

# MINIDOKA CHRONICLE

Serving Our Country  
1942-1945



Some Japanese Americans were already serving in the military when the Pearl Harbor attack occurred, and received varied responses. Some were reassigned to menial duties and many were immediately reclassified as 4-C enemy aliens and removed from duty. Others who stayed in joined the Military Intelligence Service. In 1943, Japanese Americans were allowed to return to military service as part of the new segregated units.



Dressed in full uniform and having served in World War I, this veteran was taken to a temporary detention center at Santa Anita, California, April 5, 1942.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

“...the War Department issued an order for us of Japanese ancestry to turn in our arms. And what a sad day it was for me personally, because I was called into the office by...my company commander. And he said, ‘Sparky, I hate to do it, but here it is, War Department orders. I’ve got to ask you to turn in your arms.’ And I still get emotional about it when I think about that moment.

And then, on short notice, we were placed aboard the *SS Maui*. From Molokai we were shipped...and we landed in Oakland, California. From there we were sent all across the continent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.”

Spark Matsunaga

Senator, (D) Hawai`i (1977-1990)

US Army Reserve in 1941, Hawai`i

Captain, 442nd Regimental Combat Team  
and 100th Infantry Battalion

DENSHŌ



Spark Matsunaga, ca. 1940s

COURTESY/MATT MATSUNAGA

The *Irrigator* announced the start of the loyalty oath questionnaire that was administered by the War Department. This coincides with the War Department's organization of a segregated, all-Japanese American fighting unit in the US Army, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. *Minidoka Irrigator*, February 6, 1943.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## WRA REGISTRATION ORDERED HERE

ALL MALES, FEMALES 17 AND OLDER ARE AFFECTED

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 3.—A general registration at relocation centers of all evacuees who are 17 or more years of age will start next week, E.M. Rowalt, acting director of the WRA, announced here today. At the same time the war department announced that teams of army representatives left Washington yesterday for the Minidoka and other WRA centers to obtain questionnaires from all male American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are 17 or more years of age.

The War Department's action follows the announcement last Thursday by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson that a combat unit of American citizens of Japanese ancestry will be formed for active service in a theatre of war.

Minidoka men wishing to volunteer for service in the combat unit will have

an opportunity to do so while the Army representatives are here. Nisei who do not desire to volunteer at this time or who are beyond military age will be considered for jobs in agriculture or jobs in plants producing war materials.

Included in the WRA registration to be made at the same time will be all females, regardless of citizenship, who are 17 or more years of age, and all alien Japanese men over 17. No registration will be made, however, of persons who have applied for repatriation.

Through this general registration the WRA expects to get clearance on a large number of employable colonists before they apply for leave and thus be able to speed up the relocation program, Rowalt explained.

"We are not trying to force any person to relocate who does not desire to do so," Rowalt said. "If we can get a backlog of registrations on which we can be certain we should be able to get clearance for indefinite leaves for many people who later will want to relocate."

Leading the team of Army representatives who will visit here is Lieut. Stanley D. Arnold. He will be accompanied by Sgts. Carl E. Fuerk and Eugene F. Jendrek and Technician Fourth Grade Akira Kato. Similar teams will visit all other relocation centers to start the registration not later than February 10.

Final plans for the registration will be worked out in conferences between the Army team and Project Director Harry L. Stafford, it was announced.

The MINIDOKA  
*Irrigator* \*

VOL II, NO. 11 HUNT, IDAHO SAT., FEB. 6, 1943

### MEETINGS SET TO INFORM PUBLIC ON INDUCTION PLAN

Seven public meetings will be held in different sections of the center at which the voluntary Army induction program will be discussed.

The first meeting will be held Sunday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in D.H. 3. The schedule for the other meetings is as follows:

Monday (Feb. 8) D.H. 8  
Wednesday (Feb. 10) D.H. 15  
Thursday (Feb. 11) D.H. 24  
Friday (Feb. 12) D.H. 30  
Monday (Feb. 15) D.H. 36  
Tuesday (Feb. 16) D.H. 40

All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The speakers will be Harry L. Stafford, project director, and Lieutenant Stanley D. Arnold of the United States Army. Lieutenant Arnold will give an address setting forth and explaining the Army's plan to induct volunteers from among American citizens of

(Cont'd. on Pg. 7)

### EX-BAINBRIDGE RESIDENTS COMING HERE

One hundred seventy-seven ex-Bainbridge Island (Wash.) residents, who have been dwelling at the Manzanar relocation center since evacuation, will soon be transferred here, it was announced this week. Six additional families with relatives or friends here will entrain with the group.

Bainbridge Islanders, the first in the Northwest affected by the evacuation orders, were removed to Manzanar, the only center open at the time.

The transferees' requests, acted upon by the WRA, materialized when space availability here was confirmed.

### Start Tin Can Conservation

Dining halls throughout the project are currently conserving empty cans in accordance with the War Production Board's recent order emphasizing the conservation of tin cans. Leon V. Krumenacker, Project Steward, said this

week.

All cans are thoroughly washed and cleaned, the labels removed and the cans placed in boxes.

The salvaged tin cans are reportedly being used for the manufacture of Coca Cola bottle caps.

## WHY A SEGREGATED UNIT? WAR SECRETARY ANSWERS

A question that has arisen 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 issued the following statement:

"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

### COMMENTS ON ARMY MOVE FAVORABLE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Feb. 22 (Special)-- Strong editorial support of the War Department's decision to form a combat unit of loyal persons of Japanese ancestry for service in an active theatre of war is disclosed in a survey here of newspapers throughout the country. The survey reveals a large number of papers from coast to coast have commented on the War Department's action and with few exceptions the comments have been favorable.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican after tracing the circumstances leading up to evacuation, states that "the organization of such a (combat) unit for military service would surely create a good impression among the mass of Americans."

The Baltimore (Md.) Sun views the combat unit as "a valuable symbol of what we are fighting for," and "a visible, tangible denial of the German theory (cont'd. on pg. 2)

the Japanese-Americans. By 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 the volunteers were spread throughout the army their enlistment 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-Americans. 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. The success of the program and the voluntary feature of induction will be a great step forward in the rehabilitation plans for Japanese-Americans."

The War Department contended that a segregated all-Japanese American fighting unit would call attention to the fact there are many loyal Japanese Americans. They also said that spreading Japanese Americans throughout the ranks would dilute their efforts to show loyalty. *Minidoka Irrigator*, February 23, 1943.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Three Onodera brothers, Kid, Kaun, and Satoru,  
enlist while the entire family looks on.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION





Women's Army Corps (WAC) recruiters interviewed an internee at the Minidoka War Relocation Center, 1943.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Women's Army Corps (WAC) Private Alice Miyoko Shimoyama and her sister Noba enlisted in the WAC while in Chicago. They were the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shimoyama of 29-5-A. They relocated from Tule Lake WRA Center to Palantine, Illinois while their parents transferred to Minidoka." . *Minidoka Irrigator*, March 25, 1945.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**WAC Volunteer**



**Pvt. Miyokō Shimoyama**  
Courtesy Chicago Sun.

**Shimoyama Sisters Join WAC in Ill.**

WAC Privs. Alice Miyoko and Noba Fumi Shimoyama, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Kihachi Shimoyama of 29-5-A are now doing their basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., according to reports.

Pvt. Alice was among the 95 WAC recruits to leave Chicago on March 2, while Pvt. Noba left with 100 other recruits on February 17 from Chicago.

The Shimoyama sisters both relocated from Tule Lake project to Palantine, Illinois, where they volunteered for the Women's Army Corps.

They are formerly of Kent, Washington, and have one brother serving in the Army.

Nisei WAC



Posing in front of the honor roll board is WAC Pvt. Masako Fujii, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Takauichi Fujii of 17-8-F who was on a furlough last week. Pvt. Fujii is reportedly the first Nisei WAC to visit Hunt. A former resident of this center, she volunteered from Minneapolis in April, 1944, and took basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, later transferring to Kearney, Nebraska.

Women's Army Corps  
Private Masako Fujii,  
daughter of Mr. and Mrs.  
Takauichi Fujii of 17-8-F,  
posed in front of the Honor  
Roll for this publicity photo.  
*Minidoka Irrigator*, October  
14, 1944.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In training at Fort des Moines: (L to R)  
Iris Watanabe, Bette Nishimura, Margaret  
Fukuoka, Francis Iritani, and Sue Ogata. Ogata  
said: "I just had to join as soon as we were  
given a chance...Joining the WACs seemed the  
best way I knew to help my country." *Minidoka  
Irrigator*, January 15, 1944.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FIVE NISEI GIRLS GLAD TO SERVE IN WAC



Trim and smiling in their WAC uniforms are Iris Watanabe, Bette Nishimura, Margaret Fukuoka, Frances Iritani, and Sue Ogata (left to right), five Japanese American girls now in training at Fort Des Moines.  
—Courtesy Des Moines Register.

A recent article by Lulu Mae Coe in the Des Moines Register featured five young nisei WACs who are now in training at Fort Des Moines, eager in the carrying out of their duty to prove their loyalty to their country.

The five are Margaret Fukuoka, 24; Frances Iritani, 21; Iris Watanabe, 20; Bette Nishimura, 24; and Sue S. Ogata, 22. Three have a brother each in the army and another has a cousin in the service.

Private Fukuoka, a former beauty operator in Los Angeles, Calif., volunteered from the Manzanar relocation center, while the other recruit from a center is Private Watanabe of Granada where her mother is still residing.

Two reasons Private Fukuoka gave for joining were, "I wanted to serve my country. I also thought that all Japanese Americans might find it easier to return to a normal way of life after the war, if we who can did

our share during the war."

Since November 27, she has been taking her basic training at Fort Des Moines. Her brother Pvt. Arthur Monroe Fukuoka, volunteered in April and is now stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss.

"Ready and willing to do what I felt was my duty, Private Watanabe who wanted to join the WACs the first of the year, enlisted as soon as nisei were accepted. "I just felt I had to help in some way," she said. "If the other nisei girls could only know what a wonderful thing this Women's Army Corps of the United States is, I'm sure they would want to join up."

"Simply on pins and needles to learn her new order" Private Iritani of Denver, Colo., is first of the five to finish her basic training. She has a brother, Roy, who is now training at Camp Shelby. Previously Private Iritani was employed at an army coverall factory.

She explained that in doing de-

fense work she was perfectly free to do as she wanted at night while if she joined the WACs she felt she would be giving all she could. "I also thought my job at the defense plant would be open and maybe a girl from a relocation center could have it."

Just beginning her basic training, Private Nishimura was formerly a sales clerk in a dry goods store in Rocky Ford, Colo., where her mother has lived for 40 years. Private Nishimura, who has a brother, Pfc. John Nishimura, stationed at Camp Shelby, will be overseas quick as a wink if foreign service is possible.

"I just had to join as soon as we were given a chance," said Private Ogata of LaSalle, Colo. "Joining the WACs seemed the best way I knew to help my country."

She had been a bookkeeper in an oil company in Greeley, Colo. Her cousin, Johnny Masuguchi, is stationed at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

## *In Fairness to Fellow Americans: Nisei Fight Two Wars: Ours And Private, Writes Soldier*

Writing in fairness to fellow Americans, Pfc. Dudley C. Rush USA, explained the two wars that the nisei has to fight in a letter to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. He wrote:

"Editor, The Star-Bulletin: Never before have I taken a pen in hand and written to a newspaper editor but 'there comes a time in every man's life,' I suppose. I have been watching with growing disgust the efforts of some misguided politicians in California to create an issue out of the Japanese American problem. I see, now, where the same poisonous thinking is spreading to Colorado, where the Denver Post has always tried to mold public opinion to its way of thinking on any subject, right or wrong.

"Do the newspapers of California print the casualty lists of the Japanese Americans killed or wounded from the city of Honolulu, alone? I think some people would be dumbfounded, if they saw those lists every day, as we do, here. I don't know how the population of Honolulu compares with Denver or Los Angeles, but I would bet that Honolulu suffers more casualties among the Japanese than those two mainland cities do in their whole populations.

I can see what the Japanese Americans in our armed forces are fighting and dying for. They are not only fighting for America but they are fighting for the right of their families to live side by side with the more fortunate races that have made our nation the great nation it is today. They are fighting for tolerance. They are fighting to prove they and their families had nothing to do with December 7, 1941.

"They had no axe to grind and a lot of them are giving their lives to prove it. Probably their last thoughts, as they fall mortally wounded, far from their homes in Hawaii, are, 'Well, perhaps this will prove we are Americans.'"

I wonder what the more fortunate ones think as they read the newspapers in some hospital in Africa or Italy.

I speak only for myself as I write this letter. I don't know what my fellow soldiers think on the subject, as I have never brought the subject into open discussion, but knowing my fellow soldiers as I do, I think they would certainly be against those hair-brained schemes of radicals who

have nothing better to do during this war than to sit around thinking of ways and means of persecuting a minority.

I know that immediately after this letter is published, if it should be, loyal sons and daughters of California and Colorado will want to jump on me with both feet. I know what their argument will be, "Why judge the whole state by what a few nitwits do and say?"

I understand that argument perfectly, because it is my argument, too. Why judge a whole race of people and refuse them the right to return to their homes in the western states after the war just because of what a disloyal, small minority of their race has done? No one in this war is persecuting the German Americans and Italian Americans, and there is no reason in the world why they should, so why impose a penalty, after the war, upon the Japanese Americans?

When I meet a Japanese American on the street in the same uniform as my own, I know he is fighting two wars, our war and his own private war for his people against public opinion and racial discrimination. I am sorely tempted to salute him and say, "Thou art a better man than I am, Gunga Din."

I am not of Japanese blood, but I would be proud to have a transfusion from one of those boys on the Italian front.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DUDLEY C. RUSH, USA.

### APPRECIATION

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the hospital staff and our many friends who have been so kind and helpful to us in our loss of husband and father.

Mrs. Yone Somekawa, Arthur,  
Mrs. Howard Nomura,  
Mrs. Sam Kozu,  
Mrs. Yelchi Kozu, Carl.

### APPRECIATION

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the hospital staff and our many friends who have been so kind and thoughtful to my mother during her stay in the hospital.

Chaya Oye, 21-B-C

Private First Class (Pfc.) Dudley Rushwrote a heartfelt letter to the editor of the Star Bulletin in Honolulu. It was re-published in the Minidoka Irrigator. Pfc. Rush is moved by the loyalty and bravery of the Japanese American servicemen and is concerned about their treatment at home. Minidoka Irrigator, July 29, 1944.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SEND THE IRRIGATOR To Friends and Former Residents

# The MINIDOKA Irrigator

Serving In The Armed Forces From Hunt 498 Including 206 Volunteers

Volume IV, Number 11 HUNT, IDAHO Saturday, May 6, 1944

## MINIDOKA ROARS WELCOME TO KUROKI

PICTURES TELL STORY OF GREETING TO NISEI WARRIOR



**Two Win Honors At Ohio Wesleyan**  
George Hara, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hara of 26-1/2, and George Chisum, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Chisum of 15-21-1/2, were recently elected to the Phi Beta Kappa recognition group for freshmen and sophomores at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Upper left: Pretty girls at Hunt High School attract Sergeant's attention from all sides as his jeep proceeds in parade—Upper right: (left to right) Sergeant Kuroki enjoys a laugh with Assistant Directors Miller and Davidson at one of Project Director Stafford's wise cracks at the Main Gate—Right: Council Chairman Fujii welcomes Kuroki to Minidoka—Above: Boy Scout drum and bugle corps thrills lots at Huntville Elementary School—Lower left: Hunt High School girls enraptured as Sergeant Kuroki passes in his jeep.

### Thousands See Hero In Triumphal Entry; Fetes Honor Nisei

Luncheons, Teas, Dinners, Dances Dominate Gala Program

To the thousands of long awaiting residents T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki, No. 1 Nisei war hero, gaining this title through his accuracy behind a Liberator machine gun, actually came into existence at Hunt this week. As the Sergeant entered the gateway of Minidoka the intensive program for this historical occasion including the parade, reception, press conference, speeches, banquet, baseball games, queen coronation, and dances unfolded.

Among the many events for his visit here the highlight features were, the enlightening tour of the camp, the IRRIGATOR press conference and his crowning of the Hunt High School May Day king and queen.

Invited to many informal parties, and get-togethers by the various organizations throughout the camp, Sgt. Kuroki "let his hair down" and enjoyed them immensely. These affairs revealed his ingratiating personality of a "regular fellow."

Winding up the program for the week will be the inductee dance with Sgt. Kuroki as the guest of honor.

The loyalty and sincerity of the Nisei war hero will leave a deep and indelible impression in the hearts of every Minidokan.

After the brief welcome at the main gate, Sgt. Kuroki was taken on a parade in a jeep which took him all over camp. Residents, including the school children, workers, and appointed personnel staff members were all out to greet the hero.

Hundreds of residents dropped in at D. H. 23 Tuesday night to meet and shake hands with the Sergeant. Co-chairmen for this affair were Mrs. Paul Shigaya and Mrs. Edward Osawa.

The IRRIGATOR staff members had a chance to really get acquainted with the air hero at their informal press luncheon and conference Wednesday afternoon in the office. Rousing games and exchanging autographs highlighted the entire afternoon.

"I crown thee Queen Katy of May Day" with these words Sgt. Kuroki placed the Queen of May Day, Katy Matsumoto, as the May Day Madcap queen.

### Inductees Placed On Reserve List

Arriving almost simultaneously with T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki on Tuesday morning were the 51 Hunt inductees who reported to Fort Douglas last week for their final physical examination. These men have undergone their final phase of induction and are now on the inductee reserve list awaiting their assignment. They are subject to a 24-hour call and may go out to work if they can be obtained within this time.

Men who have passed their induction physicals and have their certificate of fitness as well as the necessary pay and allowances are now being processed for their entire family out on a military pass and then outside the center may visit here on a non-paying visitor status. It was stressed by Fort Douglas officials that these men must have their certificate of fitness and their military pass before their visit privileges would be granted.

### Secretary Ickes Charges Governors With Prejudice

Bricker, Edge, Mayor LaGuardia Accused of Racial Discrimination

WASHINGTON—Interior Secretary Ickes Thursday accused Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York City and two Republican governors, John W. Bricker of Ohio and Walter K. Edge of New Jersey of "racial discrimination" on the question of resettlement of Japanese Americans, according to Associated Press reports.

In a statement, the Secretary Ickes said they have expressed a belief that law-abiding Japanese in this country are not entitled to the same privilege as non-Japanese, and that these equities were unbecomingly out of tune in a nation that is fighting for the principles of democracy and freedom.

"This is a strange fit and drum corps to be playing the discordant anthem of racial discrimination and prejudice," Ickes said. "It is a disgrace for the mayor of New York City, who has fought long and vigorously for racial equality and justice, carrying the flag, must be shocked and distressed to find the drummer boy from New Jersey on his left and the drum major from Ohio thumping him on the right. I cannot but believe that he has placed this company through accident and misunderstanding rather than by deliberate choice."

Ickes, appealing the justice of the war relocation authority which recently was made a part of his department, said Ickes had only of prejudice but of disregard of the Ohio governor made last week. He said Bricker was "trying to further his presidential aspirations" and that he "deliberately locked the constitution in the trash."

The secretary quoted Bricker as saying that after the war each man should immediately show gratitude for their wartime service and that he "deliberately locked the constitution in the trash."

The secretary quoted Bricker as saying that after the war each man should immediately show gratitude for their wartime service and that he "deliberately locked the constitution in the trash."

### Two Youths Held On Draft Charge

Two of the six Hunt men who failed to report for induction and the army last week, were bound over to the federal district court last Saturday night when they waived preliminary hearing before U. S. Commissioner J. O. Pomphrey, according to the Twin Falls Times News.

They are Osho Akada, 19, and Shunji Yoshida, 20, both of whom were registered with the Jerome board. Their bond was set at \$1,000 each, and they were taken to Boise by Deputy U. S. Marshal Earl Williams.

The governor didn't know what he was talking about, Ickes said.

### Spain Consul To Visit Here

A visit by the Spanish consul is expected within several weeks time, the Community Council was informed this week.

The consul will visit the project to investigate the treatment accorded Japanese nationals and also to gather the results of a census which will be conducted among the nationalities residing here.

A committee was chosen from the Japanese nationals to meet with the consul at a joint meeting held by the Council and the Consular Commission Thursday afternoon.

On the committee are: Dr. Paul Shigaya, Nomura, K. Kuroki, N. Tsuchi, H. Matsuda, G. Shikawa, S. Hasekawa, K. Yamada, D. Kuroki, K. Akayama, chairman, K. Takahashi, R. Sato, Karl Tambara, K. Yamamoto, S. Thomas and Jack Chikata.

### Enlistment Of Nisei WACs Sought by Army

Representatives of the Women's Army Corps recruiting service will be here to take applications for Nisei WACs, according to a letter received here from Fort Douglas.

The Fort Douglas headquarters has been requested to take the applications of a total of 35 Nisei WACs.

Applicants must be between 20 to 30 years of age and proficient in English, both written and spoken. The physical standards for enlistment are the same as those prescribed for other applicants, except that the maximum height has been lowered to 67 inches and the minimum weight is 110 pounds.

We read a lot about morale of the home front and how to lift this war effort. The record of this war has been outstanding. That war has been won. The record of this war has been outstanding. That war has been won. The record of this war has been outstanding. That war has been won.

### THE COURAGE

Sergeant Ben Kuroki will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home. He will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home. He will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home. He will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home.



Sergeant Ben Kuroki will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home. He will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home. He will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home. He will leave a lot of things behind him when he returns home.

Minidoka shows its appreciation for Nisei servicemen in this edition of the Irrigator. War hero Tech Sergeant (T/Sgt.) Ben Kuroki was honored with a parade and a series of gala events when he visited Minidoka in 1944. In a later interview, Kuroki stated that he thought the Army used him during this wartime publicity tour. He was disturbed to see fellow Japanese Americans being guarded by armed soldiers wearing the same uniform as he. Minidoka Irrigator, May 6, 1944

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Soldiers on leave return to Minidoka to be with family and friends. It must have been strange to have seen men in uniform being guarded by others wearing the same uniform.

Tech Sergeant (T/4) Taniguchi with his wife and baby daughter at Minidoka. He volunteered while at Tule Lake and served behind enemy lines in the Burmese jungle with the Chindits, a British fighting unit. March, 1943.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY/THE  
BANCROFT LIBRARY





A soldier on leave returns to Minidoka and poses with high school friends.

DENSHŌ/THE BAIN FAMILY COLLECTION

Colonel John Y. Sadonaga is a career military officer whose journey began at Minidoka, where he enlisted in the service and joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, becoming a decorated war hero. Following the war, he became an optometrist and later joined the reserves. He returned to active duty in the US Air Force and served for 32 years. Sadonaga was one of the last men in the 442nd to retire from active military duty.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION



These nine young men from Minidoka pose for one final picture before joining the military. John Sadonaga is standing in the back row and is the third person from the left, 1944.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

Contribute to Local  
WAR FUND  
DO YOUR SHARE

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 33

# the MINIDOKA Irrigator

Published in two parts Part I.  
HUNT, IDAHO

Remember Our Boys  
Overseas  
WRITE TO THEM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1944

## Public Opinion Change Due to Record of 442nd

### Nisei Born in Relocation Centers Have Same Views of Democracy At Outset As Puritans

MYER SPEAKS AT L. A.

Dillon S. Myer, national director of the WRA, who spoke in the interests of the Japanese Americans at an inter-faith meeting at the Friday Morning Club last week pointed out that "the temper of public opinion on the problem has been changing due to the magnificent record of Japanese American boys in the uniform of the United States Army" according to the Los Angeles Times.

## Nisei Fighters In India Front Made Known

### Sgts. Hirabayashi, Gosho Fighting In Burma

WITH U. S. ARMED FORCES IN THE CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATRE—Official censorship regarding the participation of American volunteers of Japanese ancestry in the war against Japan in the China-Burma-India theatre has been lifted with the publication of an article "Nisei" by Sgt. Edges in the "CHI" issue of the "CHI" Camp.

Official agency had been heretofore informed to blanket the confessions of these Nisei in HIRABAYASHI and GOSHO. The confessions as well as with the British and other Allied forces in this theatre.

Among the 14 Nisei soldiers who participated in Merrill's Marauders were Sgt. Henry H. Gosho, formerly at Seattle, and Sgt. Grant Hira-bayashi of Kent, Washington.

## Hunt Men Receive Purple Hearts



Sgt. Hagiwara



Pfc. Matsudaira

## Three Wounded Men Receive War Department Awards

### Pfc. John Matsudaira Now at Hines, Ill.

Pfc. John Matsudaira was recently awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in Italy. He was wounded on July 10. His present residence is at 3-5-AH.

## Farm Report Is Announced

During the month of September, 202 feeder pigs were purchased and 144 hogs with an average live weight of 274.4 pounds were slaughtered for use by this center.

### Sgt. Mike Hagiwara Returns to America

Wounded through the leg by a sniper's bullet on the Fourth of July, Sgt. Mike Hagiwara was awarded the Purple Heart from the War Department. As a volunteer with the famed 442nd Central Postal Directory, he was wounded at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Sgt. Michael Hagiwara is the youngest son of Mr. and P. C. Hagiwara, 712-A. Prior to evacuation he was a resident of high school, attending with the class of 1943 and graduating three years at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

Sgt. Hagiwara is 23 years old and has two older brothers, one of whom, Sgt. Patrick Hagiwara, was with him in Italy. Sgt. Mike Hagiwara was returned to the United States on September 24.

## Project Directors Confer In Denver To Discuss Problems

### Manpower Commission Duties, Functions Explained to Project Heads at Meet

NO CENTER TO BE CLOSED

One of the most significant statements resulting from the conference in Denver of all project directors on September 25, 26 and 27 is that "no center will be closed until all centers are closed," H. L. Stafford, project director declared this week.

"This statement has far reaching significance in its application to Hunt," Stafford said. "Heretofore, this project has been obliged to stand in readiness to expand the project to camp capacity."

"Aside from occasional influx of transfers, there seems to be no prospect of receiving a sudden influx of people," Stafford continued.

"Normal ingress of families on relocation and sizable groups being sent out on the Ordnance employment will deplete our population."

"A decline in activities. We may expect adjustments in the budget and labor quotas proportionately. We may expect activity in the surplus of equipment no longer essential to the needs of a minimum population."

In reference to the newly-organized Manpower Commission, Stafford declared, "The Denver staff week.

This drive is being held in conjunction with the Idaho State War Fund Drive and both agencies are appointing personnel members to participate in the local drive. Of the total amount collected 40 per cent will be kept here for local use and 60 percent will be sent to the national fund.

Oswa requests that all block chairmen try in their money collected in the drive to the section chairman on or before October 21.

A total of \$1,924.95 was collected in the War Fund Drive held last year. The evacuees contributing \$1,251.15 and the appointed project director \$673.80. It is expected that the former assistant project director in charge of Operations, was general chairman of the 1943 drive.

MALCOLM PITTS, Malcom Pitts, assistant national director, accompanied by his wife, visited the project this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

Work on the Community Chest War Fund drive which began Thursday, is progressing according to plan. Shigeru Osawa, general chairman of the drive, stated this week.

## 442nd Regiment Reported Attacking on Italian Front

### Pfc. Fred H. Sawada Reported Missing In Action

PURPLE HEART



PFC. HIROSHI SAWADA

## 97 Hunt Men To Be Sworn Into Service

### Preinduction Physical Exams to be Held On Wednesday

### Missing Nisei Combat Unit Fighting With Fifth Army NEAR LIVORNO

Pfc. Fred Hiroshi Sawada, holder of the Order of the Purple Heart, was reported "missing in action" in the Mediterranean area of operations in a United Press dispatch Thursday. It is believed that Pfc. Sawada is one of the first Nisei soldiers whose relatives in Hunt to be reported missing.

He was decorated with the oldest Purple Heart of the country, the one he received in action when he received injuries resulting from a land mine explosion in the Italian front.

It is reported that Pfc. Sawada, one of the first Japanese-Americans from the state of Washington to receive such an award, was in the Franklin High School, Seattle, when he was active in sports, participating in basketball. He is a professional being in the army more than three years.

At a meeting held Thursday afternoon in the Ad Arna Res. Hall, by some appointed personnel and other evacuee members of the Manpower Commission it was decided to conduct a fact-finding survey of power. A report will be given later by each division heads on their reported. A report will be given by the division heads at their meetings at the next meeting of the Commission which will be held next week.

most serve to lead great emphasis to Mr. Dillon Myer's (WRA) letter of June 23 authorizing the establishment of a Manpower Commission.

The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

"The report was as follows: "The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of American soldiers of Japanese origin, is participating in the Fifth Army's attacks along the west coast sector of Italy toward Livorno (Leghorn), according to an Associated Press report."

The Irrigator kept the camp residents informed about the campaigns in the Atlantic and the Pacific theaters. Minidoka Irrigator, Unknown Date.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# A VOICE IN THE NIGHT

*By Pvt. Satoru Onodera*

(Written during a lull in battle somewhere on the front lines in Italy, "A Voice In The Night," penned by a soldier who gave his life for his country a few days later, echoes the deep hopes and thoughts of the men in the bloody trenches. Pvt. Satoru Onodera, one of the three Onodera brothers who volunteered last year, and was killed in action on July 7, is the author of the poem. The stirring verse was first published in the *Renton Daily Reader*, *Renton, Louisiana*, on August 8.)

I heard a whispered voice last night  
Which floated through the battle's might.  
It sought to ask of God above  
The way of men below:  
"Weren't they meant to trust and love  
Instead of thinking each as foe?"

To enjoy as Thou the gentle rains,  
That wash Thy cheeks so clean:  
Sweeps o'er field of waving grains,  
And makes the grasslands green.

Stars that light the traveler's way,  
Winds that cool the fevered brow—  
The sun that brightens each new day,  
The smell of heather—the song of plow.

Do I speak of these in vain?  
Must they live in greatest of sins?  
Must they fight and curse the rain?  
Knowing the while that no one wins?  
Then midst the angry cannon's roar,  
The voice for living spoke no more.

Private Satoru Onodera penned "A Voice in the Night" during a lull in the fighting on the front lines in Italy. Satoru was killed in action on July 7, 1944, and his poem was published posthumously in the *Irrigator*. *Minidoka Irrigator*, September 16, 1944.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

“I am one of the fortunate Marines who have recently returned to this country after serving in the offensive against the Japanese on Guadalcanal ... We find ... a condition behind our backs that stuns us. We find that our American citizens, those of Japanese ancestry, are being persecuted, yes, persecuted as though Adolf Hitler himself were in charge ... We find that the California American Legion is promoting a racial purge.

“I’m putting it mildly when I say it makes our blood boil ... We shall fight this injustice, intolerance, and unAmericanism at home! We will not break faith with those who died... We have fought the Japanese and are recuperating to fight again. We can endure the hell of battle, but we are resolved not to be sold out at home.”

**Pfc. Robert Borchers**

Letter to the Editor

Time Magazine,

December 20, 1943 edition

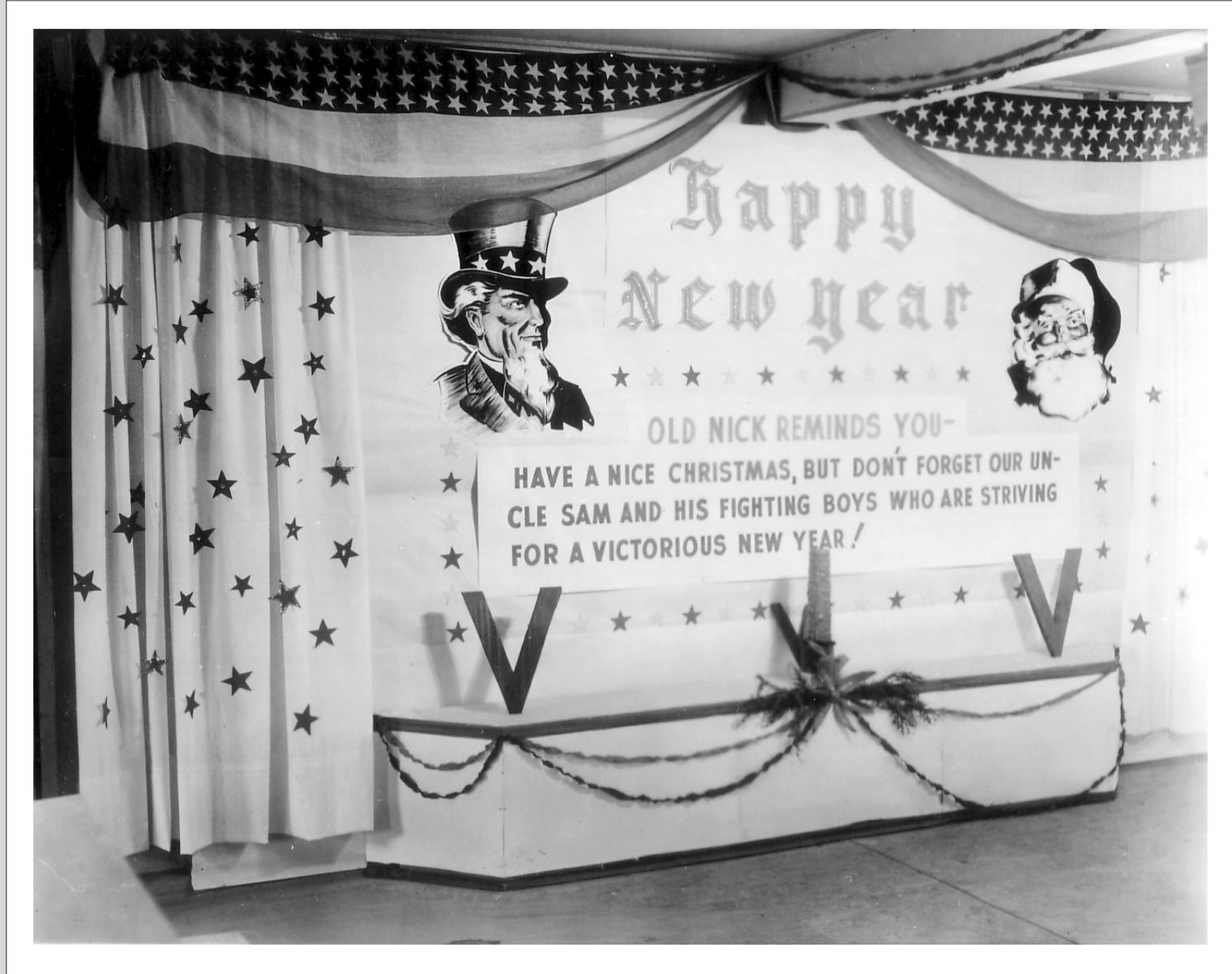
©TIME INC.

The Minidoka Honor Roll was built to honor all the men and women from camp who served in the military. When first installed in the fall of 1943, the wall had one panel containing 418 names. In October 1944, the Minidoka Irrigator reported that two additional panels were installed. In total, 950 people from Minidoka volunteered or were drafted into the service. Of the ten camps, Minidoka had the highest percentage of people who served.



Artists Kenjiro Nmura and Kamekichi Tokita created the Honor Roll, and chief gardener Fujitaro Kubota designed the ornamental garden where the Honor roll was installed.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION



Incarcerees show their patriotism with supportive holiday decorations.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

**On the Front Cover:**

All these Minidoka incarceratedees were volunteers for induction into the US Army. They would serve in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, March 20, 1943.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION