

PRESS COMMENTS

Following Secretary of War Stimson's announcement of the Army plan to form a special combat unit of nisei enlistees, editorials hailed the plan appeared in numerous newspapers throughout the nation. Below are a few excerpts from some of these papers:

WILMINGTON (Del.) NEWS: "In opening the Army's ranks to enlistment by American-born Japanese, Secretary of War Stimson has taken a wholly justified move. The great majority of this group is thoroughly American in background, thinking and experience. Most of its members are as patriotic and as loyal to this country as young men of German, Irish and British descent now in American uniform."

N.Y. TIMES: "...The episode touches one's sympathies. These Japanese are American citizens, just as are the young men of German and Italian descent who are loyal members of our fighting services. Their eagerness now to be in the nation's battle may ameliorate their rather lonesome lot in this country."

ATLANTA (Ga.) CONSTITUTION: "There is little doubt, once trained, they (nisei enlistees) will form combat units of highest value in the fighting zones."

S.F. CHRONICLE: "The decision of the War Department to treat them like other citizens in the mustering of men for the armed forces will gratify all who have felt that the only proper test in the case is loyalty, not racial origin."

SPRINGFIELD (Mass.) PUBLICAN: "The organization of such a unit for military service would surely create a good impression among the mass of Americans."

FEW MORE DAYS FOR "V"ING UP

Men between the ages of 17 and 38 may still volunteer to be enlisted in the United States Army combat unit until 9 PM, Wednesday, March 10. Volunteering office has been set up at the east end of Rec 4. From Monday, March 8, office hours will be from 9 AM to 9 PM.

OLDEST TOPAZ VOLUNTEER

The oldest person in Topaz to offer his services to the armed forces of the United States during the last few weeks of registration here was an issei, now sixty years of age.

He has lived in this country for forty consecutive years. Although he was many years over the combat age, he showed his eagerness to spend the remaining days of his life serving the cause of democracy in this present war. His application for voluntary enlistment was accepted by the registration personnel for consideration by the War Department.
義勇軍志願者の言葉

この一文の筆者は合衆国陸軍戦闘部隊に入隊した一

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WE BELIEVE in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of its principles. To uphold these principles, we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression, and violation of human rights. We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith. Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends, and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States of America.

--Volunteers of Topaz, Utah.
"It is hoped that the Japanese American combat team will become one of the outstanding units of the American Army. This combat team will fight with and as a part of a Caucasian force. The War Department has faith in the loyal Japanese Americans. This is a splendid opportunity to demonstrate to the American people and to the War Department that Japanese Americans have faith in America. A success of the program and the voluntary feature of induction will be a great step forward in the rehabilitation plans for Japanese Americans."

--COL. W.P. SCORNEY, Executive Officer
Office of the Assist. Sec'y of War
There are living today in ten government-operated relocation centers scattered through the western half of the United States some 100,000 persons of Japanese blood. Barbed wire fences and armed soldier guards are standard accouterments of these centers. About 70,000 of these people are American citizens by right of birth; the rest are aliens.

A year ago, all 100,000 were living on the west coast, most of them longtime residents of that area, with their homes and businesses and interests rooted there. But through a series of circumstances following the Japanese treachery at Pearl Harbor, the American government felt impelled to remove them from the coast and place them under detention at various inland sites.

No single specific factor was responsible for the eviction. The government's action was the result of several cumulative forces and pressures. One was the natural rise in the tide of public feeling against all those of Japanese descent as a result of the Pearl Harbor attack. This feeling was understandably strongest on the Pacific coast where Japanese residents were most numerous. Another factor was the necessity of military precaution against possible sabotage and fifth-column activity by elements in the Japanese population in the event of an attack on the coast. Still another consideration was the possibility of widespread vigilante action by groups of Pacific coast inhabitants against the Japanese. A fourth factor was the pressure exerted by various opportunistic individuals and organizations who, from motives either of racial prejudice or of possible political or economic advantages to be gained, advocated the evacuation.

Taken all together, these factors were felt by the government to be strong enough to justify the evacuation of all persons of Japanese blood as a measure of national expediency.

As a physical fact, the evacuation is past history which cannot be contradicted. But the one crucial issue which emerges from the whole complex of circumstances and events involved in it is as alive and challenging today as at the beginning of evacuation. This is the issue of the loyalty or disloyalty of those evacuated.

The 100,000 evacuees are not in their present situation because they have been proven collectively disloyal to an America at war. No specific charges on this count have ever been brought against them by the government. Nor were the removal and forced detention of the 70,000 who are citizens based on any imputation to them of acts which invalidated their citizenship rights. But because of the stigma inherent in evacuation and, moreover, because of the wholesale nature of the action, embracing all those of Japanese descent, without trial or hearing, without regard to citizenship, the general effect has been to put the whole racial group under a cloud of doubt and suspicion in the eyes of the American public. The loyal many received the same brand as the disloyal few; the sheep became indistinguishable from the goats.

The most continuously disheartening aspect of the whole situation thus was not the physical hardship of dislocation and restriction, but the difficulty of gaining public recognition of the fact that the vast majority of those evacuated, both citizens and aliens, were fundamentally as loyal as any other segment of America's heterogeneous population. Upon wide public acceptance of this fact the successful resettlement and rehabilitation of the evacuees largely depended. Unless the cloud of doubt under which they moved were dissipated, they might remain indefinitely as wards of the government, an unwanted people. The odds against the attainment of the desired end were large and forbidding. The weight of existing public opinion, the continued pressure of the forces actively opposed to the return of the Japanese to normal life, the preponderance of unfavorable over favorable publicity in the nation's press—all
these things made the problem a difficult one.

It is true that both the War Relocation Authority and the evacuees themselves did make some headway toward a solution, aided measurably by various interested and sympathetic outside groups and individuals. Some 1,000 evacuees in the fall of 1942 volunteered to help save the nation's sugar beet and other crops threatened by the shortage of farm labor, thus gaining a measure of favorable public attention. Several hundred evacuee students were enabled to continue their higher education in various schools throughout the country, keeping that vital, if specialized, channel of contact with the outside world open. And a systematic program of expanding employment possibilities by means of advance scouting and public relations work was instituted by the WRA in different sections of the country. But all these efforts, while bearing hopeful fruit, were neither decisive nor broad enough to make a major breach in the barrier which separated the collective mass of the evacuees from general public acceptance. Something more was needed to turn the trick—something that would clarify the still clouded fundamental issue of the loyalty of the evacuee population.

It was in recognition of this need that the American government early this year took a step which was intended to clear up the matter once and for all. Since shortly after Pearl Harbor, the armed services had been closed to Japanese Americans, and this had served to give added weight to the unfortunate impression created by the evacuation. The fact that the nearly 5,000 Japanese Americans who had been taken previous to the ban were allowed to stay in service was an anomaly which only added further confusion to an already confused situation. But on January 28, 1943, there came an announcement from Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson that the United States Army was being reopened to all loyal Americans of Japanese blood and that as the initial procedure a volunteer combat unit made up entirely of their own group was to be formed. This announcement was followed by the official War Department proclamation, fully explaining the motives behind the action and the steps by which those motives were to be implemented.

Here, at last, was the long-awaited catalyst needed to activate the whole process of returning loyal evacuees to their normal places in American life. For here was the government's own refutation of the widely-held notion that evacuation was somehow related to disloyalty. Here was an affirmation of the government's trust in the loyalty of the majority of those whom it was forced by circumstances to remove from former homes. Here was a token, in terms of positive action, of the government's intention that race should not be a barrier to those who believed in democracy and wished to participate in its privileges and responsibilities. And, as the Proclamation made clear to these people: "Your government would not take these steps unless it intended to go further in restoring you to a normal place in the life of the country, with the privileges and obligations of other American citizens. The invitation to the men here to volunteer is simply a token of its good faith and further interest."

In the ten relocation centers, hundreds of American citizens of Japanese descent have answered the call. And many who are not citizens have responded, too, feeling that loyalty to this country is not predicated on a technicality of birthplace, but on a sincerity of belief in the democratic principles for which America stands. They are asking the government to take them as well as the citizens.

This little pamphlet is primarily concerned with the story of volunteering in one of the centers—the Central Utah Relocation Project at Topaz. But what is recorded here is undoubtedly also the story of every other center, for a common purpose united all volunteers everywhere—a determination to prove that the government's faith in them and the group they represent is justified. They all realize that their action is the allimportant first step necessary to establish, positively and irrefutably, the fact that those of Japanese blood can be and are as good Americans as any other.
My dear Mr. Secretary:

The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

This is a natural and logical step toward the reinstitution of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service or other work essential to the war effort.

I am glad to observe that the War Department, the Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
In the late afternoon of January 23 of this year, the administration tele-type office of Utah's "War Relocation Project at Topaz" received a message from the nation's capital. Over the wires came the statement beginning with the words: "The War Department announced today that plans have been completed for the admission of a substantial number of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to the Army of the United States..."

To Japanese American residents of the project, this was probably the most significant and stirring news to come their way in the nearly six months since their arrival at the camp. They saw in it the beginning of the end to the nation-wide ban that had been placed against Japanese American enlistment a few weeks after Pearl Harbor. They saw in it the opportunity they had been seeking—the opportunity to settle once and for all the question of their loyalty, so long an object of doubt, open and implied.

Within 24 hours after the new development was publicized through the Topaz Times, a number of male citizens turned to the project administration for details of the War Department plan. At that time, little was known other than that a special combat unit of the Army was planned, and that the initial procedure in the formation of the unit would be induction of volunteers from the male citizens residing in the ten WRA centers, the non-evacuation zones, and the Hawaiian Islands.

To permit the evacuees to prepare questions on the matter, the administration, through the Topaz Community Council, sponsored a mass citizens' meeting on the evening preceding the arrival of the Army recruiting team. General interest in the matter was indicated by the overflow crowd of more than 600 men and women attending the assembly. At the conclusion of the meeting, a committee was selected to put the questions raised from the floor into proper form for presentation to the Army team.

The War Department team, headed by Lieutenant William Lee Tracy, arrived on schedule at Topaz on Friday afternoon, February 5. The detail included Technician Fourth Grade William T. Ikida—a Japanese American—and Sergeants Raymond F. Gordon and Luke J. Rogers. The representatives immediately went into a series of conferences with the project administration heads to settle the details of their mission.

Concurrently with the publication of President Roosevelt's message approving the War Department plan, an announcement of a special invitational meeting was carried in the project newsletter. This meeting, attended on the evening of February 8 by the Army detail and some 300 representative residents of the project, was intended to give a thorough presentation of the plan. Through a detailed War Department proclamation read by Lieutenant Tracy, it was revealed that the government, seeking a feasible solution to the acute wartime problem of the Japanese American people, had decided to determine, principally by means of questionnaires, the extent of the loyalty held by the evacuees towards the United States.

The proclamation, of which presentations were being made almost simultaneously at all the relocation centers by similar Army teams, disclosed the government's reasons for the evacuation and the steps contemplated in restoring the loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to their rightful places in American society. The formation of a special combat unit made up entirely of Japanese American volunteers was to be the first of these steps. The proclamation further disclosed that induction through the Selective Service System could be expected as a follow-up step for those loyal citizens who do not volunteer but are of military age and physical fitness.

As to the specific reason for the formation of an all-Japanese American combat team, the proclamation made it clear that the step was not prompted by any motive of racial segregation, but by the fact that a separate fighting unit would be of greater publicity value. On
this point, the statement read: "...if your strength were diffused through the Army of the United States—as had already been done with many other Americans of your blood—relatively little account would be taken of your action. You would be important only as man-power—nothing more. But united, and working together, you would become a symbol of something greater than your individual selves, and the effect would be felt both in the United States and abroad.... To the peoples of the East, you would provide the measure of solidarity of people who get together in the name of democracy."

The proclamation was read again two nights later before a large indoor gathering of almost 1000 young citizens. At this meeting, questions prepared by the resident committee prior to the Army team's arrival were given voice, along with questions raised from the floor. These queries ranged in variety from requests for further clarification of the separate combat unit plan to inquiries about details of the Army physical requirements.

This was followed by a period of several days, during which the residents were given the time and the opportunity to consider all aspects of the matter and to prepare for the joint War Department and WRA registration to be conducted. On Saturday, February 13, the registration of all evacuees 17 years of age and over officially began. Under the direction of the Army team, resident registrars during the following two-week period completed the 100 per cent registration of the project population affected.

As a loyalty check, the registration demonstrated that the great majority of the Japanese Americans, and many of the aliens also, had retained their loyalty to this country through all the trials and strains of forced evacuation. Particularly significant was the disclosure by Project Director Charles F. Ernst that "over one thousand young men of Topaz registered their loyalty to the United States and are now waiting to be notified of the date to appear before the Selective Service Board." Together with those who volunteered for the special combat unit, they represented the vast majority of those in Topaz who were citizens and of military age.

Those who had chosen to be inducted into the Army as volunteers instead of as draft selectees immediately decided to form a committee to express in terms of concerted action their feeling that "loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard...and that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war." One of the first undertakings of the committee was the publication of a booklet titled "Volunteers for Victory," containing articles bringing out the significance of volunteering. The title caught the imagination of many, and an official organization of all Topaz volunteers was quickly formed under that name.

On the evening of March 9, the day before the official close of the volunteering period, the organization called a special meeting of potential new members. There, many who had already volunteered expressed their conviction that their action was the necessary first step to establish the loyalty of the Japanese American group beyond question. Some spoke as students, others as professional men, as farmers, as family men. As a result of this meeting, many young men on March 10 filed into the Volunteers for Victory headquarters to sign up for immediate induction.

Other activities of the organization since then have included such things as the framing of a credo (reproduced on the cover of this pamphlet), the contacting of other volunteer groups to unite for common action, the undertaking of a public relations and goodwill program, and the preparation of literature presenting the beliefs and aims of those who have volunteered.

The final record of volunteering in Topaz shows that one out of every ten male citizens of military age who have expressed willingness to serve in the armed forces of the United States has volunteered. On the following pages is the complete roster of these men. In the sincerity of their belief in democracy and America, they have all placed themselves without reservation at the immediate service of their country.
## Roll of Honor

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The following are typical statements made by various post-war volunteers during the enlistment period. Taken from letters, from speeches made at volunteer rallies, and from expressions published in the center press, these statements represent the diversified classes of individuals in the volunteer group, from citizens to aliens, from youths to married men.

"I consider myself an educator. I have been doing what little I could to advance the cause of the common man's struggle against tyranny. By volunteering in the armed forces of the United States is merely an extension of my activities as a humble teacher. I am against the military-fascist dictatorship that rules Japan, Germany and all the other Axis-dominated nations. I am for true democracy everywhere. And I am willing to die for my principle, which is at the same time the principle for which the United Nations are fighting."

---Citizen, teacher.

"America is the only country I have ever known. Whatever benefits in life I have received up to now, I have received as an American citizen. Whatever I may make of my life in the future, I want to do so in this country. I could not do this with a clear conscience, nor would I be deserving of the chance, if I shirked now the duty and opportunity I have as a citizen to serve this nation in her fight for survival."

---Citizen, teacher.

"I hope to find home and security for my family in the United States of America...All my hopes and ambitions are centered around my little daughter—that some day when peace comes again and as she grows up, she will not be subjected to discriminations that the second generation has gone through. For myself, then, just wishing that her life will be smooth is not enough: just taking the future as it comes would not satisfy my conscience that I had done everything possible in consideration of her future."

---Citizen, teacher.
That when the opportunity and test presented itself, her father took the easier, more passive attitude of letting the future take care of itself. Ladies and gentlemen, I do not care to take that path. God willing, some day I would much rather explain to her the momentous decision made by her father, with the support and comfort of her mother, on the 19th day of February, 1943. "--Citizen, family man.

"I was educated in Japan where I learned the meaning of fascism and where I learned to fight against its oppressive measures. I fought its police dogs and its military lackeys. As I now volunteer to serve in the United States Army, I am thinking not only of defending American democracy against all foes, but also of whatever contribution I may be able to make toward the emancipation of all peoples, including the common people of Japan, from their fascist masters."--Kibei (an American citizen who has spent part of his life in Japan).

"I have always believed in fighting for the freedom and right of the 'common man.' Believing that these principles for which we have been struggling are at stake in this war, and believing that a victory over our enemies abroad will be a victory over our enemies at home, I want to take up arms to help hurry this people's victory and people's peace to follow."--Kibei, civil service employee.

"I believe that it is the desire of every Japanese American today to have his children live as respected citizens in a democratic America, and not as a hated people, destitute of hope, courage and contentment.

"Yet we cannot have this desire realized unless we are willing now—when the War Department offers us the chance to fight for America on the battlefield—to devote the utmost of ourselves to this cause, and not to let the darkness of our present situation or our grievances prevent us from proving our worth in the eyes of the American public."--Citizen, businessman.

"I am a stateless person and am not an American citizen. But I am willing to fight for any government which gives me a gun to fight against fascism."--Non-citizen, native of Canada.

"Although I am not a citizen of the United States, I have always considered it as my country. My parents brought me over here at a very early age...I received all my education, livelihood and a democratic philosophy of life here—everything I gained, I received from America...Then the war came, I felt very bad that the technicality of my birthplace prevented me from joining my friends in our common fight for freedom, my friends and classmates were all going into active theaters of war.

"Now an opportunity to fight for my principles and ideals has been accorded me by the War Department...Then the cause of freedom is at stake, we cease to be just individuals. We have to sacrifice all toward that end. I love my family and I hate to leave it, but my love for this country that gave me so much is greater, since it also embraces my family's security."--Alien Japanese.

EXCERPT FROM EDITORIAL IN "VOLUNTEERS FOR VICTORY"

"The United States government is offering us, through Secretary of War Stimson's statement of January 28th last, an opportunity to present the one solid evidence which none can refute—the evidence that we are loyal enough to fight in the U.S. Army, that we are worthy to live, work, fight and die as Americans.

"Only with evidence as strong as this can we...effectively prove to American public opinion how unjustly wrong are the...factions which seek to crush us through proposals calling for the deprivation of our citizenship, mass deportation after the war, Army control of relocation centers and other discriminatory measures."
February 4, 1943

Secretary of War Stimson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stimson:

I know you are a very busy man and I hate to bother you like this when you are busy in more important matters.

This is just a simple plea that comes from within my heart, crying for someone to listen.

I was very happy when I read your announcement that Nisei Americans would be given a chance to volunteer for active combat duty. But at the same time I was sad—sad because under your present laws I am an enemy alien.

I am a 22-year old boy, American in thought, American in act, as American as any other citizen. I was born in Japan. My parents brought me to America when I was only two years old. Since coming to America as an infant, my whole life was spent in New Mexico. My only friends were Caucasian boys.

At Pearl Harbor, my pal Curly Hoppins was killed outright without a chance to fight back when the Japanese planes swooped down in a treacherous attack. And Dickie Harrell and other boys from my home town came back maimed for life. Then more of my classmates volunteered—Bud Henderson, Bob and Jack Aldridge, and many others; they were last heard of as missing in the Philippines. It tears my heart out to think that I could not avenge their deaths.

The law of this country bars me from citizenship—because I am an Oriental—because my skin is yellow. This is not a good law and bad laws could be changed.

But this is not what I want to bring up at this time. As you well know, this is a people's war. The fate of the free people all over the world hangs in the balance. I only ask that I be given a chance to fight to preserve the principles that I have been brought up on and which I will not sacrifice at any cost. Please give me a chance to serve in your armed forces.

In volunteering for active combat duty, my conscience will be clear and I can proudly say to myself that I wasn't sitting around, doing nothing when the fate of the free people was at stake.

Any of my Caucasian friends would vouch for my loyalty and sincerity. Even now some of them may be sleeping an eternal sleep in a lonely grave far away from home, dying for the principles they loved and sincerely believed.

I am not asking for any favors or sympathy. I only ask that I be given a chance—a chance to enlist for active combat duty. How can a democratic nation allow a technicality of birthplace to stand in the way when the nation is fighting...to preserve the rights of free men?

The high governmental officials have oftentimes stated that this is a people's struggle—regardless of race or color. Could it be a people's struggle if you bar a person who sincerely believes in the very principles we are all fighting for from taking part?

I beg you to take my plea and give it your careful consideration.

I have also sent a copy of this same letter to President Roosevelt in hopes that some action will be taken in my case.

Sincerely,

HENRY H. EBIHARA
Topaz, Utah
"VOLUNTEERING IS AFFIRMATION OF LOYALTY"

As a part of their campaign to make their action, and the motives underlying that action, better known to the outside world, the Topaz Volunteers for Victory recently sent the following letter to Utah's four members of Congress: Senators Elbert D. Thomas and Abe Murdock, and Representatives Will C. Robinson and Walter Granger. The text of the letter read as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are residents of the War Relocation Project at Topaz, Utah, who have volunteered for the special Japanese American combat unit announced by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson on January 28 of this year. Although we are not legally constituents of yours, we felt we might address you as more than strangers, since we do reside in the state you represent in Congress, and since by our volunteering we are making common cause with all good Americans and their government leaders in the prosecution of the present war against this country's enemies. We are, therefore, taking this opportunity to bring to your attention certain facts about ourselves, our motives, our hopes.

"First of all, as to our motives: The most immediate and compelling reason for our volunteering was, of course, that we wanted to demonstrate in the most positive manner possible, our loyalty to this country. Most of us are American citizens by right of birth; a few are non-citizens who have adopted this country as their own. But citizen and non-citizen alike, we are one in our undeviating faith in democratic principles and in America's destiny as the champion of those principles. Our feeling in this matter, we have incorporated into the official Credo of the Volunteers of Topaz, which reads as follows:

"We believe in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of its principles. To uphold these principles, we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression and violation of human rights. We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith. Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends, and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States.

"We have sent copies of this credo to volunteer groups in all the other relocation centers, seeking their adoption of its essential spirit, if not of its precise wording, as a common basis for faith and action.

"The sincerity of our belief in this credo can be gauged, we think, by the fact that we have maintained an unwavering trust in the good faith of this country and her leaders through all the trying period of our evacuation and forced confinement. We have never taken this wholesale removal and detention as an expression of America's real or final intentions toward us. We have always felt that, sooner or later, steps would be taken by the government to remedy the anomaly of our situation. The War Department's action in reopening the armed services to us thus came as a vindication of our faith. Our volunteering is, therefore, no more than an affirmation in terms of positive action of the loyalty we have always held toward this country.

"Such is the prime motivation behind our action. At the same time, we are aware that what we have done involves an issue beyond that of our own loyalty to America. If the government's reopening of the armed forces to us is a heartening token of our reinstatement as equal partners with all other Americans in the fight against our common enemies, we are hopeful that it is also a token of the eventual reinstatement of all loyal persons of our racial minority as useful
and accepted members of the democratic commonwealth of America. For the situation of the thousands of brothers and sisters and parents of the volunteers in the various relocation centers is still a problem to be solved.

"Although, for various valid reasons, they are not within the volunteer group, we feel sure that the vast majority of them are fundamentally as loyal as we are. Thousands of them now stand ready to be taken into the army through the regular channels of the selective service act. But in a time of war, it is all too easy for the superficial kinship of race between them and an enemy nation to create unjust public attitudes toward them. They are looked upon with suspicion; their loyalty is doubted; and they may find it difficult to re-establish themselves as normal components of American society.

"We who have volunteered are deeply conscious that by our action we may in some measure help correct that situation. We are hopeful that any public approbation accorded us as volunteer soldiers will also embrace those of our kin that we leave behind, and that their re-entry into general American life will be made easier to that extent. We know, too, that government leaders, no less than we ourselves, are hopeful that this will be the result. For a war against world fascism can be fully effective only if there is a complete consistency in democratic practice here at home.

"We are volunteering, therefore, not only because that is the most direct and most irrefutable demonstration of our own loyalty to this country, but because by our action we feel we are contributing to the eventual fulfillment of American democratic tradition in its best and highest meaning. The America we are fighting for is the America which President Roosevelt has thus defined: 'The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution--whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service or other work essential to the war effort.'

"We have written to you at some length because we felt that you would be interested in knowing how one group of Japanese American volunteers—a group from your own state—sincerely feels. And since part of our problem, the problem of all those of Japanese blood in this country, is to create a better and wider public awareness of our situation, we also felt that you as a government leader could exercise much favorable influence in bringing that end about. We shall be grateful for anything you might be able to do to make what we have expressed here a matter of wider public and official knowledge, as well as for any effort you might be able to contribute as a member of Congress toward fair and democratic legislation for all minority groups in this country.

"A copy of this letter is being sent to each of the other members of Congress from the state of Utah. We hope that you and your colleagues will give it your favorable attention and consideration.

"Very respectfully yours,

--Taro Katayama

"THE VOLUNTEER"

Were is not better thus to die,
While blood is warm with high endeavor
And mind and heart alike deny
The doubters and the cautious clever,
Then, skeptic, cling to life and know
The years whose gnawing rodent teeth
May eat through craven flesh and show
The bone of vain regret beneath?

"VOLUNTEERS FOR VICTORY"
It seems beyond dispute to us that this is the right way to handle the matter. "We feel confident, too, that these men will become tough and valiant fighters for the country of their parents' adoption..."

"We got the old familiar 'That's the stuff!' kick out of this piece of news—a renewal of the conviction that American democracy can do such things...because of its power to attract and hold the loyalty of all manner of people. In opening the Army to the Nisei, we think the War Department did its best single day's work in months."

In opening the Army's ranks to enlistment by American-born Japanese, Secretary of War Stimson has taken a wholly justified move. The great majority of this group is thoroughly American in background, thinking and experience. Most of its members are as patriotic and as loyal to this country as young men of German, Irish, Italian and British descent now in American uniform. It is unfair to deprive them of the right to bear arms in their country's defense, which is inherent in every faithful citizen...

"Now that enlistment has been opened to loyal citizens of Japanese extraction it is to be hoped that the government will find a way to restore many of those still penned in concentration camps to useful employment in farming or war industries. It is not only unfair to them, but foolish to keep faithful citizens idle when we need their efforts to help win a war."

"We must concede that the Army is the best judge of the availability for its forces of American citizens of Japanese descent. The Army thinks there are such citizens of unquestioned loyalty and that these not only can be used and ought to be used, but have a right to be so used."

"...The decision of the War Department to treat these like other citizens in the mustering of men for the armed forces will gratify all who have felt that the only proper test in their case is loyalty, not racial origin."

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"...The decision of the War Department to treat these like other citizens in the mustering of men for the armed forces will gratify all who have felt that the only proper test in their case is loyalty, not racial origin."

"The announcement of the Secretary of War that Americans whose ancestry is Japanese but whose loyalty has been demonstrated will be taken into military service is welcome evidence of a further loosening of the harsh restrictions under which these citizens have lived for more than a year..."

"The decision of the Army to form units from among the young men in camps ought to speed the whole process of restoring the loyal citizens to normal life. If the Army is sufficiently confident of their loyalty to welcome them into the ranks of the defenders of the country, other agencies and other communities ought to have no hesitancy in accepting them...

"With a shortage of manpower a foremost national problem, no time ought to be wasted in putting the loyal Japanese-Americans where they can do the most good for the country and for themselves. Yet the nation will benefit even more from demonstrating, if after a long delay, its conviction that patriotism and loyalty are not a matter of color but of spirit."

"The episode touches one's sympathies. These Japanese are American citizens, just as are the young men of German and Italian descent who are loyal members of our fighting services...Their eagerness now to bear arms in the nation's battle may ameliorate their rather lonesome lot in this country."
That Americans of Japanese ancestry make top grade soldiers in every way is the testimony of more than one officer who has had experience in commanding them.

A typical comment is that of Brig. Gen. R. Mittelstaedt, now U.S. Army commander of the Maui District in Hawaii. Before going to his Hawaiian post, Gen. Mittelstaedt commanded troops on the mainland in California, and of his experience with Japanese American soldiers there, he says: "Among the men under me were many Americans of Japanese ancestry and I want to say they were among the best soldiers we had. We are proud of them and the record they made. They are very fine, high class soldiers and the type of soldiers who present no disciplinary problems. We were very sorry to lose them when they were sent east." (At the time of evacuation these nisei soldiers were reassigned to posts outside the Western Defense Command.)

Another officer who has praised Japanese American soldiers is Lt. Col. Farrent L. Turner, commander of the 100th Infantry Battalion, which is made up entirely of Japanese Americans and was originally a unit of the Hawaiian National Guard. He says: "I've never had more wholehearted, serious-minded co-operation from any troops."

Still another officer of the 100th Infantry Battalion, with 22 years of experience in the Army, says: "I'd rather have a hundred of these men behind me than a hundred of any others I've ever been with."

Col. E. W. Wilson, who was in command of Hawaii's Schofield Barracks at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack and who is now in this country as liaison officer between the WRA and the Army, has also expressed the opinion that he would rather command the all-Japanese American Army combat team than any other unit.

It is part of the official record, too, that Japanese American soldiers have been performing with considerable merit in various theatres of the war ever since it began. The first prisoner of war taken by the United States, for instance, was captured by a Hawaiian-born Japanese American National Guardsman. This soldier overpowered the operator of a beached Japanese midget submarine whom he encountered on December 7, 1941, while patrolling a Hawaiian beach. Other nisei have fought, and are now fighting, side by side with fellow Americans in the Pacific area from the Philippines to Java. The same is true on the European front, where the Japanese Americans are doing their bit on the sands of North Africa or behind the guns of bombing planes. The U.S. Army's European paper, "The Stars and Stripes," recently featured a front-page picture of a Nebraska-born Japanese American, Sergeant Ben Kuroki, who is a gunner on a Liberator bomber.

**Eisenhower of OWI Writes**

In a letter to the Pacific Citizen (national Japanese American Citizens League organ), Milton S. Eisenhower, associate OWI Director and brother of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, commented on the War Department's reopening of the Army to Japanese Americans as follows:

"Like millions of Americans, I was deeply gratified when our Government reopened the ranks of our Army to loyal Americans of Japanese descent. Those who are eligible for enlistment have an opportunity to make a particularly significant contribution to our common fight for a better world."

"This war will end in absolute triumph for the United Nations. This war must usher in a day of greater decency and brotherhood among all men. In such a war, the participation of men from every land, men of every descent, is the strongest possible force and guarantee for a reborn and strengthened freedom."
WE BELIEVE in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of its principles. To uphold these principles we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression, and violation of human rights. We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith.

Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States of America.

---Credo of the Volunteers for Victory
Topaz, Utah
"It is hoped that the Japanese American combat team will become one of the outstanding units of the American Army. This combat team will fight with and as a part of a Caucasian force. The War Department has faith in the loyal Japanese Americans. This is a splendid opportunity to demonstrate to the American people and to the War Department that Japanese Americans have faith in America. A success of the program and the voluntary feature of induction will be a great step forward in the rehabilitation plans for Japanese Americans."

—Col. William P. SCOBEE, Executive Officer Office of the Assist. Sec'y of War
There are living today in ten government-operated relocation centers scattered through the western half of the United States some 100,000 persons of Japanese blood. Barbed wire fences and armed soldier guards are standard accoutrements of these centers. About 70,000 of these people are American citizens by right of birth; the rest are aliens.

A year ago, all 100,000 were living on the west coast, most of them long-time residents of that area, with their homes and businesses and interests rooted there. But through a series of circumstances following the Japanese treachery at Pearl Harbor, the American government felt impelled to remove them from the coast and place them under detention at various inland sites.

No single specific factor was responsible for the eviction. The government’s action was the result of several cumulative forces and pressures. One was the natural rise in the tide of public feeling against all those of Japanese descent as a result of the Pearl Harbor attack. This feeling was understandably strongest on the Pacific coast where Japanese residents were most numerous. Another factor was the necessity of military precaution against possible sabotage and fifth-column activity by elements in the Japanese population in the event of an attack on the coast. Still another consideration was the possibility of widespread vigilante action by groups of Pacific coast inhabitants against the Japanese. A fourth factor was the pressure exerted by various opportunistic individuals and organizations who, from motives either of racial prejudice or of possible political or economic advantages to be gained, advocated the evacuation.

Taken all together, these factors were felt by the government to be strong enough to justify the evacuation of all persons of Japanese blood as a measure of national expediency.

As a physical fact, the evacuation is past history which cannot be countermanded. But the one crucial issue which emerges from the whole complex of circumstances and events involved in it is as alive and challenging today as at the beginning of evacuation. This is the issue of the loyalty or disloyalty of those evacuated.

The 100,000 evacuees are not in their present situation because they have been proven collectively disloyal to an America at war. No specific charges on this count have ever been brought against them by the government. Nor were the removal and forced detention of the 70,000 who are citizens based on any imputation to them of acts which invalidated their citizenship rights. But because of the stigma inherent in evacuation and, moreover, because of the wholesale nature of the action, embracing all those of Japanese descent, without trial or hearing, without regard to citizenship, the general effect has been to put the whole racial group under a cloud of doubt and suspicion in the eyes of the American public. The loyal many received the same brand as the disloyal few; the sheep became indistinguishable from the goats.

The most continuously disheartening aspect of the whole situation thus was not the physical hardship of dislocation and restriction, but the difficulty of gaining public recognition of the fact that the vast majority of those evacuated, both citizens and aliens, were fundamentally as loyal as any other segment of America’s heterogeneous population. Upon wide public acceptance of this fact the successful resettlement and rehabilitation of the evacuees largely depended. Unless the cloud of doubt under which they moved were dissipated, they might remain indefinitely as wards of the government, an unwanted people. The odds against the attainment of the desired end were large and forbidding. The weight of existing public opinion, the continued pressure of the forces actively opposed to the return of the Japanese to normal life, the preponderance of unfavorable over favorable publicity in the nation’s press—all
these things made the problem a difficult one.

It is true that both the War Relocation Authority and the evacuees themselves did make some headway toward a solution, aided measurably by various interested and sympathetic outside groups and individuals. Some 10,000 evacuees in the fall of 1942 volunteered to help save the nation's sugar beet and other crops threatened by the shortage of farm labor, thus gaining a measure of favorable public attention. Several hundred evacuee students were enabled to continue their higher education in various schools throughout the country, keeping that vital, if specialized, channel of contact with the outside world open. And a systematic program of expanding employment possibilities by means of advance scouting and public relations work was instituted by the WRA in different sections of the country. But all these efforts, while bearing hopeful fruit, were neither decisive nor broad enough to make a major break in the barrier which separated the collective mass of the evacuees from general public acceptance. Something more was needed to turn the trick—something that would clarify the still clouded fundamental issue of the loyalty of the evacuee population.

It was in recognition of this need that the American government early this year took a step which was intended to clear up the matter once and for all. Since shortly after Pearl Harbor, the armed services had been closed to Japanese Americans, and this had served to give added weight to the unfortunate impression created by the evacuation. The fact that the nearly 5,000 Japanese Americans who had been taken previous to the ban were allowed to stay in service was an anomaly which only added further confusion to an already confused situation. But on January 28, 1943, there came an announcement from Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson that the United States Army was being reopened to all loyal Americans of Japanese blood and that as the initial procedure a volunteer combat unit made up entirely of their own group was to be formed. This announcement was followed by the official War Department proclamation, fully explaining the motives behind the action and the steps by which those motives were to be implemented.

Here, at last, was the long-awaited catalyst needed to activate the whole process of returning loyal evacuees to their normal places in American life. For here was the government's own refutation of the widely-held notion that evacuation was somehow related to disloyalty. Here was an affirmation of the government's trust in the loyalty of the majority of those whom it was forced by circumstances to remove from former homes. Here was a token, in terms of positive action, of the government's intention that race should not be a barrier to those who believed in democracy and wished to participate in its privileges and responsibilities. And, as the Proclamation made clear to these people: "Your government would not take these steps unless it intended to go further in restoring you to a normal place in the life of the country, with the privileges and obligations of other American citizens. The invitation to the young men here to volunteer is simply a token of its good faith and further interest."

In the ten relocation centers, hundreds of American citizens of Japanese descent have answered the call. And many who are not citizens have responded, feeling that loyalty to this country is not predicated on a technicality of birthplace, but on a sincerity of belief in the democratic principles for which America stands. They are asking the government to take them as well as the citizens.

This little pamphlet is primarily concerned with the story of volunteering in one of the centers—the Central Utah Relocation Project at Topaz. But what is recorded here is undoubtedly also the story of every other center, for a common purpose united all volunteers everywhere—a determination to prove that the government's faith in them and the group they represent is justified. They all realize that their action is the all-important first step necessary to establish, positively and irrefutably, the fact that those of Japanese blood can be and are as good Americans as any other.
racial group in this country. They are the vanguard of the thousands of other Japanese Americans who will follow them into the armed forces through the Selective Service. Theirs is the pride of leading the way to the brighter future lying ahead for the Japanese in this country.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1943

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

This is a natural and logical step toward the reinstitution of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service or other work essential to the war effort.

I am glad to observe that the War Department, the Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
In the late afternoon of January 28 of this year, the administration tele-
type office of Utah’s War Relocation
Project at Topaz received a message from
the nation’s capital. Over the wires
came the statement beginning with the
words: “The War Department announced to-
day that plans have been completed for
the admission of a substantial number of
American citizens of Japanese ancestry
to the Army of the United States...”

To Japanese American residents of the
project, this was probably the most sig-
nificant and stirring news to come their
way in the nearly six months since their
arrival at the camp. They saw in it the
beginning of the end of the nation-wide
ban that had been placed against Japan-
ese American enlistment a few weeks af-
after Pearl Harbor. They saw in it the op-
portunity they had been seeking—the
opportunity to settle once and for all the
question of their loyalty, so long an object of doubt, open and implied.

Within 24 hours after the new develop-
ment was publicized through the Topaz
Times, a number of male citizens turned
to the project administration for de-
tails of the War Department plan. At
that time, little was known other than
that a special combat unit of the Army
was planned, and that the initial pro-
cedure in the formation of the unit
would be induction of volunteers from
the male citizens residing in the ten
WRA centers, the non-evacuation zones,
and the Hawaiian Islands.

To permit the evacuees to prepare
questions on the matter, the administra-
tion, through the Topaz Community Coun-
cil, sponsored a mass citizens’ meeting
on the evening preceding the arrival of
the Army recruiting team. General inter-
est in the matter was indicated by the
overflow crowd of more than 600 men and
women attending the assembly. At the
conclusion of the meeting, a committee
was selected to put the questions raised
from the floor into proper form for pre-
sentation to the Army team.

The War Department team, headed by
Lieutenant William Lee Tracy, arrived on
schedule at Topaz on Friday afternoon,
February 5. The detail included Tech-
nician Fourth Grade William T. Ishida—a
Japanese American—and Sergeants Raymond
F. Condon and Luke P. Rogers. The repre-
sentatives immediately went into a ser-
ies of conferences with the project ad-
ministration heads to settle the details
of their mission.

Concurrently with the publication of
President Roosevelt’s message approving
the War Department plan, an announce-
ment of a special invitational meeting was
carried in the project newspaper. This
meeting, attended on the evening of Feb-
uary 8 by the Army detail and some 300
representative residents of the project,
was intended to give a thorough presenta-
tion of the plan. Through a detailed
War Department proclamation read by
Lieutenant Tracy, it was revealed that
the government, seeking a feasible solu-
tion to the acute wartime problem of the
Japanese American people, had decided to
determine, principally by means of ques-
tionnaires, the extent of the loyalty
held by the evacuees towards the United
States.

The proclamation, of which presenta-
tions were being made almost simultane-
ously at all the relocation centers by
similar Army teams, disclosed the gov-
ernment’s reasons for the evacuation and
the steps contemplated in restoring the
loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to
their rightful places in American socie-
ty. The formation of a special combat
unit made up entirely of Japanese Ameri-
can volunteers was to be the first of
these steps. The proclamation further
disclosed that induction through the Se-
lective Service System could be expected
as a follow-up step for those loyal ci-
tizens who do not volunteer but are of
military age and physical fitness.

As to the specific reason for the
formation of an all-Japanese American
combat team, the proclamation made it
clear that the step was not prompted by
any motive of racial segregation, but by
the fact that a separate fighting unit
would be of greater publicity value.
this point, the statement read: "...if your strength were diffused through the Army of the United States—as had already been done with many other Americans of your blood—relatively little account would be taken of your action. You would be important only as man-power—nothing more. But united, and working together, you would become a symbol of something greater than your individual selves, and the effect would be felt both in the United States and abroad... To the nations abroad, and especially to the peoples of the East, you would provide the measure of solidarity of people who get together in the name of democracy."

The proclamation was read again two nights later before a large indoor gathering of almost 1000 young citizens. At this meeting, questions prepared by the resident committee prior to the Army team's arrival were given voice, along with questions raised from the floor. These queries ranged in variety from requests for further clarification of the separate combat unit plan to inquiries about details of the Army physical requirements.

This was followed by a period of several days, during which the residents were given the time and the opportunity to consider all aspects of the matter and to prepare for the joint War Department and WRA registration to be conducted. On Saturday, February 13, the registration of all evacuees 17 years of age and over officially began. Under the direction of the Army team, resident registrars during the following two-week period completed the 100 per cent registration of the project population affected.

As a loyalty check, the registration demonstrated that the great majority of the Japanese Americans, and many of the aliens also, had retained their loyalty to this country through all the trials and strains of forced evacuation. Particularly significant was the disclosure by Project Director Charles F. Ernst that "over one thousand young men of Topaz registered their loyalty to the United States and are now waiting to be notified of the date to appear before the Selective Service Board." Together with those who volunteered for the special combat unit, they represented the vast majority of those in Topaz who were citizens and of military age.

Those who had chosen to be inducted into the Army as volunteers instead of as draft selectees immediately decided to form a committee to express in terms of concerted action their feeling that "loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard...and that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war." One of the first undertakings of the committee was the publication of a booklet titled "Volunteers for Victory," containing articles bringing out the significance of volunteering. The title caught the imagination of many, and an official organization of all Topaz volunteers was quickly formed under that name.

On the evening of March 9, the day before the official close of the volunteering period, the organization called a special meeting of potential new members. There, many who had already volunteered expressed their conviction that their action was the necessary first step to establish the loyalty of the Japanese American group beyond question. Some spoke as students, others as professional men, as farmers, as family men. As a result of this meeting, many young men on March 10 filed into the Volunteers for Victory headquarters to sign up for immediate induction.

Other activities of the organization since then have included such things as the framing of a credo (reproduced on the cover of this pamphlet), the contacting of other volunteer groups to unite for common action, the undertaking of a public relations and goodwill program, and the preparation of literature presenting the beliefs and aims of those who have volunteered.

The final record of volunteering in Topaz shows that one out of every ten male citizens of military age who have expressed willingness to serve in the armed forces of the United States has volunteered. On the following pages is the complete roster of these men. In the sincerity of their belief in democracy and America, they have all placed themselves without reservation at the immediate service of their country.
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The following are typical statements made by various Toroz volunteers during the enlistment period. Taken from letters, from speeches made at volunteer rallies, and from expressions published in the center press, these statements represent the diversified classes of individuals in the volunteer group, from citizens to aliens, from youths to married men.

"I consider myself an educator. I have been doing what little I could to advance the cause of the common man's struggle against tyranny. My volunteering in the armed forces of the United States is merely an extension of my activities as a humble teacher. I am against the military-fascist dictatorship that rules Japan, Germany and all the other Axis-dominated nations. I am for true democracy everywhere. And I am willing to die for my principle, which is at the same time the principle for which the United Nations are fighting."

—Citizen, teacher.

"America is the only country I have ever known. Whatever benefits in life I have received up to now, I have received as an American citizen. Whatever I may do to make my life in the future, I want to do so in this country. I could not do this with a clear conscience, nor would I be deserving of the chance, if I shirked now the duty and opportunity I have as a citizen to serve this nation in her fight for survival."

—Citizen, newspaperman.

"I hope to find home and security for my family in the United States of America... All my hopes and ambitions are centered around my little daughter—that some day when peace comes again and as she grows up, she will not be subjected to discriminations that the second generation has gone through. For myself, then, just wishing that her life will be smooth is not enough; just taking the future as it comes would not satisfy my conscience that I had done everything possible in consideration of her future,
That when the opportunity and test presented itself, her father took the easier, more passive attitude of letting the future take care of itself. Ladies and gentlemen, I do not care to take that path. God willing, some day I would much rather explain to her the momentous decision made by her father, with the support and comfort of her mother, on the 19th day of February, 1943. "--Citizen, family man.

"I was educated in Japan where I learned the meaning of fascism and where I learned to fight against its oppressive measures. I fought its police dogs and its military lackeys. As I now volunteer to serve in the United States Army, I am thinking not only of defending American democracy against all foes, but also of whatever contribution I may be able to make toward the emancipation of all peoples, including the common people of Japan, from their fascist masters."--Kibei (an American citizen who has spent part of his life in Japan).

"I have always believed in fighting for the freedom and right of the 'common man.' Believing that these principles for which we have been struggling are at stake in this war, and believing that a victory over our enemies abroad will be a victory over our enemies at home, I want to take up arms to help hurry this people's victory and people's peace to follow."--Kibei, civil service employee.

"I believe that it is the desire of every Japanese American today to have his children live as respected citizens in a democratic America, and not as a hated people, destitute of hope, courage and contentment.

"Yet we cannot have this desire realized unless we are willing now--when the War Department offers us the chance to fight for America on the battlefront--to devote the utmost of ourselves to this cause, and not to let the darkness of our present situation or our grievances prevent us from proving our worth in the eyes of the American public."--Citizen, businessman.

"I am a stateless person and am not an American citizen. But I am willing to fight for any government which gives me a gun to fight against fascism."--Non-citizen, native of Canada.

"Although I am not a citizen of the United States, I have always considered it as my country. My parents brought me over here at a very early age...I received all my education, livelihood and a democratic philosophy of life here--everything I gained, I received from America...When the war came, I felt very bad that the technicality of my birthplace prevented me from joining my friends in our common fight for freedom. My friends and classmates were all going into active theaters of war.

"Now an opportunity to fight for my principles and ideals has been accorded me by the War Department...When the cause of freedom is at stake, we cease to be just individuals. We have to sacrifice all toward that end. I love my family and I hate to leave it, but my love for this country that gave me so much is greater, since it also embraces my family's security."--Alien Japanese.

EXCERPT FROM EDITORIAL IN "VOLUNTEERS FOR VICTORY"

"The United States government is offering us, through Secretary of War Stimson's statement of January 28th last, an opportunity to present the one solid evidence which none can refute--the evidence that we are loyal enough to fight in the U.S. Army, that we are worthy to live, work, fight and die as Americans.

"Only with evidence as strong as this can we...effectively prove to American public opinion how unjustly wrong are the...factions which seek to crush us through proposals calling for the deprivation of our citizenship, mass deportation after the war, Army control of relocation centers and other discriminatory measures."
February 4, 1943

Secretary of War Stimson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stimson:

I know you are a very busy man and I hate to bother you like this when you are busy in more important matters.

This is just a simple plea that comes from within my heart, crying for someone to listen.

I was very happy when I read your announcement that Nisei Americans would be given a chance to volunteer for active combat duty. But at the same time I was sad—sad because under your present laws I am an enemy alien.

I am a 22-year old boy, American in thought, American in act, as American as any other citizen. I was born in Japan. My parents brought me to America when I was only two years old. Since coming to America as an infant, my whole life was spent in New Mexico. My only friends were Caucasian boys.

At Pearl Harbor, my pal Curly Mopps was killed outright without a chance to fight back when the Japanese planes swooped down in a treacherous attack. And Dickie Harrell and other boys from my home town came back maimed for life. Then more of my classmates volunteered—Bud Henderson, Bob and Jack Aldridge, and many others; they were last heard of as missing in the Philippines. It tears my heart out to think that I could not avenge their deaths.

The law of this country bars me from citizenship—because I am an Oriental—because my skin is yellow. This is not a good law and bad laws could be changed.

But this is not what I want to bring up at this time. As you well know, this is a people's war. The fate of the free people all over the world hangs in the balance. I only ask that I be given a chance to fight to preserve the principles that I have been brought up on and which I will not sacrifice at any cost.

Please give me a chance to serve in your armed forces.

In volunteering for active combat duty, my conscience will be clear and I can proudly say to myself that I wasn't sitting around, doing nothing when the fate of the free people was at stake.

Any of my Caucasian friends would vouch for my loyalty and sincerity. Even now some of them may be sleeping an eternal sleep in a lonely grave far away from home, dying for the principles they loved and sincerely believed.

I am not asking for any favors or sympathy. I only ask that I be given a chance—a chance to enlist for active combat duty.

How can a democratic nation allow a technicality of birthplace to stand in the way when the nation is fighting...to preserve the rights of free men?

The high governmental officials have oftentimes stated that this is a people's struggle—regardless of race or color. Could it be a people's struggle if you bar a person who sincerely believes in the very principles we are all fighting for from taking part?

I beg you to take my plea and give it your careful consideration.

I have also sent a copy of this same letter to President Roosevelt in hopes that some action will be taken in my case.

Sincerely,

HENRY H. EBIHARA
Topaz, Utah
"Volunteering is Affirmation of Loyalty"

Enlisted Write to Statesmen

As a part of their campaign to make their action, and the motives underlying that action, better known to the outside world, the Topaz Volunteers for Victory recently sent the following letter to Utah's four members of Congress: Senators Elbert D. Thomas and Abe Muncie, and Representatives Will C. Robinson and Walter Granger. The text of the letter as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are residents of the War Relocation Project at Topaz, Utah, who have volunteered for the special Japanese American combat unit announced by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson on January 28 of this year. Although we are not legally constituents of yours, we felt we might address you as more than strangers, since we do reside in the state you represent in Congress, and since by our volunteering we are making common cause with all good Americans and their government leaders in the prosecution of the present war against this country's enemies. We are, therefore, taking this opportunity to bring to your attention certain facts about ourselves, our motives, our hopes.

"First of all, as to our motives: The most immediate and compelling reason for our volunteering was, of course, that we wanted to demonstrate in the most positive manner possible, our loyalty to this country. Most of us are American citizens by right of birth; a few are non-citizens who have adopted this country as their own. But citizen and non-citizen alike, we are one in our undeviating faith in democratic principles and in America's destiny as the champion of those principles. Our feeling in this matter, we have incorporated into the official Credo of the Volunteers of Topaz, which reads as follows:

"We believe in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of its principles. To uphold these principles, we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression and violation of human rights. We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith. Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States.

"We have sent copies of this credo to volunteer groups in all the other relocation centers, seeking their adoption of its essential spirit, if not of its precise wording, as a common basis for faith and action.

"The sincerity of our belief in this credo can be gauged, we think, by the fact that we have maintained an unwavering trust in the good faith of this country and her leaders through all the trying period of our evacuation and forced confinement. We have never taken this wholesale removal and detention as an expression of America's real or final intentions toward us. We have always felt that, sooner or later, steps would be taken by the government to remedy the anomaly of our situation. The War Department's action in reopening the armed services to us thus came as a vindication of our faith. Our volunteering is, therefore, no more than an affirmation of our reinstatement as useful partners with all other Americans in the fight against our common enemies. We are hopeful that it is also a token of the eventual reinstatement of all loyal persons of our racial minority as useful
and accepted members of the democratic commonwealth of America. For the situation of the thousands of brothers and sisters and parents of the volunteers in the various relocation centers is still a problem to be solved.

"Although, for various valid reasons, they are not within the volunteer group, we feel sure that the vast majority of them are fundamentally as loyal as we are. Thousands of them now stand ready to be taken into the army through the regular channels of the selective service act. But in a time of war, it is all too easy for the superficial kinship of race between them and an enemy nation to create unjust public attitudes toward them. They are looked upon with suspicion; their loyalty is doubted; and they may find it difficult to re-establish themselves as normal components of American society.

"We who have volunteered are deeply conscious that by our action we may in some measure help correct that situation. We are hopeful that any public approval accorded us as volunteer soldiers will also embrace those of our kin that we leave behind, and that their re-entry into general American life will be made easier to that extent. We know, too, that government leaders, no less than we ourselves, are hopeful that this will be the result. For a war against world fascism can be fully effective only if there is a complete consistency in democratic practice here at home.

"We are volunteering, therefore, not only because that is the most direct and most irrefutable demonstration of our own loyalty to this country, but because by our action we feel we are contributing to the eventual fulfillment of American democratic tradition in its best and highest meaning. The America we are fighting for is the America which President Roosevelt has thus defined: 'The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service or other work essential to the war effort."

"We have written to you at some length because we felt that you would be interested in knowing how one group of Japanese American volunteers—a group from your own state—sincerely feels. And since part of our problem, the problem of all those of Japanese blood in this country, is to create a better and wider public awareness of our situation, we also felt that you as a government leader could exercise much favorable influence in bringing that end about. We shall be grateful for anything you might be able to do to make what we have expressed here a matter of wider public and official knowledge, as well as for any effort you might be able to contribute as a member of Congress toward fair and democratic legislation for all minority groups in this country.

"A copy of this letter is being sent to each of the other members of Congress from the state of Utah. We hope that you and your colleagues will give it your favorable attention and consideration.

"Very respectfully yours,

--Taro Katayama

"VOlUNTEERS FOR VICTORY"
It seems beyond dispute to us that this is the right way to handle the matter. We feel confident, too, that these men will become tough and valiant fighters for the country of their parents' adoption...

"We got the old familiar 'That's the stuff I'" kick out of this piece of news—a renewal of the conviction that American democracy can do such things...because of its power to attract and hold the loyalty of all manner of people. In opening the Army to the Nisei, we think the War Department did its best single day's work in months."

"In opening the Army's ranks to enlistment by American-born Japanese, Secretary of War Stimson has taken a wholly justified move. The great majority of this group is thoroughly American in background, thinking and experience. Most of its members are as patriotic and as loyal to this country as young men of German, Irish, Italian and British descent now in American uniform. It is unfair to deprive them of the right to bear arms in their country's defense, which is inherent in every faithful citizen..."

"Now that enlistment has been opened to loyal citizens of Japanese extraction it is to be hoped that the government will find a way to restore many of those still penned in concentration camps to useful employment in farming or war industries. It is not only unfair to them, but foolish to keep faithful citizens idle when we need their efforts to help win a war."

"The decision of the War Department to treat these like other citizens in the mustering of men for the armed forces will gratify all who have felt that the only proper test in their case is loyalty, not racial origin."

"The announcement of the Secretary of War that Americans whose ancestry is Japanese but whose loyalty has been demonstrated will be taken into military service is welcome evidence of a further loosening of the harsh restrictions under which these citizens have lived for more than a year..."

"The decision of the Army to form units from among the young men in camps ought to speed the whole process of restoring the loyal citizens to normal life. If the Army is sufficiently confident of their loyalty to welcome them into the ranks of the defenders of the country, other agencies and other communities ought to have no hesitancy in accepting them..."

"With a shortage of manpower a foremost national problem, no time ought to be wasted in putting the loyal Japanese-Americans where they can do the most good for the country and for themselves. Yet the nation will benefit even more from demonstrating, if after a long delay, its conviction that patriotism and loyalty are not a matter of color but of spirit."

"The episode touches one's sympathies. These Japanese are American citizens, just as are the young men of German and Italian descent who are loyal members of our fighting services...Their eagerness now to bear arms in the nation's battle may ameliorate their rather lonesome lot in this country."
That Americans of Japanese ancestry make top grade soldiers in every way is the testimony of more than one officer who has had experience in commanding them.

A typical comment is that of Brig. Gen. R. Mittelstaedt, now U.S. Army commander of the Maui District in Hawaii. Before going to his Hawaiian post, Gen. Mittelstaedt commanded troops on the mainland in California, and of his experience with Japanese American soldiers there, he says: "Among the men under me were many Americans of Japanese ancestry and I want to say they were among the best soldiers we had. We are proud of them and the record they made. They are very fine, high class soldiers and the type of soldiers who present no disciplinary problems. We were very sorry to lose them when they were sent east." (At the time of evacuation these nisei soldiers were reassigned to posts outside the Western Defense Command.)

Another officer who has praised Japanese American soldiers is Lt. Col. Farrant L. Turner, commander of the 100th Infantry Battalion, which is made up entirely of Japanese Americans and was originally a unit of the Hawaiian National Guard. He says: "I've never had more wholehearted, serious-minded co-operation from any troops."

Still another officer of the 100th Infantry Battalion, with 22 years of experience in the Army, says: "I'd rather have a hundred of these men behind me than a hundred of any others I've ever been with."

Col. E. W. Wilson, who was in command of Hawaii's Schofield Barracks at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack and who is now in this country as liaison officer between the WFA and the Army, has also expressed the opinion that he would rather command the all-Japanese American Army combat team than any other unit.

It is part of the official record, too, that Japanese American soldiers have been performing with considerable merit in various theatres of the war ever since it began. The first prisoner of war taken by the United States, for instance, was captured by a Hawaiian-born Japanese American National Guardsman. This soldier overpowered the operator of a beached Japanese midget submarine whom he encountered on December 7, 1941, while patrolling a Hawaiian beach. Other nisei have fought, and are now fighting, side by side with fellow Americans in the Pacific area from the Philippines to Java. The same is true on the European front, where the Japanese Americans are doing their bit on the sands of North Africa or behind the guns of bombing planes. The U.S. Army's European paper, "The Stars and Stripes," recently featured a front-page picture of a Nebraska-born Japanese American, Sergeant Ben Kuroki, who is a gunner on a Liberator bomber.

Eisenhower of OWI Writes

In a letter to the Pacific Citizen (national Japanese American Citizens League organ), Milton S. Eisenhower, associate OWI Director and brother of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, commented on the War Department's reopening of the Army to Japanese Americans as follows:

"Like millions of Americans, I was deeply gratified when our Government reopened the ranks of our Army to loyal Americans of Japanese descent. Those who are eligible for enlistment have an opportunity to make a particularly significant contribution to our common fight for a better world.

"This war will end in absolute triumph for the United Nations. This war must usher in a day of greater decency and brotherhood among all men. In such a war, the participation of men from every land, men of every descent, is the strongest possible force and guarantee for a reborn and strengthened freedom."

This pamphlet is a special publication of the historical committee of the Volunteers for Victory.

April 3, 1943
CREDO

Volunteers of Topaz

We believe in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of its principles.

To uphold these principles, we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression, and violation of human rights.

We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith.

Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends, and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States.

Robert S. Iki
Acting Chairman

Victory Steering Committee

Aki Moriwaki
Hajime Yoshizawa
John Yoshino
Bob Iki
Paul Matsuki

Walter Nakata
Karl Akiya
Carl Hirota
Ernest Iiyama
Nobumitsu Takahashi

Ken Baba
STATEMENT OF FACTS IN EXPLANATION OF THE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF THE RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY IN REGARDS TO REGISTRATION.

1. Residents were asked to place their confidence in the government; but the government did not inform the residents of their plans and did not seek their opinion or advice at any time before announcement its program. Co-operation to the fullest extent would have been possible, if the people directly concerned were also taken into confidence and were given opportunity for discussion so that emotional and hasty conclusions would be avoided.

2. There were statements issued which seemed to imply that the registration was to separate the loyal from the disloyal; not only segregation in regards to loyalty, but physical segregation. That such action on the basis of "yes or no" answers to two questions is unsound and unfair is without question. If such was the intention, adequate explanation was not presented to the residents.

3. That this registration was also for the purpose of determining clearance for leave was also stated. The residents could not put much faith in this statement, for up to the present the WRA program of issuing clearances has been a total failure. Only a hundred or so indefinite leaves have been granted to the residents here, who number well over seven thousand. Residents had many opportunities to attend school and to be gainfully employed, but permanent jobs and scholarships were lost because of the unpardonable delay in issuing clearances. The actions of the WRA relative to clearances have been totally inconsistent with their announcement of intent and purpose of relocation.

4. Since the time of their evacuation, the residents have had to fill in a seemingly countless number of questionnaires and forms. Another questionnaire seems like another blow in an endless third degree interrogation. Duplication is unreasonable.

5. The kibei, the citizens educated in Japan, will have a difficult time for relocation; for they usually worked in Japanese firms or employed in laundries, restaurants, etc, owned and operated by Japanese, or as domestics. The future for them in this country is less hopeful than for the nisei, at the present time. Their intensity of emotion in demanding their civil rights could be understood in view of their plight.
REINSTITUTION OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

SUMMARY OF THE POLICIES OF THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM, WAR DEPARTMENT AND W.R.A., WHICH AFFECT NISEI

JUNE 1944

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AMERICANISM IS A MATTER
OF THE MIND AND HEART

"No loyal citizen of the United States should be
denied the democratic right to exercise the responsi-
sibilities of his citizenship regardless of his
ancestry. The principles on which this country was
founded and by which it has always been governed is
that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart;
Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race
or ancestry..."

---Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The announcement by the War Department that
nisei are to be inducted into the Army through the
Selective Service System marks another significant
step forward for American citizens of Japanese de-
scent. It means that Japanese American soldiers now
in the Army have performed their duties with high
skill and courage, and that the valuable services
rendered by such soldiers have been recognized.

"The obligation to bear arms in defense of the
nation is one of the essential elements of American
citizenship. As increasing numbers of nisei are
called upon to assume that obligation, I feel con-
fident that soldiers' of Japanese ancestry in the
Army will acquit themselves with distinction and
that there will be widening public recognition of
the status which all loyal and law-abiding resi-
dents of Japanese descent can and should enjoy in
our national life."

---Dillon S. Myer
Report on Rights and Privileges of American Servicemen

The following pages of the pamphlet is reproduced by the Topaz Volunteers for the U.S. Army for the families of enlisted men. We believe that the information contained in the publication is of unestimable importance.

Topaz, Utah
Guarantees to American soldiers and sailors of rights and privileges which they are fighting to preserve were reviewed today by the Office of War Information. Acts of Congress pertaining to the welfare of the servicemen and their families, state laws and the program of the American Red Cross, provide:

A serviceman’s civil liabilities, such as income tax, suits for debts, and insurance premium payments, are suspended and remain suspended until six months after the war. Free legal advice is available to him.

His right to express preference at the ballot box on those who are to govern the Country, his State, and to make laws, is preserved inviolate.

He is eligible for unemployment compensation in 48 States and Hawaii in the event he is unable to find employment upon being discharged from the service.

His former employer is required by law to reinstate him to his job and seniority rights upon discharge from the service. He will be given civil service preference in seeking employment with the National Government.

His concern over the health and other assistance and services which may be required by his wife, his children, his parents or parents, or his sisters, brothers, and grandchildren is alleviated through systems of insurance, allotments and allowances, quarter allowances and maternity and infant care.

He may receive free medical and hospital care after the war. If wounded or injured he may be eligible for veterans pension commensurate with his degree of disability and to vocational rehabilitation and placement in employment.
RELIEF FROM CERTAIN CIVILIAN OBLIGATIONS

During the last war, it was found necessary to enact legislation to insure that the man suddenly thrust into uniform would not suffer because of obligations he had undertaken as a civilian or would not be at the mercy of creditors who might take advantage of his military absence. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940 was enacted on a similar pattern. There are provisions in this Act under the heading of "general relief" whereby court action detrimental to the interests of servicemen may be stayed for the duration, or deferred until the appointment by the court of an attorney to represent the defendant. A judgment rendered against a man in military service may, under appropriate conditions, be opened by such person for defense after his return to civilian life. The period of service, moreover, shall not count as elapsed time under any statutes or regulations of limitation for any court proceedings involving the serviceman.

Another provision of the law prevents the hasty eviction of dependents under foreclosure or for unpaid rent; gives reasonable protection against the seizure of goods under installment purchase agreements; and protects insurance policyholders against untoward exercise of option by an assignee, such as surrendering for cash without the policyholder's consent. The act also provides for certain tax relief and prevents undefendable sales of taxes. It further relaxes the general law as to homesteads and public lands as applied to persons who enter the military service. The law in general prohibits interest charges on outstanding obligations of the servicemen in excess of 6 per cent per year. Various other measures for assistance, postponement, and additional relief are possible under this law.
Most servicemen in private life carried life insurance and the reduction in their earning power has made it difficult to continue payments on premiums. Article IV of the act establishes the rights and procedures in connection with commercial life insurance policies under which premiums fall due while the owner is in the armed forces and for two years thereafter. If he is unable or does not wish to meet these premiums from his personal funds, or if he does not arrange for an allotment from his military pay for the purpose, he has the privilege of the benefits of Article IV. These benefits constitute a guarantee by the Veterans Administration that the insurance having a face value not exceeding $10,000 will be kept in force through an arrangement with that agency.

Servicemen must pay income tax, but collections are deferred for a period extending not more than six months following their discharge. A State or municipality may sell a serviceman's property for delinquent taxes or improvement assessments, but this may be prevented by the serviceman filing with the officer whose duty it is to enforce the collection of such taxes or assessments an affidavit showing certain facts. The court may stay such sale for a period extending not more than six months after the serviceman's discharge.

Free civil rights legal advice may be obtained from lawyer-members of the Selective Service Advisory Boards for Registrants and from local bar associations and the American Bar Associations, which have set up committees for this purpose.

**Preservation of Voting Rights**

The Congress has approved and the President has signed legislation providing for absentee voting by servicemen. The law applies to election of President, Vice President, members of Congress and also, if the law of a particular State permits, to election of State and local officials and to Presidential and Congressional primaries.
The Act covers only persons duly qualified to register and vote under the law of their residence who are absent on active duty with the Armed Forces. All States except Delaware, Kentucky and New Mexico permit absentee voting.

**PRESERVATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION RIGHTS**

Workers in industry and commerce covered under the Federal-State Unemployment Compensation system on being inducted into the armed forces find themselves facing loss of unemployment compensation credits based on the wages earned during prior employment. A total of 43 States and Hawaii have taken steps to correct this by amending their laws preventing military service from destroying rights to benefits, and other States may do so before the war ends. Amendment to State laws for this purpose vary widely in detail, but their general objective is to assure upon discharge benefit rights at least as favorable as those existing prior to induction. In many States this restoration of status is not operative until the exhaustion of any federal allowances which may be provided for the period after discharge.

**EMPLOYMENT OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS**

The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, under certain specific conditions provides that if a person is honorably released from active service in the Armed Forces and is still qualified to perform the duties of his old position and makes application therefor within forty days, his employer, including the Federal Government, must restore him to his former position or one of like seniority, status and pay. The State Governments, although not legally bound, are generally adopting the same policy.

Under the Act, the Selective Service System, which took the soldier or sailor out of civilian life, is charged with the responsibility of placing him back securely in it.
A Reemployment Division has been established to make sure that every man honorably discharged from active service either gets his old position back and keeps it; gets one just as good and keeps it; receives special training if necessary and physically handicapped; or is properly cared for if unemployable in competitive work and is qualified.

Each service man about to be discharged from active duty receives a notification explaining his obligations and rights and advising him to report to his Local Board or the Local Board of proper jurisdiction over his eventual destination and contact the Reemployment Committeeman assigned to it who will act as his special representative and will help him in getting a new start as a civilian. The Committeemen do not assume the functions of but do act in liaison with the United States Employment Service, the Veterans' Administration, the Vocational and Rehabilitation Division of the Federal Security Agency, and the local Red Cross Service offices of the American Red Cross, and assist the man in their proper referral if necessary and put them in contact with appropriate openings if possible.

National Clearing House Committees are being organized on the state and local level, composed of representatives from national and civic organizations including labor unions, the Grange, veterans' organizations, Chambers of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, and civic and social groups. These Committees will cooperate with the Reemployment Committeemen and all the other agencies to solve each discharged soldier's and sailor's problem as a personal, individual, and community matter.

**WAGE SCALE FOR SERVICESMEN**

The initial base pay of the servicemen of all branches of the armed forces is now $50 a month. This is an increase of $20 a month over the wage a private or apprentice seaman (seventh grade) received prior to June 1, 1942.
The American soldier or sailor does not receive the highest wage in the world. The base pay of an Australian private is $62.10.

For overseas duty our servicemen receive a 20 per cent increase or $10 a month for privates, and other enlisted men and warrant officers according to grade.

A private first class or seaman second class (sixth grade) receives a base pay of $54; corporal or seaman first class (fifth grade), $66; sergeant or petty officer third class (fourth grade), $78; staff sergeant or petty officer second class (third grade), $96; first or technical sergeant or petty officer first class (second grade), $114; master sargeant or chief petty officer (first grade), $138.

A Congressional handbook under the title of "Handbook for Servicemen and Servicewomen of World War II and Their Dependents, including Rights and Benefits of Veterans of World War II and their Dependents," edited by Representative Wright Patman of Texas, explains that the increase in pay for American soldiers and sailors was granted to bring their wages up to the average civilian worker's wage.

Continuing, the handbook states:

"It was to equalize the pay of the man who fights with the man who works. This was not done in World War I and the servicemen simply asked that it be done after the war. The present pay increase is not a 'bonus' but a fair and just equalization of pay with civilian defense workers."

The Labor Department's most recent figures on earnings of industrial workers show the average weekly pay of a worker in non-durable goods industries is $32.51; for manufacturing establishments, $41.12, and for durable goods industries, $47.15. Out of his weekly earnings the workers must pay rent, buy groceries, pay taxes, and insurance premiums, and purchase other necessities.
Representative Patman, assisted by government agencies, including the War and Navy Departments and the Veterans Administration, has estimated the annual earnings of an Army private at $1,700. A breakdown of this estimate follows:

- Soldier's cash income: $600.00
- Food ($1.50 a day, civilian cost): $574.50
- Barrack shelter ($10 a month): $120.00
- Equipment and replacement: $170.00
- Medical, dental, and hospital care: $100.00
- Saved on life insurance: $63.40
- Saved on cigarettes: $10.95
- Saved on laundry: $32.50
- Saved on postage and barber bills: $28.65
- Total: $1,700.00

**SYSTEM OF ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOWANCES**

Through enactment of the "Serviceman's Dependents Allowance Act of 1942," the Government has made an effort to help soldiers and sailors meet home-tie obligations. The Act's objective is to "provide family allowances for the dependents of enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard" throughout the war and for six months thereafter. With the increased wage scale and Government allowance, the average serviceman and his family now have an income greater than anything of this kind heretofore in effect for soldiers and sailors.

While it is not rigidly compulsory by law, a married serviceman is expected to allot $22 of his pay each month to his wife. The Government matches his allotment with a Class A allowance of $28 to his wife. An allowance is a grant provided from federal funds in addition to the serviceman's regular pay.
If they have one child the monthly allowance is $40, and an additional $10 for each additional child, or $20 to one child where there is no wife; $30 to two children where there is no wife and additional $10 for each additional child. An allowance up to $20 is granted to a former wife divorced, if alimony is being paid by court decree. Qualifying dependents have the privilege of filing application if the serviceman is remiss or is unable to make application himself.

A Class B allowance is granted when a serviceman makes a voluntary allotment for the support of his dependent parents, brothers or sisters or grandchildren. In addition to the serviceman's contribution, the Government will contribute the following amounts to Class B dependents: $15 to one parent, and an additional $5 for each brother, sister or grandchild, the whole not to total more than $50; $25 to two parents, and an additional $5 for each brother, sister or grandchild up to $50; $5 to each brother, sister or grandchild, if there are no parents.

MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE FOR WIVES AND CHILDREN OF SERVICEMEN

As the strength of the Army and Navy grow prior to and after the declaration of war, the need for medical and hospital care for wives and children of servicemen also increased. Records show that the proportion of all children born whose fathers are in military or naval service is already substantial and is on the increase. In 26 States and the District of Columbia during three months last year, the number of birth certificates filed for children of servicemen ranged from 7.9 per cent in the District of Columbia to 2.1 per cent in South Dakota and Vermont. The Children's Bureau of the United States Labor Department said "it seems reasonable to expect that 5 per cent of the infants born in the United States in the year beginning July 1, 1942, will be babies of men in military service. On the basis of the number of expected births this would mean more than 1,400,000 babies whose fathers are servicemen."
"Near many of the Army camps," the Children's Bureau explains, "the problem of financing care for soldiers' families is serious. Wives who are not legal residents are not eligible for whatever community services may be open to residents. It is feasible for a wife to return to her home town for confinement, private funds are sometimes available, usually through the Red Cross, for helping her to get home; but the number of cases has grown so large that private funds are proving insufficient to meet the expense of medical and hospital care. The medical and hospital care for servicemen's families usually provided by the Army in peacetime has now been discontinued in many cases.

"For wives and children not living near the camps there may also be difficulty in obtaining medical care. In many communities there is no public provision for maternity care or for medical care of children. Private funds are being used, of course, but in many places, especially in small communities and rural areas, they cannot be depended on. Requests for maternity care or for medical care for their children or both were received from 2,601 soldiers' and sailors' wives during August 1942, by 292 Red Cross chapters in 46 states, representing approximately one-tenth of the Red Cross chapters in the United States. In 2,016 cases, help was needed in obtaining maternity medical care; in 2,072, hospital maternity care; in 2,042, medical care for sick children; and in 122, hospital care for sick children. It can therefore be estimated that more than 25,000 soldiers' and sailors' wives are seeking assistance in securing obstetric and pediatric care each month."

Under the Social Security Act, Federal funds are available for grants to States for maternal and child-health services under State plans approved by the Children's Bureau. The total amount appropriated for this purpose for each fiscal year is $5,020,000. The larger part of this can be used only in combination with State and local matching funds.
But $1,980,000 is allotted on the basis of need and, for this, matching funds are not required.

Late last year, State health departments in 39 States had requested Federal funds amounting to more than $1,500,000 to provide obstetric and pediatric medical care and hospital care for the families of servicemen. To be approved, State plans must make care available irrespective of residence for women who state that the father of the child is in military service, when it is known that other resources are not available in the community to provide such care.

The continuation of these programs during the remainder of this fiscal year and the extension of similar plans to other states were assured by a supplemental appropriation of $1,200,000 by Congress. The Children's Bureau is requesting appropriations for the continuance of the programs during the next fiscal year.

**MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE FOR SERVICEMEN AND VETERANS**

If after treatment in a military or naval hospital, it is determined that a serviceman cannot be restored to service with the armed forces, and he requires further hospitalization, he is discharged from the service and transferred to a Veterans Hospital for further treatment. The Veterans Administration has 93 such institutions, the largest group of modern fireproof hospitals in the world. There are 85,000 beds of all types.

The line of duty pensions are paid at the same basic rates as for service-connected compensations after the last war. For disability, they run from $10 a month to $100 for total disability. A combination of severe disabilities may entitle a veteran to as much as $250 per month.

Death benefits for the present war are from $30 to $30 a month for widows, according to age, with additional amounts for children, up to as much as $83 a month.
Payments also may be made to a dependent parent or parents. Widows' benefits are payable until death or remarriage; unmarried children's benefits until 18 years old, or 21 years old if they are attending school. If the child becomes helpless and permanently incapable of self-support before 18 years of age, the benefits are continued after that age. Burial benefits are also provided.

There are provisions for the rehabilitation, prosthetic appliances, and other aids for the physical reestablishment of the injured man.

**NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE**

As in the last war, the Federal Government is now underwriting the extra hazards caused by war by making National Service Life Insurance available to members of the armed forces. This insurance can be purchased by officers and men up to a $10,000 maximum. It is a five-year term policy, with premiums payable by deduction from pay. After carrying a policy for a year, a serviceman can convert it to one of three permanent forms—ordinary life, 20-pay life, or 30-pay life. Beneficiary is confined to wife, child, parent or brother and sister. The terms provide for claim payment in monthly installments for 20 years if the beneficiary is under 30 years old at the time of the serviceman's death, or for life when the beneficiary is 30 years of age or over.

In the event of total disability of the insured for at least six months and prior to age 60, the policy provides for the waiver of premium payment during such disability, thereby keeping the insurance in force.

The monthly cost for the convertible term insurance for a 30-year old serviceman is about $7 for the maximum amount of $10,000.

An automatic extension of coverage has been effected by amendments whereby, in case of death, disability or capture occurring prior to April 20, 1922, the service members involved are presumed to have applied for policies of $5,000 if they did not already have that much Government insurance.
No physical examination is required if a serviceman applies for the insurance during his first 120 days in the armed forces. A new law has been approved which permits a serviceman another 120 days from April 12, 1943, to apply for insurance without a medical examination and without medical history statement. This law expires August 10, 1943. He may take out $10,000 worth, if he is not carrying any, or if he has already taken out a lesser amount, he may increase his insurance to $10,000 worth by taking out an additional policy or policies.

ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

With the passage of the allotment and allowance legislation, the American Red Cross Home Service was called upon to help men and families get the necessary documentary evidence and dependency information so they might receive the advantages of this law.

In aiding the servicemen at camp, the Home Service worker obtains for the Red Cross hospital social workers the social and family history upon which proper diagnosis and treatment may be based. In considering the granting of emergency furloughs, military authorities have the benefit of the Homc Service worker's report on home conditions.

To the disabled ex-serviceman and his family the Red Cross has a special responsibility. The Red Cross home chapter assists the veteran and his family in presenting their claims to the Veterans Administration for pensions, payment of government insurance, hospitalization and other benefits or allowances.

Red Cross procedures in claims work are as follows: The Red Cross field director helps the disabled serviceman file his claim before he leaves his station. The field director also refers the serviceman to his Red Cross home chapter for further help and notifies the chapter of the man's application.
Upon his arrival home, the Red Cross is then prepared to expedite the claims by working directly with the Red Cross field director in the regional office of the Veterans Administration. Pending settlement, which frequently requires from two to three months, Home Service provides the disabled veteran and his family with such aid as is needed.

The War Department, in sending notifications of death, advises the next of kin to seek the assistance of their local Red Cross chapter in presenting their claims. As casualties increase, claims work will develop into one of the most active phases of Red Cross service to the armed forces. This service will be extremely helpful to the families of servicemen.

The War Department also refers to the Red Cross those families who wish to apply for pay allotments when the man is missing, interned, captured or besieged.

SERVICEMEN AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Confidence that the Government will take steps to protect the social security rights of men in the armed services is growing.

In a message to Congress, September 14, 1940, President Roosevelt recommended enactment of the necessary legislation incident to preserving insurance protection for servicemen under the Social Security Act. The Social Security Board has urged measures to safeguard servicemen's insurance rights. Organized labor, including the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, are urging such protection as part of their current campaigns for expansion and liberalization of the social security system. And pending in Congress are a number of bills aimed at this general objective.

Steps have been taken by States to "freeze" the unemployment compensation status of covered workers entering the armed forces. No such action has been taken so far to protect such workers in their rights under the Federally operated old-age and survivors insurance system.
Benefits under old-age and survivors insurance are geared to the worker's earning in jobs covered by the system (most jobs in business and industry are covered). What monthly benefits he receives at age 65 or what his widow and children receive if he dies before then depend on his average wage or salary from covered jobs and the number of years he worked in covered employment, since 1936 (or since he was 21). Any period of time in which he has not worked in covered employment thus lowers his average wage and his ultimate benefits, and may result in the loss of his right to any benefits.

A number of suggestions have been made for protecting the social insurance rights of the millions of workers who have come into the armed forces from commerce and industry. In general the plans have narrowed down to two alternatives: either (1) the status of the worker would be "frozen" as of the time he entered the service, and he would have the same rights when he returned to private life; or (2) his service would be considered as "covered employment" so that he would have full protection and build up benefit rights while in the armed forces.

Besides the Congressional handbook, which is now being revised, other pamphlets on the rights and privileges of servicemen include the War Department's "Personal Affairs of Military Personnel and Aid for their Dependents"; "Selective Service in Peacetime" compiled by the Selective Service System; War Department's "Monthly Allowance for the Dependents of Soldiers"; OWI's "State Absentee Voting and Registration Laws"; War Department's "Service for the American Soldier"; American Red Cross's "Services to the Armed Forces", and the American Legion's Serviceman's handbook.
Excerpts from the broadcast of Arthur Gaeth, delivered February 11, 1944 over the Mutual Broadcasting System.

RIGHTS OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

Yesterday afternoon I received a copy of the Topaz Times, which is the little newspaper put out at the Japanese internment center of the War Relocation Authority out in southwestern Utah. It was an extra edition with the headlines—First 121 Topaz Youths named in Initial Draft. There was a certain amount of elation in that story—-the young American citizens of Japanese ancestry, commonly known as the Nisei, were to be given an opportunity, on almost the same basis with other Americans to serve their country in its armed forces.

In the same mail there was a report of the battle record of the 100th Infantry Battalion, made up of Japanese Americans from Hawaii who had been fighting in the Italian campaign. Of the 1000 men, who normally make up a battalion, 96 have been killed and 221 wounded with 17 others reported missing in action. Then I read the story that Remington Stone, assistant to the army deputy district engineer for the central Pacific area just returned from Hawaii, told the Lawyers Guild in Los Angeles. Returning to California after 22 months in supervising the construction of Hawaiian defenses, Stone related how the mass of fortifications on the island which had been destroyed at Pearl Harbor were rebuilt by the people with Japanese ancestry. Only a small fraction of one percent of the Japanese in the Hawaiian Islands, both citizens and enemy aliens were interned after Pearl Harbor--the people arrested were dominantly of four classes—the consular agents of the government of Japan, the Shinto priests who had come recently from Japan, the Kibei or young men who had been sent back to Japan as youths for their education, and the businessmen who were tied economically to the Japanese Empire and its ruling clique. Stone expressed the opinion that it is chiefly the Japanese who have been in Japan since 1932, when the Manchurian incident enabled the military clique to gain control of the government, who are dangerous to the United States. When that military gang assumed control in 1932 it began a systematic indoctrination of the Japanese against the Whites. But the Japanese who have come to America, came for the most part, years before then, long before this intensive indoctrination took place. Today about 70 percent of the people of Japanese ancestry in the United States are American citizens, having been born here. The fact that they are responding to the war effort ought to be gratifying to every American for it is the best evidence of the ability of the American way of life to integrate people into it. Throughout our history there have come to our shores millions of British, Dutch, German, Italian, Slav and other nationalities and always after a generation or two these people have become Americans with our habits, our ideas, and our outlook for the future. We would be slipping if our power of assimilation had not been able to do that with people of Japanese ancestry. That these young people feel as they do, that they want to get into the army and fight for America, that they have been moulded into the American pattern in most cases inspite of opposition and strong ties ought to be gratifying to every American for it is one of the strongest evidences for American superiority and greatness that we have. Most of these young Japanese Americans want no truck with the heels on the other side of the Pacific who would become the war lords of Asia.
Larry Tajiri, editor of the Pacific Citizen, tells quite a story about what some of these boys who are returning from war are up against. Here it is:

A Nisei has come home from the wars. At an east coast port three weeks ago a hospital ship landed a number of wounded men who were to be transferred in waiting planes to inland hospitals. Among the wounded was a young Japanese American soldier who had fought in the mud and brush of Italy until he had been blinded, until both of his eyes had been shot out. While millions of young Americans are training and awaiting the decisive battles ahead, the war is already over for this nisei soldier. He must start today to readjust himself and his battle-shattered capabilities to the post-war world ahead. What will be the shape of his world, the particular world he must face as a Japanese American?

If this battle-scared veteran of the Italian campaign were to walk out of his army hospital tomorrow, his honorable discharge papers in his pocket, he would find that certain regulations remain in force which stringently limit his rights as a citizen. A Nisei has come home from the wars, but other Nisei are fighting today alongside their fellow Americans or are in training. Those of us out of uniform, living and working in the Main Street of America, must realize the full extent of our obligations. We, too, have our war to fight and win. It is a war against intolerance, against bigotry and prejudice, against the men of warped minds who would misuse this earth and the people in it.

"To the returned soldier, those of us at home can say that we are confident that our government will keep faith with us, and that any restrictive policies levied against us as a racial group in the name of wartime necessity will be abandoned as soon as military conditions permit. We are confident that the government and the army will not submit to the wailing banshees of prejudice, nor to political extortion or editorial blackmail. A Nisei has come home from the war -- and there are thousands of awakened citizenry who are fighting and will continue to fight that the place of loyal Japanese Americans, and all other Americans, be made secure in the world of tomorrow. And this is a fact of which we are most proud. The hate-mongers and the professional purveyors of prejudice are the enemies of the whole people and not of the Nisei alone. The friends of freedom and justice are our friends. We could not ask for better friends, nor for a better side on which to fight." You know there is quite a story in that Tajiri editorial -- that alone would indicate that Larry Tajiri has caught the real spirit of America and that he is treading on solid ground.
Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
National Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The material enclosed herein has been mailed to the U.S. Army volunteers of each relocation center through the project directors.

We thought that this material may be of interest to you.

Cordially yours,

John Y. Yoshino  
Liaison Officer
April 30, 1943

To: Mr. Ernst

From: John Yoshino

Attached hereto is the material to be sent to all the Relocation Projects.
VOLUNTEER FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY
CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

April 29, 1943

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE U.S. ARMY

Attention: Project Director

Dear Fellow Americans:

This letter is intended as a concise report of the activities and accomplishments of the Topaz group of the national Japanese American volunteers organization. As it has already been stated to you in a previous communication, our organization—based on the membership of thousands of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry—is to serve as a movement seeking to better the position of the Japanese racial minority in this country of our birth and choice.

As steps towards our aim, we have heretofore accomplished the following:

1. A credo was framed and adopted as an expression of the belief and motive of the Topaz volunteers. Copies of this credo have already been transmitted to all the relocation centers and the national WRA, which, incidentally, gave its full-hearted approval through the National WRA Director.
   Our credo was carried in full in the "World Forum" section of the San Francisco Chronicle (April 18).

2. The co-operation of the local WRA administration was promised us, and thus far the co-operation received by the volunteers group has been highly gratifying.

3. At our suggestion, a "Victory" privilege card was given to each volunteer in this project. Bearing the signatures of the Project Director and the commanding officer of the Military Police, the card entitles the holder to privileges and to priority ratings in transportation facilities for entering and leaving the Project Area.
   A large red-white-and-blue "V" was imprinted on each card.

4. The public relations and historical record committee of the group composed a letter which was sent to the four Congressmen serving in the Nation's capital from this State. A very enthusiastic and encouraging acknowledgement was received from one of the Senators.
   Enclosed are copies of the correspondence.

5. During the closing days of the volunteering period, an illustrated seven-page pamphlet "Volunteers for Victory" was produced by the public relations committee and distributed to all the potential volunteers of Topaz. The purpose of this literature was to emphasize the significance of volunteering as part of the endeavor to assure a future more promising than ever before for all persons of Japanese ancestry who hope and intend to make America their permanent home.

6. A public relations mission to Salt Lake City was undertaken by a party of four volunteers, who succeeded in contacting and "winning over" a number of persons holding key positions in the capital of this State.
   The most outstanding result of this mission was an entire broadcast about nisei Army volunteers over the Intermountain Radio Network on March 29 by Barratt Chadwick. A transcript of this fine publicity broadcast is enclosed...
A sixteen-page pamphlet "Fighting Americans, Too!" was prepared by the Topaz group and produced early this month. One thousand five hundred copies of the first printing were exhausted after they were mailed to civic and military officials, Federal agencies, newspapers and magazines, radio stations, approved colleges and universities, service and fraternal bodies, social welfare organizations, youth societies, church and religious organizations, libraries and interested individuals. Geographically, our mailing list covered points from Hawaii and the United States down to Puerto Rico.

Many commendations and expressions of sympathy towards our movement were received from sources including members of the Army general staff, United States Congress, a California executive board, and numerous educational and social institutions. We have received similar encouragement from many friends throughout the Nation.

One thousand copies of the second printing have been completed, and are now being mailed to all the Congressional Senators and to interested organizations and parties. Our mailing list totals about 2,500 names.

8. A representative of our group personally contacted the leaders of the four chief labor and trade unions of this State in an effort to open up local and national war industries for loyal Japanese Americans. Personal assurances that they were willing to allow volunteers rejected for physical and medical to join the unions were received from these leaders. A complete success of this phase of our program will be high-pay war jobs for all loyal Japanese American workers.

9. Our organized appeal through the Project Director to the War Department brought the lowering of physical qualifications for the special Army combat unit, and an assurance that all those who failed the preliminary physical examination on account of defective hearing and vision will be re-examined.

10. The historical record committee is keeping a detailed documentation of our progress, including assembly minutes, press clippings, correspondence, and activities reports. Although these records are filed with the local administration at present, they will be transferred to permanent non-government files outside of the center at a later date, inasmuch as it is hoped by the members of the Topaz group that a national legion of nisei veterans could be formed in the post-war period on the basis of the present volunteers groups in the relocation centers and the "free zones."

11. We have received the promise of the WRA administration that every possible consideration will be extended to the families of the volunteers now and in the future.

12. The Topaz group has gone on record as having requested the restoration of normal Selective Service status for all loyal Japanese American men.

13. A complete statistical record has been taken of the families in Topaz with close relatives serving in the U.S. armed forces.

14. To win the favorable interest of the Topaz residents in our program, we have undertaken the following:

a. A large Army service flag is being made by the Adult Education department. Four by six feet, the red-white-and-blue flag will have over 300 stars—one for every volunteer and soldier-relative of Topaz families. This flag will be displayed in the main administration hall.

b. A hand-printed "Victory Scroll of Honor" carrying the names of the 112 young residents of Topaz who volunteered for the Army combat unit is now being prepared by the local art department. This will be displayed in a weather-proof glass case outside of the main administration hall.

c. Several banquets were held in the honor of the volunteers. The arrangements for these affairs were made by an auxiliary group composed of
young women who intend to volunteer for the WAAC, if possible.

4. English and Japanese form letters were mailed to every family here which have close relatives in the armed forces, outlining the purpose, work, and the pledge of the national volunteers group.

5. The arms and services of the U.S. Army were described in a leaflet now being sent to each family of the volunteers and soldier-relatives in order to promote appreciation of the parts played by the individual soldiers in winning the war.

We sincerely hope that your group would keep us posted on the progress of the movement in your center. We will deeply appreciate receiving a word from you as soon as possible. Any suggestion, question, or report from you will be gladly received by us.

See you in Camp Shelby!

Yours sincerely,

Volunteers for the U.S. Army
Central Utah Relocation Proj.
Topaz, Utah

Copies to:
Dillon S. Myer, national WRA director
Charles F. Ernst, WRA project director
Good afternoon, soldiers on the home front!

I hoped you've noticed that for several weeks now I haven't had anything to say about Japanese evacuees and their problems. Frankly, I had to stop discussing them. I couldn't mention them in a neutral attitude, state certain facts and let it go at that.

It seems that if you mention Japanese Americans without some word of condemnation, you antagonize a great many who are emotionally upset over this war. A great many lies were being told about how the Japanese evacuees were living in luxury at Topaz. Arthur Gaeth and I, in company with several newspaper representatives, personally investigated conditions at Topaz, and found that the gossip that was spreading in our communities were utterly false.

Yet in bringing out the facts of life at Topaz—there was much objection from many of you home-fronters. Later we held a forum on the evacuees, stressing I suppose that the only right way to make better Americans of them is to teach them Americanism in normally developed schools. Well, this brought a heated letter from a Marine sergeant in Idaho Falls, protesting against educating the evacuees while Caucasian American boys were losing lives on Guadalcanal—to certain Japanese educated in American schools. Actually most of the rumors about American-educated Japanese warriors has been placed in their proper position, which certainly is much less excitable than what the Marine sergeant or his quoted material would indicate. Most of the Japanese soldiers who speak English were exchange students, and are not to be grouped with the evacuees with American citizenship in our relocation centers. They are not the same. But nevertheless our remarks were severely censured.

Then again, there was the question of Senate Bill No. 5. Some of us recognized it as vicious and stupid legislation. I said as much over my Lincoln Day's conversation. I wish I could read you some of the letters that I received upbraiding me for my stand. Weeks later, the sugar interests, the farm groups, the Federal prosecutors, woke up to the fact that Senate Bill No. 5 was an impossible piece of legislation. The Governor vetoed in spite of political threats, because even he didn't want to see it go on the books. Well, a much milder substitute was drafted and passed.

So—I arrived at the conclusion that my honest efforts in anything concerning Japanese evacuees drew more criticism
than the merits of my discussion warranted. The criticism wouldn't have caused me to avoid the subject—if the criticism hadn't taken the form of questioning my patriotism and loyalty. I have too many suggestions and ideas I want you to accept to jeopardize my statements with such controversy.

This I had reasoned out—quite well and quite final!

Yet, the other morning I was in the state Office of War Information headquarters facing a group of young Japanese American evacuees from Topaz. They said that they wanted their case presented to the people of Utah. I told them I had decided to stay away from evacuee questions, at least for the present. Their only answer was to tell their stories—and my only reply was that I would tell you the stories they told me.

They were four boys who had volunteered in the new combat group, organized from the ranks of the Japanese in the United States. John Yoshino, who is liaison representative for Charles F. Ernst, director of Topaz, said that as spokesmen for 109 volunteers from Topaz, they wanted the people of Utah to understand their feelings of those 109 at Topaz.

Before Pearl Harbor, more than 5,000 Japanese Americans had either volunteered or had been drafted into the armed services. This represented a fair share, considering the small population of people of Japanese descent in the United States. Then as the Pacific war developed—new regulations closed the avenue of drafting or volunteering of the Japanese Americans to serve with our armed forces.

The evacuation of 110,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans from our West Coast scattered Japanese among the interior states, and was fuel for emotional upsets over the Japanese. Many of those who hated anything Japanese cried out: "Why aren't the Japanese Americans fighting and getting killed? Our boys are. These others remain at home and are fed by the government...they'll escape with their lives...and they'll buy property that belongs to our sons when they come!"

This is excellent fuel for hate. The young fellows in the evacuation centers resented these unfair attacks. The United States Government prohibited them from joining the Army or the Navy! All they could do was to point to the Japanese already in the American armed forces, but this was not enough. The cries continued: "Why aren't they fighting?" So they had to sit back and take everything that was thrown at them! And there was plenty tossed their way.

When I visited Topaz, several of the young fellows told me they were waiting for the day when Uncle Sam would say, "Come on in the Army, boys!"
Well, several weeks ago, the government announced that it was forming a series of Japanese combat forces, consisting entirely of Japanese in America who would volunteer to fight—this meant fighting, not working, but actual on-the-line fighting!

Some number over 5,000 volunteered in the United States.

A hundred and nine volunteered from Topaz in Central Utah. Understand, if you will, this was not a draft, but voluntary enlistment, direct for combat forces.

Yoshino, one of the boys in the OWI office, was a member of a large family. Three boys in his family volunteered. One brother was already in uniform. Yoshino's mother is in the hospital.

Yoshiaki Moriwaki, another of the volunteers, is a graduate of the University of California; he's leaving his wife and six-month old daughter. His father is 79 and his mother is 72 and crippled; both his parents are dependent on him.

Robert Iki is leaving his wife; they've been married for three years. The other volunteer I met was Nobumitsu Takahashi, also a graduate of the University of California.

Yoshino estimated that 30 per cent of the Topaz volunteers are married, leaving dependents. Four of the volunteers were also volunteers in the first World War; three of them are now American Legionnaires. One of the oldest volunteers is in his sixties—and is a graduate of the Imperial Naval Academy in Japan.

These four that I met the other day had volunteered to demonstrate that they thought enough of America as a place to live to fight for the right to live here.

Understand if you will, volunteering from regular life and volunteering from a relocation center are two different things. In a relocation center, after months of confinement, with no record of crime behind them, only the demands of certain factions to get them from the West Coast, there is bound to be resentment and bitterness. Some of this takes the form of pro-fascist feeling. "The government has put us here. If we're not good enough to work outside, then we're not good enough to fight for the government." There's considerable of this type of pressure... So these 109 had to fight in their own mind many more obstacles than just the chance of their life in combat.

They feel the necessity of proving to you that there are Japanese Americans who are willing to die to prove to you that they are loyal Americans. They are willing to prove this to you—though it might mean the censure and threats
from differing groups in their people.

Now that's their story and they want you to know that there are those of Japanese descent who are good Americans!

The 109 from Topaz and the total of five thousand from the United States will carry a torch for many other thousands who are left behind.

Yet---there is a story I'd like to tell to those others at Topaz and in Utah who have not volunteered. And I'm speaking about certain bus boys and fellows in the kitchens of restaurants.

The United States Government has opened up a way for you to serve as these 109 will serve. You might think as many Americans thought---I won't go unless I'm drafted. You probably will be relatively secure in a relocation center or working in some fairly essential position. Very likely the government won't draft you because of obvious complications. But you have a chance to serve.

I need not tell you how bitter many Americans are toward you---even though you feel yourself a hamburger-eating, malted milk-drinking average American. It so happens that for many years the attack at Pearl Harbor and our losses in the Pacific won't be forgotten, so you---a Nisei in America---you have a cross to bear, much heavier and much bigger than Tom Jones or Bill Smith, who might be just like you in thoughts and actions but are Caucasians. You got to fight prejudices and an unconscious hate for anything Japanese. So you've got to do more than that expected of the average American. You've got to leave responsibilities and prove yourself over and over again. You've got to raise that 109 or that five thousand to double and treble that figure. There are those who have volunteered and who are representing you. But if you're of Japanese descent, if you're young enough to fight, you'd better volunteer and help those others carry a torch! You don't have to---this is America! But for the lives of those thousands who are going to continue working and living in America, you had better do your bit.

This was directed to those of Japanese descent who have not volunteered in this new combat group. Even if the United States should close its portals to you, you should go on individual record of beginning for a chance to serve. Your job if bigger than that of the Average American!

To those four young men who asked me to bring to the attention of many Utah home-fronters their case of loyalty, I've been happy to brook again the possibility of dislike and misunderstanding. Those 109 should be commended. My thought is, all others should weigh very seriously their duty to go and do likewise.

And that ends our conversation for this afternoon!
Hon. Elbert D. Thomas  
U.S. Senator from Utah  
Senate Offices  
Washington, D.C.  

March 23, 1943  

Dear Sir:  

We, the undersigned, are residents of the War Relocation Project at Topaz, Utah, who have volunteered for the special Japanese American combat unit announced by Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, on January 23, of this year. Although we are not legally constituents of yours, we felt we might address you as more than strangers, since we do reside in the state you represent in Congress, and since by our volunteering, we are making common cause with all good Americans and their government leaders in the prosecution of the present war against this country's enemies. We are, therefore, taking this opportunity to bring to your attention certain facts about ourselves, our motives, our hopes.

First of all, as to our motives: The most immediate and compelling reason for our volunteering was, of course, that we wanted to demonstrate in the most positive manner possible, our loyalty to this country. Most of us are American citizens by right of birth; a few are non-citizens who have adopted this country as their own. But citizen and non-citizen alike, we are one in our undeviating faith in democratic principles and in America's destiny as the champion of those principles. Our feeling in this matter, we have incorporated into the official Credo of the Volunteers of Topaz, which reads as follows:

"We believe in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of its principles.  
To uphold these principles, we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression and violation of human rights.  
We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith.  
Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States."
We have sent copies of this credo to volunteer groups in all the other relocation centers, seeking their adoption of its essential spirit, if not of its precise wording, as a common basis for faith and action.

The sincerity of our belief in this credo can be gauged, we think, by the fact that we have maintained an unwavering trust in the good faith of this country and her leaders through all the trying period of our evacuation and forced confinement. We have never taken this wholesale removal and detention as an expression of America's real or final intentions toward us. We have always felt that, sooner or later, steps would be taken by the government to remedy the anomaly of our situation. The War Department's action in reopening the armed services to us thus came as a vindication of our faith. Our Volunteering is, therefore, no more than an affirmation in terms of positive action of the loyalty we have always held toward this country.

Such is the prime motivation behind our action. At the same time, we are aware that what we have done involves an issue beyond that of our own loyalty to America. If the government's reopening of the armed forces to us is a heartening token of our reinstatement as equal partners with all other Americans in the fight against our common enemies, we are hopeful that it is also a token of the eventual reinstatement of all loyal persons of our racial minority as useful and accepted members of the democratic commonwealth of America. For the situation of the thousands of brothers and sisters and parents of the volunteers in the various relocation centers is still a problem to be solved.

Although, for various valid reasons, they are not within the volunteer group, we feel sure that the vast majority of them are fundamentally as loyal as we are. Thousands of them now stand ready to be taken into the army through the regular channels of the selective service act. But in a time of war, it is all too easy for the superficial kinship of race between them and an enemy nation to create unjust public attitudes toward them. They are looked upon with suspicion; their loyalty is doubted; and they may find it difficult to re-establish themselves as normal components of American society.

We, who have volunteered, are deeply conscious that by our action we may in some measure help correct that situation. We are hopeful that any public approbation accorded us as volunteer soldiers will also embrace those of our kin that we leave behind, and that their re-entry into general American life will be made easier to that extent. We know, too, that government leaders, no less than we ourselves, are hopeful that this will be the result. For a war against world fascism can be fully effective only if there is a complete consistency in democratic practice here at home.

We are volunteering, therefore, not only because that is the most direct and most irrefutable demonstration of our own loyalty to this country, but because by our action we
feel we are contributing to the eventual fulfillment of American democratic tradition in its best and highest meaning. The America we are fighting for is the America which President Roosevelt has thus defined: "The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution -- whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service or other work essential to the war effort."

We have written to you at some length because we felt that you would be interested in knowing how one group of Japanese American volunteers -- a group from your own state -- sincerely feels. And since part of our problem, the problem of all those of Japanese blood in this country, is to create a better and wider public awareness of our situation, we also felt that you as a government leader could exercise much favorable influence in bringing that end about. We shall be grateful for anything you might be able to do to make what we have expressed here a matter of wider public and official knowledge, as well as for any effort you might be able to contribute as a member of Congress toward fair and democratic legislation for all minority groups in this country.

A copy of this letter is being sent to each of the other members of Congress from the state of Utah. We hope that you and your colleagues will give it your favorable attention and consideration.

Very respectfully yours,

"VOLUNTEERS FOR VICTORY"
Volunteers for Victory
Topaz, Utah

Gentlemen:

Your very splendid letter of March 23rd reached my desk this morning, and I have just finished reading it. I congratulate you heartily on your attitude as expressed in this communication. I agree thoroughly with the definition of President Roosevelt contained on page 3, second paragraph of your letter, wherein he defines the America we are fighting for. Your letter rings true and genuine and certainly cannot help impress all readers thereof. I shall consult with Senator Thomas on how best to bring your letter to the attention of the public. I thoroughly appreciate the fact that you have taken the time to write me as fully as you have.

You mention the fact that you are not legally my constituents. In this I hardly agree. It might be that you are not voting constituents of mine, but as a United States Senator I hope that I represent all citizens of the United States rather than just the citizens who might have the right to vote either for or against me.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

Abe Murdock
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**Central Utah Project**

Survey of Men in the Armed Forces of United States

(Requested by the Topaz Volunteers for the U.S. Army)

April 27, 1943
Dear Volunteer,

After having left Topaz more than half a year ago to join the United States Army, I returned a few days ago on a furlough to see my family and how this place has changed since the U. S. Army was opened to voluntary enlistment almost one year ago. Besides the construction of a large auditorium-gym, a woodshop, and a few other buildings, I can't say that there are any conspicuous physical changes. But a lot of other things have certainly changed: many of the younger adults and those young folk of out-of-high-school age have left, and there are some new faces from other centers. The more younger boys and girls seem to have grown up noticeably; no doubt they will soon join those who have relocated already to seek a place for themselves in the life outside.

However, the most significant event here since the opening of the Army to voluntary enlistment by the Nisei last January has occurred just this morning when a wire from Washington was received announcing that the Selective Service has been reinstituted for all acceptable Nisei men and boys. To the Nisei this is another significant step towards that goal: a fair, equal place in our country's society.

It seems that now is an appropriate time for those of us who have already been accepted for military service to let the people in the Relocation Centers especially know how we feel serving as volunteers in the United States Army.

If each of us would write a frank, sober statement summarizing just how we feel to have a uniform on and to be in this fight against the Axis, it will contribute much to the broader enlightenment of the public.

Won't you take a few minutes of your time today and dash off a statement describing your own feelings? It need not be long or involved; a short note as simple and direct as the sort you would write to a relative or a personal friend is just what will serve the purpose most effectively. Please address your envelope to: "The Volunteers for Victory, Ad. Bldg. B, Topaz, Utah".

These statements will be published in a feature story in the Center publications.

Yours fraternally,

A Topaz Volunteer
Dear Jim,

Well--here it is at last--the file of the Topaz Times issued during the army volunteer-registration period. I waited until today before I assembled it because the registration did not officially end until this afternoon, and the whole story, as far as I can tell, seems to have been at last concluded. As far as I am concerned, I have no more inclination to think or read or talk or write about this subject, and I hope by trying to give you a picture of what really happened, I will be able to get this stuff out of my system.

Notes:

1. This issue heralded the opening guns of the Army and the WRA's program of forming an AJ combat team and of registering and determining the so-called "loyalty" of the residents of the relocation centers. The press release and the telegram referred to in the paper were read before the members of the Community Council on the afternoon before this issue came out, so the news of this new Army move spread fast and completely throughout camp. Flash judgment dictated that we view the formation of this all-AJ combat team with resentment, but after some thinking--especially with respect to the future of the nisei--many nisei decided to volunteer for the army and to comply with the WRA registration.

2. The picture began to get more and more distinct, as Rowalt clarified the aims and procedure of the general registration which was to follow as soon the Army team arrived at Topaz. As yet the storm clouds were not visible, but the issei and the kibei must even then have been working out their plans of attack.

3. The first mass meeting of the entire business was held the night before this issue went to press. Here it became apparent for the first time just what were the views of the majority--or perhaps the vocal majority--for the sentiments expressed were distinctly of the "give me this" and the "give me that" variety. This faction's demands were crystallized by Dr. George Ochikubo, who read off a whole series of questions and demands, culminating in one which asked that the War Department reimburse us for all the losses we suffered in the evacuation. All questions asked from the floor were written up to be presented to the War Department team when they arrived. Tsune Beba really butchered up the whole affair by not handling the meeting properly--his psychological approach was pretty bad, and he failed to bring out all sides of the matter in an effective manner. Perhaps if a strong chairman had been in charge, much of the resulting talk and counter-talk might have been avoided.

4. The War Department team showed up as per schedule, and a meeting was held that evening in which the official proclamation of the War Department was read to a group which was supposed to be composed of the representative residents of Topaz. This was really a controlled meeting--and little was accomplished save that the deeper implications of the Army program were revealed to the Topazans present.

5. And here's the proclamation and a summary of Ernst's message.
6. The procedure of the registration was explained and the numerous questions asked by the residents at the first mass meeting were answered, more often evasively than not. And here for the first time in print the Army team tried to justify the formation of the AJ teams on the ground that it would be ideal for propaganda purposes—and for the first time the residents received concrete evidence that the Army had them coming and going: if they did not volunteer, they would be drafted. About this time sample registration forms were sent to each block, and the issei began to register their very marked disapproval of the question on their registration form which asked them if they would forswear all allegiance to the Emperor of Japan—and this was quite justified, too, for since America would not have them, they saw no reason why they should throw out their Japanese citizenship, which, after all, was all they had. Backyard issei gossip was definitely against the volunteering of the nisei into the Army, for addition to the natural disinclination felt by the issei parents towards having their sons enlist in a unit which they felt would be nothing more than a suicide corps, they felt great bitterness against the evacuation, which resulted in their losing not only money and property, but also the privileges of traveling and living as do other Americans. One friend of mine who wanted to volunteer for this combat unit was told by his parents that he was free to do as he pleased, but if he enlisted, his parents would be ostracized by the rest of the community—this left him in a quandry from which he could see no escape.

7. Another meeting was held to acquaint the rest of the residents with the War Department's proclamation. I didn't go to this one, so I can't tell you much about it. I understand, though, that very little of importance occurred.

8. More questions were answered. Registration was supposed to have begun on this day, but the block managers got together and decided to ask for an extension so that they could get several questions settled. It was thought, for example, that if one answered with a "yes" to the question which asked whether one would agree to fight in the armed forces of the U.S. on combat duty, wherever ordered, one would automatically obligate oneself to volunteer for the combat unit. The question which the issei objected to—the one which asked them in effect to give up their Japanese citizenship—was changed to one which asked merely if they would agree not to commit any acts against the war effort of the U.S., so their bone of contention was finally removed.

9. The kibei finally got together and really went to town in their denunciations of the volunteer program. According to those who attended, utterances praising the war effort of Japan and denouncing that of the U.S. flew thick and fast—here for the first time the kibei showed that the more vocal of them were, when it came to a showdown, definitely for Japan and not for the U.S. Here, too, was brought up the question of civil rights, which was to be the topic of conversation for many days thereafter. The kibei, according to their spokesman, would fight for the U.S. if their civil rights were restored.

10. Registration of Blocks 8 and 11 was supposed to have been completed on Saturday, but on Friday night, at a so-called "nisei" mass meeting, a resolution was passed stating the unwillingness of those present to register. Of course, as might have been expected, the meeting was kibei-run and the conclusions they reached were merely carry-overs from the kibei mass meeting of the night before. The thinking nisei were once and for all awakened out of their lethargy by this action and they recognized clearly just how strong the opposition was to the Army's program and just how strong the influence of the kibei and the issei was among the residents of the city. There was no longer
any question of straddling the fence—it was either fight for the future of the nisei in the U.S. or else tag along with the majority opinion (which was to fight for their civil rights before registering) and by this action jeopardize the future status of the nisei. The issei-kibei bloc proved to be strong enough to prevent practically all the residents of Blocks 8 and 11 from registering on Saturday, as they had been scheduled to do. A few hardy ones did register, and these were called traitors, flag-wavers, idealists, administration boot-lickers and other and stronger names by those in their blocks. The ever-present yet unspoken threat of physical violence by the kibei gangs and the pressure brought to bear upon the members of their families by the issei were instrumental in bringing about this non-cooperation fiasco. The administration thereupon decided that stronger measures were necessary, so block meetings were called in all the blocks and the Espionage Act of 1918 enumerating the fines and penalties which would be incurred by those who attempted to prevent others from registering for the draft (and this center-wide registration included, for the male citizens, the filling out of a selective service form) was read to the gatherings, and block representatives—4 from each block—were appointed to take part in another meeting to take place the next day, which was Sunday. This large meeting lasted from 2:30 in the afternoon straight through until 9 at night. The result, besides sore throats and ruffled tempers, was a resolution to be sent to the Secretary of War and to Dillon Myer in which all the grievances of the residents were listed and numerous demands were made of the War Department before the residents would agree to cooperate whole-heartedly with the registration procedure. The more radical elements wanted the resolution to include their decision not to register until action had been taken by the War Department righting what they considered the wrongs they had suffered in the evacuation, but the saner members of the gathering succeeded in keeping that statement out, for they regarded the registration as being compulsory, the decision as to whether or not they should comply with that regulation being no longer under their control. The few nisei who had guts enough to stand up and state views supporting the registration of the residents found themselves definitely in the minority, but these (among which were Bob Iki, Shozo Tsuchida, Rev. Tsukamoto, and Victor Abe) fought on in spite of the fact that their stand seemed to be a losing one. The fact of registration was left up to the individual—the idea being either register or take the consequences. Registration therefore began again on Monday slowly and then with increasing momentum as those who had abstained from registering on the thesis that if all refused—thus forming a united front—it would be difficult for the authorities to impose penalties found their "united front" quickly crumbling away—and thereupon joined the bandwagon.

11. Myer’s answer to this resolution arrived immediately. It was, as expected, a denunciation of the stand taken by the residents. Registration continued smoothly. The crisis was over.

12. Registration proceeded. Letters were sent to those who had not registered on their scheduled day by Ernst and they were reminded politely but firmly to show up at such and such a time to comply with the regulations—and there were few who were willing to refuse now that they found themselves a very very small minority.

13. Registration as usual.

14. Here at last was the answer from the War Department—saying nothing. And again there was contained the gentle reminder that registration was compulsory.
Out into the opening, finally, came the admission that applications for repatriation and expatriation had increased to unprecedented numbers, and that many of those who had applied just recently for repatriation were using that fact as a justification for not registering. Nish, who works in the mimeograph department, received at about this time a rush order for the mimeographing of 1500 repatriation forms—since these forms are filled out in triplicate, this meant that preparations were being made to accommodate at least 500 applications for repatriation.

More on 12—A few of those who felt that citizenship meant more than just rights and privileges phrased their sentiments in a resolution of the minority authored by Marii Kyogoku and sent it on to Myer. The breaks were going the other way now.

More on 14—The kibei-issei bloc, who really, in the last analysis, represented the majority opinion, formulated a resolution in which they justified their actions and then jumped on the bandwagon of cooperation with the government.

All The Rest. Registration proceeded without undue agitation, laggards were given an opportunity to sign up at the end of the registration period, and the books were closed.

Epilogue: A sample of the repatriation form. Alice says that even now, the Community Welfare office, which handles repatriation requests, is packed every day. The issei are die-hards. — Saturday, Feb. 17 — Nish received more requests for the mimeographing of repatriation forms. The bank's so quiet, definite now!

Hope this prejudiced account will make the business a little clearer. I retract now that opening statement in which I said that I would tell you "what really happened"—no one, I'm afraid, will be able to give the true account, for one had to take sides on the matter. At any rate, this represents the sum of my knowledge on the incident, and—That's That.

So long. Write more later.

WARREN

Ken and Willis are at the U. of Maryland, Nish has his travel permit and is awaiting his acceptance at Syracuse—and I'm still here, sitting on a tack.
Dear Dad,

Thanks a million for your very nice, heart warming letter. To tell you the truth, it was the best letter I've ever received in all my life. Before I forget, please tell Mom to write to me as I miss her very much. She could write to me in Japanese if it is easier for her. I'll probably have some trouble in reading it but I could ask one of my friends who is studying Japanese to help me out. I've given up the idea of going to S.,... as I find the folks here are O.K. Besides that, I've signed up for the Medics, so I'm hoping to be transferred as soon as my basic training is over.

Every morning the band wakes us up around 6:30 A.M. with a very tuneful march. You know, Dad, how much I liked music and I guess I'll always enjoy it as long as I live. Well, it almost tempts me into joining up with the infantry band but I figure it wouldn't do me much good overseas. I want to help the boys the best I can, so I'm going to be or try my durn best to become a tough, well-trained first aid man. I want to be right up in the front with my buddies so I can help them whenever they need me.

Don't worry about us fellows because we are going to do our best in everything we do. I don't want to brag but this outfit is really tops. There's quite a number of Caucasian outfits stationed here but my infantry has them all beat. We made the best scores in the recent tests. Right now the whole outfit is training awfully hard. They're never in camp because they have to go out into the bivouac area for various military problems. Last week they went thru live machine gun fire with dynamite blowing up all around them. This week they had to eat and sleep in a fox-hole for about four days. When the company goes out they close the mess hall so we (recruits) have to eat at some other mess hall.

I'm going into my sixth week of basic and it's getting tougher every week. I belong to the 11th platoon, which is the latest platoon to be organized. In our platoon there's always some soldier coming in from the outside, one by one. Most of them are drafted from back east, or from another outfit. Gee, the soldiers from another outfit look as white as a ghost, even though some of them have been in the army from 2 to 3 years.

You ought to see me now, Dad. I'm as dark as some of the colored neighbors we used to have. I've also gained a couple of pounds and worked up an awful appetite. Right now I've got a slight cold because of the queer weather down here. It's always changing from hot to cold.

So far I've hiked 78 miles and this was done mostly during the night time. Night hikes are O.K. if we didn't get so sleepy. Every night I have to clean my rifle, no matter how late I come home from a hike or night problem.
Last week I learned how to take a light machine gun apart. It sure looked complicated but after I learned the name of some of the parts it was pretty easy. Most of our basic has been devoted to dry firing with our rifles because in a couple of weeks we are going on the range to shoot for records. We're going to sleep in our pup tents and have a couple of blankets for about two weeks. During this time we're going through live machine gun fire just like our company did. Also we're going to shoot carbine and all kinds of targets at different ranges. I'll probably freeze out there, but if the fellas in the company could take it I guess I can.

Sunday, Nov. 21, 1943

Here I am again, Dad, with so much to tell you that I just couldn't finish it last night. In my hutment there's ten regular cooks and K.P.'s. Most of the time they're not in because they have to go out on the field for a week. They come home Friday nights and take off again the following Monday morning around 4 A.M. Yes, Dad, they're really on the ball, as we say it in the Army.

The food in the army is O.K. but I don't get enough of it. I'm always running down to the PX for sandwiches. Usually on night hikes I store up with candies and sandwiches as I'm awfully hungry when I come home.

The hutments aren't as warm as the ones in Topaz but that's the army. Anyway, I received another blanket which makes a total of three blankets and a comforter. Besides I have a coal stove right close to my bunk, so I am quite warm at times. Every Monday morning we air out the mattresses and change the sheets.

This Sunday I almost had K.P. duty but finally talked my way out of it. It would have been my third Sunday detail if I worked today. K.P. isn't bad on week days but on Sunday, No Sir!

Hey, Dad, I bet you'd make a hell of a good Lieut. in the army from the way you boss Hiro Ukagi and Jim Kushida around. Kidding aside, how's your job coming along?

This morning I went to church and Chaplain Yamada from Hawaii was the speaker. This infantry outfit has three chaplains now. The other two are Chaplains West and Higuchi. Chaplain Yamada spoke about the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Boy, I sure had a lot to be thankful for, Dad. Thanks a million for understanding my volunteering into the army. Boy, I sure tried like hell to make you understand how I felt towards volunteering. I guess if Mom had said "no", too, I probably wouldn't have volunteered. To both of you I'm greatly indebted and this is my way of showing how much I love my folks, so that we may be together again in a nice home.
Gee, Dad, I sure hated to go against your word but it was the one thing in my life that would have bothered me if I didn't. I guess if the Japanese from Hawaii could come all the way down here, I don't see why the mainlanders can't. They're Japanese just like me and any other niseis in the mainland. Some of them might never see their folks again but they are willing to take a chance and it's a darn good gamble if we come out the way we wanted to be. So, Dad, you can just about understand how proud I am to serve in the Japanese American Combat Team. A month ago I saw a news reel which showed the Japanese Americans of the -- Inf. fighting over in Italy. All of us fellas whistled and cheered because we were so proud of the fine record they are making.

No, Dad, I won't be coming home this Thanksgiving or Christmas as I haven't finished my basic training. Sure wish I could be there to enjoy the Christmas Holidays. But don't worry, I'm coming home on the first furlough I get. So, until that day comes, I'll always be thinking of you folks.

Again I want to thank you both, you and Mom, for understanding the way I feel. It just makes me feel glad all over when I can say: "Sure, my folks are backing me up 100 percent and more with all their love." Some of the fellas aren't as lucky as I am because their folks have gone to Tule Lake. But just the same they are training just as hard as anybody else and more.

Well, it's time for chow so I'll close this letter. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Your loving son,

/s/ Walton

P.S. Don't forget to tell Mom to write, too.
Bearer: SHIRKAL, JOE

Commanding Officer
Military Police

Central Utah Project
TSR

U.S. Army
Volunteer

File For Use Only
No Other Use

Permission to Grant for Leave

Project Director
Central Utah Project
'Volunteer for Victory' Group Formed at Topaz by Inductees

Project Director Announces 104 Sign Up For Army Duty

TOPAZ—Approximately 10 per cent of more than 1,000 volunteers for the special combat team drawn from the ten relocation centers for active duty with the United States army are listed from the central Utah project at Topaz, Charles F. Ernst, project director, said Saturday.

Mr. Ernst pointed out that approximately seven per cent of those eligible volunteers of the Topaz center offered their services for the combat team. There are 104 volunteers from this center.

The Topaz volunteers organized a “Volunteers for Victory” group and adopted a credo which has been submitted to the volunteers from each of the other nine centers as the first step in bringing all American citizens of Japanese descent serving in the army together to work for civil rights now and after the war.

It is planned to form a local organization in each project to serve as a point of contact so that the volunteers in each center may communicate with each other and plan for developing a long-range program in behalf of all Japanese-American citizens.
Hawaii Nisei Volunteers Near Ten Thousand

OWI Says Hawaiian Draft Boards Swamped With Applications

WASHINGTON—The War Department announced that the number of volunteers of Japanese ancestry in the Hawaiian Islands for the army's new Japanese American combat team had reached a figure of "almost ten thousand."

It was estimated that 40 per cent of all eligible males of Japanese ancestry had volunteered for military service.

The OWI reported that selective service boards on the islands have been swamped with applicants who have been waiting ever since Pearl Harbor for a chance to show their loyalty to the United States.

Forty Honolulu policemen of Japanese ancestry have planned to volunteer, it was stated. Groups of several hundred have been volunteering in blocks and the call for 1500 volunteers has been exceeded more than fourfold, the OWI added.

The OWI release declared that the Japanese Americans have "responded wholeheartedly to the opportunity recently given them to volunteer for service in the American army."

"This is the chance I've been waiting for," Christian Nakama, a University of Hawaii medical student, was quoted as saying. "As Americans we are entitled to get a crack at Tojo, Hitler and Mussolini."

Walter Mihata, father of four children, was one of the first volunteers. "I'm glad to have a chance to fight for American freedom and to show my appreciation of the education America has given me," he said. "Uncle Sam can have my life and anything else in this fight for freedom."

Another young Japanese American said: "Every day of my life I have thanked God I am an American. I am out to help preserve America's free system with everything I can do."

Japanese language newspapers in Honolulu have given enthusiastic support to the measure, as have Japanese American leaders in public life. A prominent American educator of Japanese descent, Shige Yoshida, said: "It not only opens to us a glorious chance to join the fight of the United Nations against tyranny and oppression, but it also gives Americans of Japanese origin opportunity to vindicate themselves."

The first volunteer was Wilfred Takiyama, former city and county attorney for Honolulu and one of Hawaii's best known public figures.

Cites 'Nearly Five Thousand' American-Born Japanese Now in Country's Armed Forces

"Americanism Is Not, and Never Was, a Matter Of Race or Ancestry," Chief Executive Writes Secretary of War Stimson on Feb. 1

WASHINGTON—President Roosevelt this week endorsed the Army's new Japanese American combat team which will begin training shortly for combat service in an active theatre of war and declared that these new volunteers will add to the "nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country."

In a letter to Secretary of War Stimson, the President foresaw the eventual reinstatement of selective service procedures for all Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The President defined a "good American" as being one "who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy."

"Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry," the President stated.

He declared that all loyal Americans should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution.

The President declared that he was glad to observe that the War Department, Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country.

The complete text of President Roosevelt's letter to Secretary of War Stimson reads as follows:

The White House
February 1, 1943

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

This is a natural and logical step toward the reinstatement of the selective service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the west coast.

No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy.

Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort.

I am glad to observe that the War Department, the Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice, and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt.
JAPANESE AMERICANS WANT TO FIGHT

An interesting letter from Nobumitsu Takahashi, American-born Japanese, or nisei, who was formerly in charge of the agricultural activities of the Japanese-American Association in California.

He is now in the Government camp at Topaz, Utah, where he has been doing agricultural work in research and relocation, but is one of the nisei who has volunteered for the proposed Japanese-American combat team of the U.S. Army.

Mr. Takahashi sends us a very interesting copy of the pledge of the volunteers, as follows:

Credo of Topaz Volunteers

From the Pacific Rural Press, April 3, 1943 (p.195)
Hawaii Japanese Win High Praise From Gen. Emmons

Performance of Duty
By Japanese Americans
Commended by Army

Honolulu—Lieut. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, commanding general of the Hawaiian department of the United States Army, announced on Jan. 28 that he had been directed to induct 1,500 Americans of Japanese descent residing in the Hawaiian Islands into the U.S. Army.

The statement by Gen. Emmons followed word from Washington that the Army had plans for a combat unit of loyal Japanese Americans.

Gen. Emmons, who is also military governor of Hawaii, said:

These volunteers will be formed into combat units on the mainland and will, when trained, be sent into an active theater of operation.

Military Chief
Says Nisei Role
Not Easy One

Reasons for Volunteering

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A publication, “Volunteers for Victory,” issued by army volunteers at the Central Utah relocation center, reveals the deep convictions of the Japanese Americans who have stepped forward for military service.

One nisei declares: “I have always believed in fighting for the freedom and right of the ‘common man.’ Believing that these principles for which we have been struggling are at stake in this war, and believing that a victory over our enemies abroad will be a victory over our enemies at home, I want to take up arms to help hurry this people’s victory and the people’s peace to follow.”

Recognition that this war is a struggle against fascist forces is given in the statements of two American-born Japanese who were educated in Japan. One of them said:

“I consider myself an educator. I have been doing what little I could to advance the cause of the common man’s struggle against tyranny. My volunteering in the armed forces of the United States is an extension of my daily activities as a humble teacher. I am against the military-fascist dictatorship that rules Japan, Germany, and all other axis-dominated nations.”

Another kibei said: “I was educated in Japan, where I learned the meaning of fascism and where I learned to fight against its oppressive measures. I fought its police dogs and its military lackeys. As I now volunteer to serve in the United States army I am thinking not only of defending American democracy against all its foes, but also of whatever contribution I may be able to make toward the emancipation of all peoples, including the common people of Japan, from their fascist masters.”

The statements of these volunteers and the declarations of others like them show that the new Japanese American combat unit of the United States army will derive great strength from the determination of the men who have volunteered for dangerous duty because of their loyalty to their country and to their democratic convictions.

Hawaii Japanese win high praise from Gen. Emmons

A large percentage of the officers will be citizens of Japanese ancestry.

The places of induction, the age limit and other information will be announced at the earliest practicable date.

Once in a great while, an opportunity presents itself to recognize an entire section of this country for its performance of duty. All people of the Hawaiian Islands have contributed generously to our war effort. Among these have been Americans of Japanese descent.

Their role has not been an easy one. Open to distrust because of their racial origin and discriminated against in certain fields of defense effort, they, nevertheless, have borne their burdens without complaint and have added materially to the strength of the Hawaiian area.

They have behaved themselves admirably under most trying conditions and have bought great quantities of war bonds and by the labor of their hands have added to the common defense.

“In view of these facts and by War Department authority I have been designated to offer Americans of Japanese ancestry an opportunity to serve their country.

This opportunity is in the form of voluntary combat services in the armed forces. The manner of response and the record these men will establish as fighting soldiers will be one of the best answers to those who question the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese descent in Hawaii.”

Military Chief
Says Nisei Role
Not Easy One

Performance of Duty
By Japanese Americans
Commended by Army

Honolulu—Lieut. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, commanding general of the Hawaiian department of the United States Army, announced on Jan. 28 that he had been directed to induct 1,500 Americans of Japanese descent residing in the Hawaiian Islands into the U.S. Army.

The statement by Gen. Emmons followed word from Washington that the Army had plans for a combat unit of loyal Japanese Americans.

Gen. Emmons, who is also military governor of Hawaii, said:

These volunteers will be formed into combat units on the mainland and will, when trained, be sent into an active theater of operation.

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EDITORIALS:
Gen. DeWitt and Evacuation

"The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry . . . ."—From a statement by Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, endorsing the formation of the army's Japanese American combat team, and dated February 1, 1943.

Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, commanding general of the western defense command and Fourth Army, this week repudiated the President of the United States. Appearing before a congressional sub-committee in San Francisco, General DeWitt gave both voice and authority to a series of astonishing statements which are surprisingly reminiscent of Nazi fulminations against members of a racial minority.

General DeWitt declared his utter disregard for constitutional guarantees when he stated, according to the Associated Press report, that "a Jap's a Jap" and "you can't change him by giving him a piece of paper." If he has been correctly quoted by the A. P., and there is no reason to believe that the press report is incorrect, General DeWitt holds that Americanism is not a matter of the mind or heart but is determined by race and ancestry. This is a dangerous concept, a line of thought and action pursued by our enemies — by Hitler who believes in the master race and by the Tokyo militarists who have announced the "holy mission" of the Japanese race. It is a concept which is the antithesis of the democratic ideals of the American nation.

General DeWitt's bitter declaration throws open the entire question of the evacuation by fiat of 70,000 American citizens without trial or hearing from their homes along the west coast. The army had declared the mass evacuation necessary because of military necessity and the omission of individual hearings had been explained by the fact that there had been not enough time for such tests of loyalty in the face of the existing military situation. It now appears, however, that wholesale evacuation and the abridgment of the citizenship rights of an entire American minority group was born of the blind race prejudice of a single individual.

It is a matter of record that Americans of Japanese ancestry cooperated wholeheartedly with the military evacuation orders, although such an attitude of cooperation meant the temporary disavowal of ordinary citizenship rights which were dearly held. It is also a matter of record that evacuation was successfully accomplished without incident because of the unquestioning acceptance of the orders by the great majority of the Japanese Americans involved. Marvin H. McIntyre, secretary to President Roosevelt, recently observed that "these citizens of Japanese ancestry . . . have borne with considerable sacrifice the demands put upon them by their removal from the west coast." Upon hearing General DeWitt's ill-considered declaration, Japanese Americans may feel cheated that their sacrifice in following General DeWitt's orders to the letter meant so little.

The mass evacuation of Japanese Americans from the west coast has been compared to the Nazi evacuation of Jews from Germany since both were carried out on the basis of racial ancestry alone. In the face of General DeWitt's statement using race as the determinator of loyalty, there is reason for genuine concern at the parallel which can be drawn.

General DeWitt's statement is published in a week which has seen the arrival of 2600 Japanese American volunteers at Camp Shelby, Miss., for combat service with the United States army.

There is no reason to believe that General DeWitt's statement represents any opinions other than his own, particularly that it does not mirror the point of view of either the War Department or the federal government. The army, by the formation of the new combat team, has virtually doubled the number of Japanese American soldiers in its ranks, and the administration, through the WRA, is proceeding with its program to resettle all loyal evacuees outside the relocation centers. And in direct contrast to General DeWitt's attitude is that of another army commander, Lieut. Gen. Emmons of the Hawaiian Department who has warmly praised Hawaii's Japanese Americans for their contributions to the war effort. There has been no mass evacuation from Hawaii.

General DeWitt's statement is most unfortunate in that it is an expression of personal prejudice and lends to the belief that such prejudices can breed and determine military policy.
Washington Post Urges Return Of Evacuated Farmers to West Coast Areas to Aid Production

Leading Daily in Nation's Capital Declares Justice, Fair Play Demand Evacuee Citizens Be Reabsorbed Into Economic Life of Country

WASHINGTON—The Washington Post, leading daily in the nation's capital, urged in an editorial Sunday that "trustworthy evacuees" of Japanese ancestry be returned "to their former homes" on the west coast in order that there might be a "substantial increase" in food production.

"While the country is trying desperately to get men back on the land and the President is talking about a land army to be composed of inexperienced youths, we hope official Washington will not forget that thousands of expert Japanese truck gardeners are still in WRA camps," the Post declared. "The release of those Japanese whose loyalty to the United States has been established would not, of course, solve our agricultural manpower problem, but it would substantially increase the output of food in some areas.

"Justice and fair play demand that American citizens of Japanese origin be reabsorbed into our economic life as soon as that becomes feasible. And the shortage of agricultural labor gives that argument special urgency at the moment," the Post noted. "Many an acre of fertile land would be brought back into war service by allowing trustworthy evacuees to return to their former homes.

"The decision as to whether they may do so rests with the Army," the Post said, pointing out that "if the Army fails to modify its evacuation order, the WRA will face a more difficult task of getting these agricultural workers back on the land in other parts of the country.

The Post editorial also stated: "Less than 5000 of the Japanese who were evacuated from the West Coast have been relocated outside of camps. Some of them are on indefinite leave and others are working in the vicinity of the camps. Nearly 107,000 are still in the custody of the War Relocation Authority. It is particularly shortsighted to maintain such a large number of persons in comparative idleness at a time of manpower shortages, unless there are compelling reasons for doing so. And in the case of loyal and law-abiding Japanese no such reasons are apparent.

"The Japanese were evacuated from the West Coast in the time of excitement and confusion that followed Pearl Harbor when there seemed to be no immediate means of separating loyal citizens from potential spies and saboteurs. Now there has been ample time to examine records, to observe the conduct of individuals and thus to draw a distinction between loyal and law-abiding aliens of Japanese origin on one hand and potential enemies on the other. Men who have followed the relocation movement closely believe that a majority of the Japanese now in camps could be released without any appreciable risk. That is particularly true, of course, of the American citizens who have never been to Japan and of the older aliens who have spent most of their lives in this country."

Loyal Citizens

We must concede that the Army is the best judge of the availability for its forces of American citizens of Japanese descent. The Army thinks there are such citizens of unquestioned loyalty and that these not only can be used and ought to be used, but have a right to be so used. The word of Lieutenant General Emmons, our commander in Hawaii, where there are more such citizens than anywhere else, is impressive.

For some time it has been obvious that loyal citizens ought not to be shut up in camps with disloyal Japanese-Americans or otherwise. It has taken some time to work out the problem, but the process of separating these out and freeing them for useful employment is under way. The decision of the War Department to treat these like other citizens in the mustering of men for the armed forces will gratify all who have felt that the only proper test in their case is loyalty, not racial origin.
Hawaiian Groups Give Full Support to Army Volunteers

**Acting Governor Kai Issues Directive to Territorial Officials**

HONOLULU — The Honolulu chamber of commerce today called upon its membership for the fullest cooperation in connection with the volunteer enlistment of 1,500 American citizens of Japanese ancestry into the U. S. Army to "insure results that will be a lasting credit to the people and businessmen of the territory."

The chamber, in a letter to the membership authorized by the board of directors, urges no obstacles be placed in the path of the formation of the proposed combat units, asserting the matter is of profound importance to the territory.

The chamber directors urge that Americans of Japanese ancestry who volunteer their services be assured reemployment after the war, citing the selective service action which contemplates firms will reemploy persons leaving their jobs because of the war.

Meanwhile, officials of the municipal and territorial governments moved to expedite the enlistments by giving their full support and approval to the proposal of the army to form a volunteer combat team for service on the European front.

The city and county of Honolulu has 337 male employees of Japanese ancestry, it was stated.

**Topaz Volunteer Committee Visits Salt Lake City**

A committee of five delegates, representing the "Volunteers for Victory" at the War Relocation Authority center at Topaz, visited Salt Lake City over the week-end to arrange for public relations work in clarifying for the general American public the position of those nisei who have volunteered for the U. S. Army's special nisei combat team.

The "Volunteers for Victory" group is comprised of combat team volunteers at Topaz. The five delegates were Robert Iki, Aki Moriwaki, Nobumitsu Takahashi, James Yamamoto and John Yoshino. Another delegate, Dr. Carl Hirota, was unable to accompany the group on this trip.

**Army General Pays Tribute to Nisei Soldier in U. S. Army**


"Before coming here I served with the army in California and commanded California troops," the general said. "Among the men under me were many Americans of Japanese ancestry, and I want to say they were among the best soldiers we had. "We are proud of them and the record they made. They are very fine, high class soldiers and the type of soldiers who present no disciplinary problems. We were very sorry to lose them when they were sent east."

(The American Japanese soldiers of whom Gen. Mittelstaedt refers were California nisei who were in training at various U. S. Army posts in California before evacuation. At the time of evacuation the nisei soldiers were also reassigned to new posts outside the Western Defense Command.)

Gen. Mittelstaedt had high praise for the contributions of Americans of Japanese extraction in the defense and war effort of Maui and the part they have played in the general war effort.

**President's Secretary Notes Nisei Sacrifice in Evacuation**

PHOENIX, Ariz. — M. H. McIntyre, secretary to President Roosevelt, last week acknowledged receipt from Governor Osborn of the Arizona House joint memorial No. 2, protesting the removing of evacuees of Japanese ancestry from relocation centers to inland colleges, and asking their return.

"It should be pointed out," Mr. McIntyre wrote the Arizona governor, "that these citizens of Japanese ancestry are no more enemy aliens than are citizens of German or Italian parentage, and that already they have borne with considerable sacrifice the demands put upon them by their removal from the west coast of the United States."

The legislature, in enacting the memorial, had declared that favoritism was being shown the evacuee youths in the advantages offered them.
Eisenhower "Deeply Gratified" By Reopening of Army to Nisei

Associate OWI Director Calls for Faith in Common Cause, Future

Milton S. Eisenhower, associate director of the Office of War Information and former director of the War Relocation Authority, this week declared he was "deeply gratified" by the recent reopening of the Army to nisei soldiers in a letter to the Pacific Citizen.

His letter declared in full:

"Like millions of Americans, I was deeply gratified when our Government reopened the ranks of our Army to loyal Americans of Japanese descent. Those who are eligible for enlistment have an opportunity to make a particularly significant contribution to our common fight for a better world.

"This war will end in absolute triumph for the United Nations. This war must usher in a day of greater decency and brotherhood among all men. In such a war, the participation of men from every land, men of every descent, is the strongest possible force and guarantee for a reborn and strengthened freedom.

"The Japanese-Americans who have faith in our common cause and our common future will share an adversity which must inevitably lead to the sharing of greater and enduring democracy."

Nisei Soldier Captured First Japanese Prisoner of War

Col. Wilson Would Rather Command Nisei Unit Than Any Other

CODY, Wyoming—The man who was in command of Schofield Barracks in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, would rather command the projected all-nisei U. S. Army combat team than any other unit.

This man, according to the Heart Mountain Sentinel, is Col. E. W. Wilson, attached to the WRA as liaison between that agency and the Army, who has had two tours of duty in the Hawaiian Islands and who was there on Pearl Harbor Day. Col. Wilson visited this center recently.

For the records, the Colonel recalled that it was a Hawaiian-born nisei national guardsman who captured the first Japanese prisoner of war. The soldier was patrolling a Hawaiian beach when he saw a Japanese leaving a beached midget submarine, and promptly made the capture, the Colonel said.

With regard to registration, Colonel Wilson asserted that a man is either 100 per cent loyal, or he is disloyal. "Nisei men volunteering for the Army will be able to do a great amount of good for themselves and their people," he said.

While there are more than 5,000 nisei in the Army now, the average American doesn't realize it, he declared. But if the all-nisei unit as a combat team serving in Africa should thrust through the German line, he said, "it could stop a German spear-

Nisei Unit Will Have Strong Effect on Asia, Says Editorial

New York Edition of Shanghai Paper Points Role of Anti-Fascists

NEW YORK — The New York edition of the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, in its Feb. 5 issue, pointed out in an editorial that freedom-loving persons of Japanese descent can be effectively active in "seeking an end to the Tokyo militarism that has throttled every sign of Japanese liberalism while plunging the nation into war against the United States."

The editorial noted that Americans who find it perfectly logical that anti-Nazi Germans in this country are doing everything possible to overthrow Hitler and lay the groundwork for a democratic postwar Germany seem to have trouble in believing that the same could be true of anti-Fascist Japanese.

Yet, the editorial said, there is a group in New York, the Japanese-American Committee for Democracy, that "is extremely active in assisting the American war effort" and "is evidence that, given a chance, many Japanese liberals can be an effective force for good."

Sound and even more convincing evidence on this same point, the editorial continued, is the War Department's plans for a special combat team of Americans of Japanese ancestry and for employing loyal American Japanese in war work.

The combat team would be "of immense propaganda and psychological value, particularly in Asia," the editorial said, adding: "Gradually we are waking up to the fact that we have certain such weapons thus far never employed."
EDITORIALS: Press Repudiates the Bigots

Recent editorial expressions in the American press, particularly in the middle west, provide a welcome contrast to the vituperations of California’s race hatred bloc which last week was carrying on its unreasoning campaign of prejudice against an American minority.

According to a Washington source, 95 per cent of the U.S. newspaper comment on the Army’s recent reopening of military service to Americans of Japanese ancestry has been definitely favorable. Midwest papers have also given a friendly appraisal to the War Relocation Authority’s policy of resettling a large number of loyal evacuees in that vast American plainland and prairie between the Rockies and the Alleghenies.

Typical of the editorials published on the U.S. nisei today is that which appeared in the New York Times on Feb. 6, titled “Japanese American ‘Yanks,’” which approved of Secretary Stimson’s plan. Speaking of the Japanese American, the Times said “their eagerness now to bear arms in the nation’s battle may ameliorate their rather lonesome lot in this country.” The Baltimore Sun declared that “tyranny is the enemy, and a liberty-loving Japanese may hate it as heartily as any other man. If he hates it, we can help him strike a blow against it.”

The Minneapolis Journal on Feb. 7 stated its belief that the Army and the President were going in the right direction on this question of providing service for loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry. “To treat these loyal Japanese as all other loyal citizens are, would be a practical demonstration of democracy whose effect might be far reaching, especially among Asiatic peoples,” the Journal said. Speaking in similar vein, the Akron, Ohio, Beacon-Journal believed loyal nisei “should be given an opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty.”

The Beacon-Journal, recently the subject of a congressional investigation for its publication of an unconfirmed story about union seamen at Guadalcanal, cautioned that “before anyone hereabouts breaks into a rash of apprehension over word that some 10,000 Japanese Americans are to be resettled in Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia, let him consider the practicalities.” Noting that these 10,000 would help ease the manpower shortage in the states involved, the Beacon-Journal stated that the 10,000 “have to be established somewhere and it might as well be the middle west. Only the most hopelessly prejudiced will resent the resettlement decision.”

The Des Moines Register went farther to condemn the demagoguery of such men in Congress as Senator Robert Reynolds of North Carolina and Representative John Rankin of Mississippi who have been in the forefront of opposition to any program of fair play to Japanese Americans. The Register declared, “The white supremacy boys are at it again.” The Milwaukee Journal said that here “is another example of congressmen butting in to air their predilections and prejudices,” and recalled that Mississippi’s Rankin “has always been shocked at any proposal to give citizens of Negro blood full democracy.”

Editorials in these newspapers, representing as they do a substantial section of American press opinion, recognize the inherent right of all Americans to join in the common struggle against the nation’s enemies. The American press, by its splendid attitude, is serving to repudiate those in America who would use the present war situation to discriminate against fellow Americans on the basis of racial ancestry.
Sakura Brothers Sign Up at Hunt; Sister Would Serve in WAACs

HUNT, Idaho—Last week the three Onodera brothers, Ko, Kaun, and Satoru, volunteered for induction into the Army to serve in a special Japanese American combat team.

Now the four Sakura brothers, also residents of the Minidoka Relocation Center, have applied for service in the new combat unit to the War Department representatives visiting the Minidoka Relocation Center.

Two of the brothers, Chet and Howard, are fathers. Chet has three children and Howard has a baby son six weeks' old. Kenny and Ted are the other brothers.

Speaking for the family, Chet said they have not "lost faith in America and are ready to discharge their responsibility to the United States, to our children, and to all future Japanese Americans."

"Long before Dad died," he declared, "he told all of us if Japan and America should ever be engaged in a war, there would be only one thing for us to do—live and fight to uphold the U.S.A."

Their father, Toyozo Sakura, died 20 years ago. Their mother, Mrs. Misa Sakura, lives at Hunt. The family formerly lived in Eastonville, near Seattle. Chet, a graduate of Queen Anne High School in Seattle is believed to be the first Japanese American to rise to the rank of Eagle Scout in Seattle. Howard also is an Eagle Scout.

A sister, Grayce, wants to join the WAACS.

The Army team representing the War Department will end a three weeks' visit at the Minidoka Center in a few days. Already completed in the center is a general registration by the War Relocation Authority of 6,865 persons 17 years of age and older. Steps are now being taken to secure clearance for as many of these people as possible so that they can work in agriculture and in other industries to assist war production. Last fall more than 2,300 Hunt residents left the center on emergency work furloughs to help save Idaho sugar beets, potato, and other food crops which might have been lost due to the labor shortage.

Colonel Turner Lauds Battalion of Japanese Americans

WASHINGTON — The War Department Sunday released a statement by Lieut. Col. Far- rant L. Turner praising the 100th Infantry Battalion, which is composed of men of Japanese ancestry.

"I have never had more whole-hearted, serious-minded cooperation from any troops than I receive from my present command," Turner reported to headquarters.

The 100th Infantry Battalion is composed mainly of former members of the Hawaiian National Guard who saw active service under fire on Dec. 7 in Hawaii. This battalion is apart from the new combat unit of Japanese Americans which will be placed in training soon by the United States Army.

War Secretary Cites Figures On Army Unit

WASHINGTON — Secretary of War Henry Stimson declared at his press conference Thursday, March 25, that "more than one thousand" Americans of Japanese ancestry in the war relocation centers had volunteered for combat duty in the United States army.

Secretary Stimson indicated that the army's new AYA (Americans of Japanese Ancestry) combat team, destined for active service in the European theater of operations, would be activated soon at Camp Shelby, Miss. He stated that the combat team would be made up of volunteers from the war relocation centers and from other mainland points, from the Territory of Hawaii and from Japanese Americans already in the army.

The Secretary of War cited a letter which had been sent by the War Department to Mrs. Misa Sakura, mother of Chet, Howard, Kenny and Ted Sakura, the four Minidoka brothers who had volunteered for the army combat team, when news of their volunteering was received. The letter follows:

"Dear Mrs. Sakura:

"The Secretary of War has directed that I extend to your congratulations of the War Department upon the enlistment of your four sons in the army of the United States. Their action in volunteering for service in the combat team consisting of loyal Americans of Japanese descent is a splendid example of true Americanism.

"President Roosevelt has stated: ‘No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise his responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution — whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort.'"

"I am sure that you are proud of your sons who have willingly taken their places in the defense of their country."
Many Family Men Volunteer In Hawaii for Military Duty

War Workers Ready to Give Up Profitable Jobs for Service

HONOLULU, T. H.—Military authorities announced here on Feb. 12 that 7,425 Americans of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii have answered the call for 1,500 volunteers for the Army combat duty.

About 26,000 American males of Japanese extraction in the territory are eligible to volunteer by virtue of being within the 18-38 age limits.

Many among the 7,425 volunteers have families, but, with their families' approval, have asked to be inducted because they were able to arrange for their families' support by relatives.

A small minority of the 7,425 are above the age limit. It was stated that these men volunteered during the first week before age details were clarified.

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin said that the volunteers are from all walks of life and all professions and trades. Many are war workers ready to give up well paid jobs to offer themselves for combat duty.

Registration is continuing through all the boards in the territory, it was stated.

Oahu, on which Honolulu is located, has 4,221 volunteers; Hawaii is next with 1,439 volunteers. Other island totals are Maui, 888; Kauai, 638; Lanai, 107; and Molokai, 74.

Look Out, Tojo! Private Tojo Joins U. S. Army

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wy.—Rufus Tojo, Heart Mountain, last week served notice upon Premier Tojo, Tokyo, by volunteering for the nisei combat unit of the U. S. Army, reports the Sentinel.

Rufus Tojo not only volunteered for the Army, he also took five of his pals from the Heart Mountain fire department with him.

Those volunteering with him were Isawo Tabata, 32; Thomas Kinago, 20; Osa Hattori, 18; Frank Sugihara, 22.

Nisei Uses Entire ‘A’ Gas Ration to Enlist in Army

Fred Toyota, an American-born Japanese who is employed with a steel company in McGill, Nevada, heard the Army's announcement of the formation of a Japanese American fighting unit on the radio last week.

He immediately decided to volunteer. When his local draft board in McGill had no official information on the War Department's announcement, Fred, a member of the Salt Lake chapter of the JAACL, decided to drive to the Utah capital, 250 miles away.

Possessing only an A gasoline ration book, normally good for only 240 miles, Fred nevertheless decided to chance the trip. He picked up Sam Hase, a nisei resident of Ely, Nevada, who also wanted to volunteer for the new Army combat team, and the pair arrived in Salt Lake City Monday morning.

Together with Henry Mori of Magna, Utah, and Hideo Iwamoto of Ogden, they called at the Salt Lake City selective service headquarters. They were informed that procedures for induction for the new Japanese American unit had not been announced.

This week Fred Toyota was wondering how to get his car back to McGill since he had used up a portion of his gasoline ration for the month.

The intermountain quartet expect to be among the first to enlist when induction procedure definitely announced. Information from Washington indicates that American-born Japanese living outside of relocation centers may volunteer at their local draft board.
Collier's Editorial Lauds War Department's AJ Unit

The War Department was highly lauded by the Collier's Weekly, in an editorial in the March 13 issue, for its move to create a combat team of nisei soldiers.

“We got the old familiar ‘That’s the stuff!’ kick out of this piece of news — a renewal of the conviction that American democracy can do such things and get away with them gloriously, because of its power to attract and hold the loyalty of all manner of people,” the editorial said. “In opening the Army to the Nisei, we think the War Department did its best single day’s work in months.”

Confidence was expressed, also, in the ability of the nisei, the editorial declaring:

“It seems beyond dispute to us that this is the right way to handle them after. We feel confident, too, that these men will become tough and valiant fighters for the country of their parents’ adoption. Judging from our boys’ experiences with the Japanese, we can well afford to turn some Japanese-descended fighting talent against the original Japs.”

In beginning its editorial, the magazine explained:

“Nisei is a word which up to now is known to few Americans east of the Pacific West, but which we have a notion will be well and favorably known to all of us before the war is over. A Nisei is an American-born citizen whose parents were Japanese.

“There are a large number of Nisei in the Far West. Most of them are as loyal to the United States as any other group of Americans. Until recently, however, they were not eligible for service in our Armed Forces in this war with Japan and its Axis partners.

“There is not as much reason for the Nisei to be unsympathetic to the Japanese.”

Story of the Week

Texas Nisei Fought in Java, Now Prisoner in Philippines

A Texas-born soldier of Japanese ancestry who fought against the Japanese Army in the battle for Java is now a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines, according to word received by his family in Abilene, Texas.

Sgt. Frank Fujita of the U.S. Army, a former member of a National Guard unit, fought in Java and was reported “missing” after the fall of the Netherlands East Indies to the Japanese enemy.

Recently, friends reported that his family was informed that he was a prisoner with fellow soldiers captured in the Java fighting and was in a “prisoner of war” camp.

Sgt. Fujita was one of several nisei soldiers, stationed with the U.S. Army in far Pacific outposts, who took part in the first fighting against the Japanese shortly after Pearl Harbor. Another nisei, Master Sgt. Arthur Komori of Kapaa, Hawaii, was on Bataan with the U.S. Army Air Force and is now in Australia. He was one of a few to successfully evacuate the Philippine peninsula, according to a radio message received by his family in Hawaii.
From the Minneapolis Star-Journal:
An Editorial on the U. S. Nisei

Two Japanese-American soldiers in the United States army talked, reel-by-reel, between the Minneapolis Lions club the other noon about the present situation of American citizens of Japanese origin, evacuated from the Pacific coast, and more importantly, about tangible threats to the permanent civil rights of such citizens.

An Arkansas law now prohibits persons of Japanese ancestry and their descendants from ever owning land in that state. The American Legion of California demands that all west coast Japanese, INCLUDING AMERICAN CITIZENS, be deported. A series of proposals pend among California legislators to restrict permanently the rights of Japanese citizens of the United States.

Of the 110,000 Japanese held in American "relocation" (meaning "concentration") camps, 70,000 are American citizens.

The evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the west coast is attributed to fear of espionage and sabotage. The fear has some basis in fact. The nisei themselves (the word in Japanese means "New Lives") recognize that Japanese and Japanese-Americans are not readily distinguishable. Stories circulated freely on the west coast—and doubtless authentic in some cases—about Japanese gardeners who turned out to be imperial army officers in disguise, and Japanese fishing vessels which mysteriously hovered near American naval maneuvers, have given Californians an understandable case of the jitters.

But legitimate fear has been exaggerated by influences which ought to be recognized for exactly what they are.

The descendants of Japanese-born immigrants who first were imported to the Pacific coast as cheap labor did become competitors of Pacific coast truck farmers. The Japanese women, for example, were willing and able to spend long hours on their knees in the mud of strawberry patches for subsistence fare, enabling such families to earn and save money for the accumulation of land. Hence a California law prohibiting Japanese from owning land. The obvious recourse of the immigrants was to have their American-born children, United States citizens, own the land. Hence agitation to prevent persons of Japanese ancestry and their descendants from owning land.

The Japanese problem has raised three questions:
1. Was evacuation necessary?
2. Is it in accordance with American principles?
3. Is there any excuse for making wartime distinctions permanent?

To the first question, the war department says yes, and even if that verdict has been influenced by other than military considerations, the Japanese HAVE been evacuated and military reasons DID exist for it.

The second question is harder to answer, for the fact is that we are holding American citizens for no other reason than that of racial background. Unquestionably, our external danger justifies the holding of citizens as suspects until their cases can be investigated. That is the official explanation, and the evacuation is probably as justifiable as any other shifting of population for wartime reasons.

But as to the third question:
It is dangerous and damnable business to be using the war, or to let it be used, as a pretext to strip one group of American citizens of basic civil and economic rights for the benefit of other Americans.

When we allow that to be done, we deal a blow to the civil rights not merely of one minority group, but of every one of us. We allow a precedent to be set up which can be used, next, against another group and then another and another—including, sooner or later—the group to which every one of us belongs.

The "dual citizenship" issue raised against the nisei is a red herring. Before 1924, alien Japanese were required to register their children in America with the Japanese government, but since that date it has not been done. The nisei insist that they regard themselves solely as Americans. The oath of allegiance sworn to by members of the Japanese American Citizens League repudiates "any other allegiance (than to the Constitution of the United States of America) which I knowingly or unknowingly may have held heretofore."

One of our purposes in this war is to smash Japan completely as an aggressive power. That done, there will remain no more reason to fear a general in gardener's clothing than to see a Greek spy in a New York fruit vendor.

As for fear of the economic competition of Japanese-Americans, we can trust human nature to work among future generations of such citizens as it has among the rest of us, who descend from European immigrants. Millions of our stable, prosperous citizens who defend "the American way" are sons and grandsons of immigrants who never dreamed of a 40-hour week when they first thrust their gnarled hands into American soil. As between living like the people around them or grubbing away as their immigrant ancestors did, all human experience indicates that coming Japanese-American generations will choose the former.

From the Minneapolis Star Journal, Feb. 27.
WASHINGTON LETTER

U. S. Government Believes in Loyalty of Nisei

By PETER WOOD

The recent announcement of the War Department that Japanese-Americans would again be eligible for duty in the Army has been favorably received by the American press and by all Americans who believe in equal justice for all. While Americans of Japanese ancestry will not be drafted, they are free to volunteer for service in a special combat unit which will include the customary elements of infantry, artillery, engineer and medical personnel.

Of the 110,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans evacuated from the West Coast last spring and subsequently removed to relocation centers in several of the western states and in Arkansas, two-thirds are American citizens. Government intelligence officers are agreed that these Americans of Japanese ancestry, most of whom have never seen Japan, are for the most part loyal to the United States. The Japanese-Americans are young. Their average age is about twenty. They have a lifetime ahead of them in the United States. The Japanese of American birth, who have never seen Japan, are American-born Japanese (the Japanese word for American-born Japanese) was temporarily halted, five thousand or more were already in the army. At Camp McCoy in Sparta, Wisconsin, the 100th Infantry Battalion is made up of Nisei, many of them from Hawaii. Their officers are enthusiastic about them. "These men are interested in being soldiers," says Capt. Andrew Fraser. "They buy expensive technical manuals that most soldiers never see." Another of their officers said, "I'd rather have a hundred of these men behind me than a hundred of any others I've ever been with." The officer has had twenty-two years of experience in the army.

They know what they are fighting for. Capt. Jack Mizuma says: "I know what I'm fighting so that my wife and 4-year-old daughter in Hawaii can live in honor and loyalty to America." Or there is Ben Kuroki, whose picture recently appeared on the front page of the Army's European newspaper Stars and Stripes. Kuroki is the gunner of a Liberator bomber. "I've gone through a lot of hell because of Pearl Harbor," he says, "It's become a sort of personal matter with me, and there's a score to settle." Sergeant Kuroki's brother is in the army finance section at Fort Hayes, Ohio. Still another brother is training for a commission. And the folks at home are raising food for victory on a Nebraska farm.

The treachery of the Pearl Harbor attack magnified the danger of a possible attack on our West Coast by Japan. Pressure groups which for years had been agitating for the removal of the Japanese were prompt to seize the opportunity and to encourage evacuation. Whatever the wisdom of that move, the more significant fact now that they have been removed, is the existence of a large labor force which could be helping to produce food for victory, working in war industries, or taking the places of other Americans who are drawn from civilian occupations into war jobs. At present they are segregated living in hastily constructed camps under primitive conditions, where they can contribute little or nothing to the war effort.

Two steps have recently been taken which promise to correct this situation. First is the provision already referred to which allows Japanese-Americans to volunteer for service in the army. President Roosevelt in a recent letter to the Secretary of War stated that this step has his full approval. "No loyal citizen of the United States," the President wrote, "should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy."

The second step is that taken by the War Relocation Authority, which has charge of the Japanese in relocation centers, to hasten the steps toward resettlement so that Japanese and Japanese-Americans of proved loyalty to America can
There are encouraging beginnings toward a more rational treatment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry. Secretary of War Stimson has announced that enlistments in the army of those of them of whose loyalty there is no doubt will be welcomed and encouraged. Some large units of them will be trained in Hawaii, where the Japanese are the largest single racial group, and most of them are native-born American citizens. They will be useful, for service in Hawaii, but also they are promised actual combat duty, which necessarily means overseas.

Other battalions will be organised and trained on the mainland, though presumably not in California, to a large extent with Japanese officers, as fast as these can be found or trained. However, these will be all-Japanese units, instead of Japanese-American units, instead of Japanese-American citizens being received, unsegregated, in the general ranks, as is done with Italian, German, Chinese and Filipino volunteers or inductees.

On the related matter of returning loyal Japanese-Americans, now in "resettlement camps" to their normal occupations, outside the camps. Perhaps it is necessary to begin cautiously and experimentally. This is not on account of any probable misconduct on the part of these selected Japanese-Americans—the ones chosen would be precisely those who could be trusted in this respect—but due to question of their reception among Americans, as part of American life.

There being two sorts of Americans, in this respect, both sorts are likely to be found in any American community, and one sort would be enough to make trouble. Nevertheless, the beginning is being made, and if it works well—as under proper guidance, it should—it could be extended more widely.

We have already lifted the ban on even aliens of Italian and German origin and on "stateless" refugees, and these have made no trouble. We have, in fact, taken proper steps as to the few of whom who might have been inclined to do so. These, to be sure, have no physical marks of race, and have never been put under our caste system. But the Chinese also have Oriental faces, and the older ones, born in China, are still "ineligible" to citizenship. Nevertheless, they are rapidly ceasing to be a caste—wholly so, in army practice and in the view of the law.

In the case of the Japanese, this is not merely a matter of right. Perhaps one does not have to do right, in time of war, even toward American citizens in no way involved in that war and not in sympathy with it. It is a matter also of our own self-interest. We shall have to live, on some terms with these American citizens of Japanese ancestry, after the war. The sooner and the more fully they can be restored to their normal places in American life, the better Americans they will be. Also, in doing it, we shall be better Americans ourselves.

To lock them up, unjustly, in the same camps with the trouble makers, is to expose them to the worst possible influences, under the worst possible environment. And the time to begin to avoid that evil is now.