



Three Nisei Soldiers Who Fought in Europe Visit Cleveland on Way to Pacific War

By MAXWELL RIDDLE

Three reasons why the Army's 100th Battalion of the 442d Infantry has received world-wide acclaim for its fighting prowess are in Cleveland on 21-day furloughs.

The three reasons are Americans of Japanese descent who are home from the European war for training before going on special, and highly secret, assignments in the Pacific. Two are veterans of the Pacific war as well as the North African and Italian campaigns.

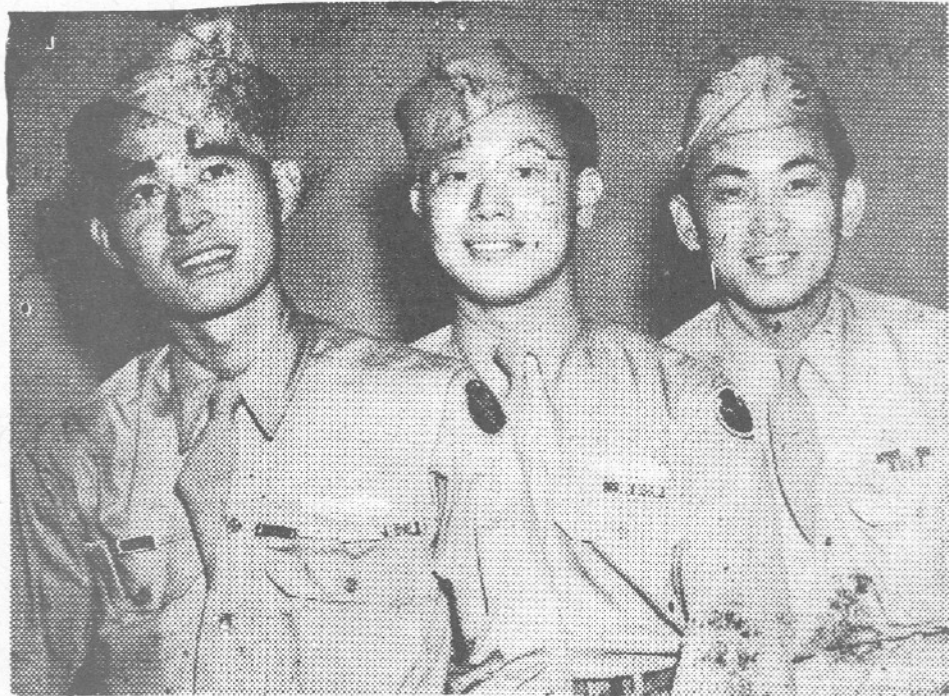
The 442d Infantry Regiment has been called the most decorated unit in the Army. It is a part of the 34th, or Red Bull Division, which is one of four with the top record for continuous combat service in the European theater.

Hawaiians Visiting Here

Pfc. Jesse Hirata, 26, of Kone, Hawaii, and Corp. Harold Kanemura, 28, of Honolulu, are the veterans of both wars. Because their 21-day furloughs do not give them time to get home, they are visiting Pvt. and Mrs. George Nakagawa of 1877 E. 81st street.

The two Hawaiians have more than three years of overseas service during which they have not seen their families. They have discharge points to burn, but they and Pvt. Nakagawa are going to the Pacific to prove again that the Nisei will fight any, and all enemies of America.

Pvt. Hirata wears the Distinguished Service Cross and deprecates his feats of valor in winning it. "All I did," he says, and then his buddies have to tell what he did. All he did was this. He was the



En route to the Pacific war, these three veterans of the mountain fighting in Italy are spending their furloughs in Cleveland. They are, left to right, Pfc. Jesse Hirata, Pvt. George Nakagawa and Corp. Harold Kanemura.

lead or "point" man in a scouting party. A German sniper missed him. He dropped to the ground and tried to fire back, but his gun jammed.

Kills Sniper With Shovel

He saw a spade nearby. He seized it and, crawling on his stomach, circled to the rear of the sniper. He killed the sniper with the shovel, but then found himself in the path of a German machine gun nest. So he attacked the position, using his shovel with such fury that the four Germans surrendered.

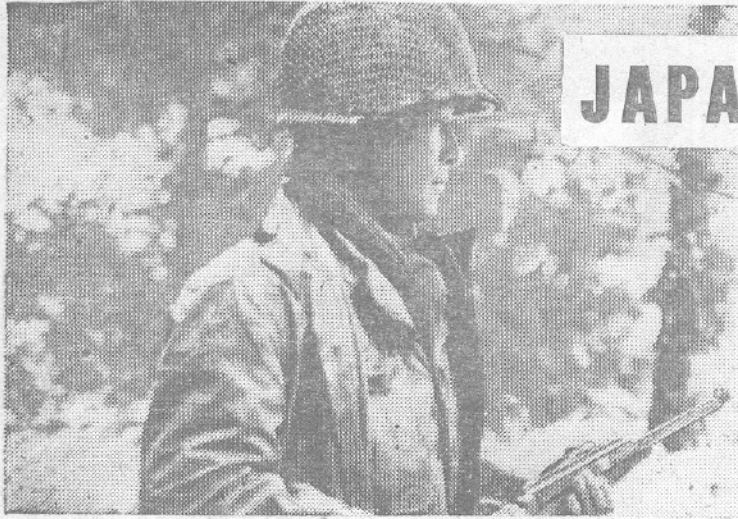
Kanemura wears the Purple Heart for injuries received in the

fighting around Lanuvio, on the way to Rome. His unit has the Presidential Citation for capturing a German regimental headquarters in a surprise raid. His battle stars include one for fighting in the Asiatic Pacific, at the time of Pearl Harbor.

Pvt. Nakagawa, 23, enlisted shortly after Pearl Harbor. He is a veteran of a year and a half of fighting in Italy. His wife, Mineko, 22, moved to Cleveland from Stockton, Cal.

When the war is over, the young couple expects to make a permanent home in Cleveland. "Because the people of Cleveland are so hospitable and so friendly," they say.

JAPANESE-AMERICANS



The Fight to Become Part of a Nation

IN the first muddled months of 1942, as America reeled under the impact of a series of the worst military disasters in her history—at the hands of the Japanese—110,000 persons of Nipponese descent were placed in "protective custody" by the U.S. government, promptly uprooted from Pacific Coast homes, transplanted to other parts of the country.

Working feverishly to gear for total war, few Americans made more than a casual mental note of that piece of news. There was too much else happening then and with Pearl Harbor still all too recent a nightmare, the popular idea was that every Jap was dangerous, not to be trusted.

Last week these evacuees, two-thirds of whom are citizens by birth, were still segregated in War Relocation Authority's "Little Tokyos," still bewildered at all that had happened to them since Pearl Harbor. But last week more than a few Americans were asking questions about them, spurred on by many recent episodes which made them wonder if military necessity or racial discrimination was at the core of all of this.

'Test For Democracy'

Vanya Oakes, *Asia* magazine's expert on Far Eastern affairs, labeled the Nisei problem "a test case for democracy." *Fortune* magazine glumly added that it was "an awkward problem" and suggested that the relocation move had "severely stretched, if not breached" the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

In his book, "Prejudice-Japanese-Americans: Symbol For Racial Intolerance," writer Carey McWilliams contends that race prejudice, not military necessity, brought about the ousting of the Japanese-Americans from the Pacific Coast. In Hawaii, important military outpost, McWilliams pointed out, Japanese-Americans were not given the California treatment.

McWilliams claims that the Japanese-American problem and the discrimination against Negroes in the U.S. are peas from the same pod. A few weeks later the As-

sociated Press reported that the Hermiston (Oregon) Post of the Disabled American Veterans had voted to "never allow a Japanese or a colored veteran to become a member of the post."

Other items appeared in the nation's newspapers which tended to indicate that the problem was larger and more important than the one-tenth of one per cent of the population that is of Japanese origin.

The Hood River (Oregon) American Legion Post removed 16 names from the county memorial roll because they were Japanese. Among the names was Frank T. Hachiya. Hardly had the news of the removal quieted down when soldier Hachiya, fighting in Leyte with the 7th Division, was killed in action. There were red faces in Hood River, but the names were not restored to the roll.

Denied Privileges

In Parker, Ariz., a barber named Andy Hale (three sons in the service) refused a haircut to a Japanese-American in the U.S. Army, Pvt. Raymond Matsuda. Hale enjoyed a peculiar sort of notoriety for a few weeks and became the target of reams of written criticism from more liberal Americans.

In Chicago, Ill., Toyoko Murayama, 19-year-old American-born Nisei, was denied admittance to Jackson Park Hospital and the case immediately became front page throughout the nation. The hospital denied the charge of discrimination but didn't deny that they feared that other patients might "resent such close bed contact with a Japanese."

Fortune, in a round-up story on the Nisei problem, said this about Japanese-Americans living within their "Little Tokyos," on the fringe of democracy, denied most of the privileges of U.S. society:

"Although the evacuees' resentment at regimentation within the WRA's camps is deep, it is seldom expressed violently. Considering the emotional strains, the uprooting, the crowding, no one can deny that the record of restraint has been remarkable. Only twice have the

soldiers been asked to come within the WRA fence to restore order."

When evacuees were given opportunity recently to renounce American citizenship in favor of returning to Japan at war's end, 6,000 took the cue. In comment on this, *Time* reported that "Some of the Nisei who got or are getting a chance at renunciation are afraid that to be returned to a hostile Pacific Coast would be worse than being reinterned as aliens. But the majority of them (who have renounced citizenship) dearly want to go back to Japan..."

The record of Japanese-Americans in the U.S. Army overseas is said to be brilliant; they've done wonders to lessen the intensity of feeling against them on the Pacific Coast.

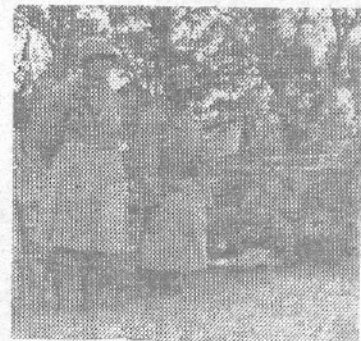
"The attitude of returning Japanese-Americans can," *The Christian Science Monitor* pointed out, "help greatly to reassure the community as the war against Japan progresses."

Awareness of their plight is shown in a recent editorial from the *Minidoka Irrigator*, a newspaper at one of the WRA centers, which said in part: "The chips are down and the stakes are high—the birthright our men are fighting for. We must, on our part, uphold their high hopes and faith by being good Americans in a land where every man has a chance to make good."

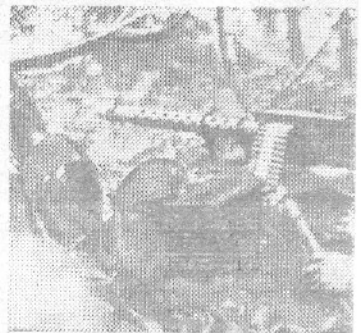
'Fighting Chance'

Americans seemed well on the way to give these Nisei the "fighting chance." The State Department announced recently that 33,000 have been assisted in leaving the relocation centers and have resettled in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

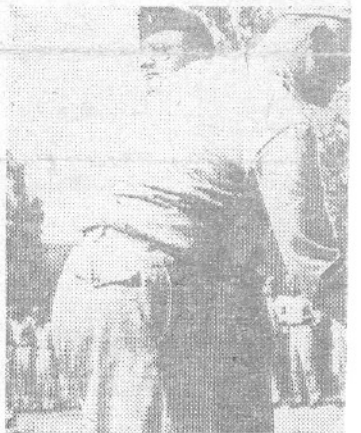
Hopefully, *The Christian Science Monitor* quoted another passage from the *Minidoka Irrigator*: "We (the Japanese-Americans) have many friends and no one can measure the depth and value of their friendship because it is one of the most precious things of mankind—the goodness and thoughtfulness which God gives to every human being."



Japanese-Americans in



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CITY EDITION

The Human Angle— Dilworth Lupton

To our friends, the Japanese-Americans of Cleveland:

Your problems were topmost in our minds this past Wednesday when The Press' Max Riddle and I met Dillon Mayer, director of the War Relocation Authority in Washington, and Robert M. Cullum and Godfrey B. Frankel, both of the Cleveland office. In the evening I went to the Y. W. C. A. for a meeting of your group.



Two stories came up, stories that will give you some indication of what many of your fellow Americans feel about you.

One concerns a G. I., pausing midway between Italy and the Pacific area, who heard some Clevelanders express a violent distaste for you Nisei. That Joe immediately shot back with, "I fought alongside Japanese-American soldiers in the drive on Livorno. They are the bravest fighting outfit I ever saw. Out of those 1300 members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, some 1000 got the Purple Heart. And that's only a small part of it. Read the American Mercury article in the July Reader's Digest, and see for yourself."

* * *

The other story was a personal experience told me by one of the group, the Rev. Shunji Nishi, field counselor of the Federated Churches in Cleveland. It seems that while Mr. Nishi was having dinner in one of our restaurants an American woman at a nearby table asked, "Were you born in this country?"

His "Yes" brought the comment, "Well, then, you're as much of a citizen

Japanese-Americans Dispel Myth Once Jap Always Jap

as I am, and my ancestors came over on the Mayflower."

Such stories make me wonder if you Japanese-Americans realize what a deep impression your nation-wide group has made on us fellow citizens. You have supplied 20,000 men to our armed forces, not only in Europe, but in the Pacific area. Thousands of civilians have left relocation centers to make their way in midwest and eastern cities.

Perhaps it is partly the good after all, for by living among us you have demonstrated to us and the rest of the country what you are like.

Reports of your work in defense plants and in other employment have won you the overwhelming approval of your employers. We Clevelanders have grown to feel that you are a part of our life—in industry, in our churches, our Y. W. C. A., Y. M. C. A. and our schools.

To you Nisei, our Mayor Burke entrusts with me this personal message: "Many of you will return to friends and families on the coast. But to those who wish to stay and become fellow Clevelanders, we give you our heartiest welcome."

By your fine behavior you have dispelled the poisoning myth, "Once a Jap always a Jap." And you have proved conclusively what scientists have known for years—that the way people act doesn't depend on their blood stream or on the color of their skins, but upon their education and environment, and their own initiative.

You know, and we know, that in the Pacific basin are all the potentialities for a War III, and that our best defense against such a catastrophe is a democracy that erases the color line.

Right here in Cleveland all of us, regardless of race, can demonstrate in our day to day living that the process of erasure has already begun.

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The Cleveland Press Company

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

FILE

A Message to American Soldiers of Japanese Ancestry:

A lot of things have happened, to the world in general, and to Americans of Japanese ancestry in particular, since last December, when the War Department revoked the mass exclusion orders and WRA almost simultaneously announced plans for a program to resettle all eligible evacuees from the centers by the end of 1945. I want you to know some of the things which have been happening as far as the resettlement program is concerned. This letter is a kind of report to you on what has been done and what is still left to do.

The war in Europe ended last May. Since that time, some of the Nisei soldiers have been discharged on points. However, most of the Nisei soldiers like other American soldiers, still have a job to do. While you are doing that job -- the most important one in the world today -- I want you to know that we are going to see that your families in the centers get every kind of help they need so that they can resettle successfully, even without your help, and so that you can come back to find them out of the barracks and in the kinds of places which you can call home.

Some of the folks in the centers have been talking about a "second evacuation". Before I go on any further, I want to say that there will be no second evacuation. The centers will be closed. But the present movement of people out of the centers is not a mass movement without individual choice like the evacuation of 1942; it is gradual program of individual resettlement, on the general basis of individual choice, in which attention is given to the special problems of each family or single resettler.

Because we want to go on doing that kind of job, we announced on July 12 a program of gradual liquidation of the centers, under which the projects will be closed on successive dates over a period of two months -- from October 15 to December 15 -- instead of closing them all at once at the end of December. This schedule is as follows:

Granada, on or before October 15;
Central Utah and Minidoka on or before November 1;
Heart Mountain and Gila River on or before November 15;
Colorado River and Manzanar on or before December 1;
Rohwer, on or before December 15.

It was previously announced that Camps II and III at Poston and the Canal Camp at Gila River would be closed on October 1.

By staggering the center closings in this way, we can keep the resettlement movement going in a steady stream, and avoid bottlenecks in transportation, location of housing, individual counselling, and the other types of assistance available to evacuee resettlers. We will be better able to continue giving the kind of individual assistance which we have been giving.

As this report is written, nearly 50,000 evacuees have already left the relocation centers to resettle in normal communities all over the United States. More than 6,000 have returned to the West Coast directly from the centers. It hasn't been an entirely easy matter to help this many people find homes and jobs, and get readjusted to normal life. But so far we have been able to solve every resettlement problem which has been presented to us, and I feel sure that we will continue to do so.

Welfare

For the most part, your families will be self-supporting once they get started at a paying job outside the center. We are giving them all possible help in getting started at such a job. In addition, evacuee families which find themselves without funds can apply right at the centers for resettlement grants to cover such expenses as the cost of a minimum amount of new furniture, or a first installment of rent. This is in addition to the \$25 per person given to all needy resettlers by WRA to tide them over until the first pay checks start coming in.

The welfare workers at the relocation centers are giving special assistance to evacuee families who need special help, or who for any reason are unable to make their own plans. Many of these people will be able to stay with friends or relatives after leaving the centers. Many of your families will find this a good temporary solution, until you get back from military service. We will be glad to help them make such arrangements.

Families which are unable to make their own arrangements, and which because of age, number of dependents, illness or for other reasons are incapable of self-support, are having their problems referred to the proper public or private welfare agencies in the community where they plan to relocate so that they can find out -- where necessary, before resettling -- what kind of help they can get after relocation.

So far, acceptance of such cases by the state and county welfare agencies has been very good. The state boards of Oregon, Washington and California have all agreed to give persons of Japanese ancestry the same assistance available to other residents of their states. In Oregon and Washington, the county welfare programs are under the supervision of the state board. In California, the individual county boards have almost unanimously been willing to accept as dependents evacuees who were former local residents.

Of course, the families of men in service are all eligible for Army dependency allotments. Because of this fact, and all the facilities which are available for assistance, you can feel entirely confident that your families will all have some means of support when the centers close.

Other Resettlement Problems

The field offices of WRA, both on the West Coast and in the rest of the United States, are able to help evacuee resettlers in a wide variety of problems, ranging from the location of employment to contacts with sympathetic groups and individuals and legal advice. Our field offices on the West Coast are also prepared to help returning evacuees in repossession of their property, in accordance with OPA rulings on the filing of eviction notices. These field offices will remain open to continue this kind of assistance until March 1.

Housing

One of the most serious problems in helping all eligible evacuees to resettle by the announced dates for center closing is the problem of finding housing for those who do not have their own homes to which to return. Housing is a pretty big problem for anyone who tries to move to a big city in the United States today, and the shortage is particularly acute in some of the big West Coast cities where many people of Japanese ancestry lived before evacuation. However, the evacuee resettlers are not having to solve this problem unaided, and with past experience as a measure of future possibilities, we are quite confident that all the resettlers can find decent places to live. These places may not be exactly what the evacuee families would pick out if they had complete freedom of choice. Many millions of displaced war workers are now living in homes which they would not have chosen if there had been other and better housing available. But they will at least be better than living in a center.

We are arranging to have a WRA staff member in each large field office devote full time to looking for additional sources of housing, working with local representatives of public housing agencies and with the many volunteer groups of interested private citizens which are helping to solve the problem of housing for evacuee resettlers. We have been working in close cooperation with the National Housing Agency and with the Real Estate Division of the U. S. Army Engineers Corps, which frequently has surplus housing facilities at its disposal. The evacuee resettlers who own their own homes on the West Coast are also able to help in solving this problem, by sharing their homes with other evacuees.

In a big city there is a constant turn-over of people moving in or out, so that a person on the spot and willing to spend time in looking can practically always find a suitable place in course of time. The many evacuee hostels which have been set up serve a useful purpose in this connection by giving evacuee families a place to stay temporarily while they look for more permanent quarters. In many cases, WRA has loaned surplus equipment to hostels, which are operated by private groups on a non-profit basis in seven cities on the West Coast and twelve in the East and Midwest. The fact that in Los Angeles, resettlers coming to one hostel had to stay only an average of six and a half days shows that housing can be found, even in a crowded city.

In Portland, as in a number of cities East of the Rockies, evacuees are being accepted in public housing projects. A recent amendment to the Lanham Act, making families of servicemen eligible for public housing in FPHA projects -- except for those specifically allocated to workers in certain industries -- on the same basis as war workers, will make many other resettlers eligible for public housing.

West Coast Sentiment

There was a time, a few months ago, when organized terrorism against evacuees returning to the West Coast stood out as a problem. I do not believe that it is a problem any longer. Incidents of terrorism against returnees have practically ceased since the end of May, when Secretary Ickes' statement of condemnation took effect, and we do not expect any serious trouble in the future. Just recently, a woman who tried unsuccessfully to incite a group of Filipinos to burn the home of some evacuees who had returned to Walnut Grove, near Fresno, was immediately apprehended and given a 90-day jail sentence. These incidents which did occur were publicized by WRA, and following Secretary Ickes' statement, received nation-wide condemnation from newspaper editors, radio commentators, organized groups, and individuals. These facts, as well as a recent trip which I took through the San Joaquin Valley, where most of the "incidents" took place, have convinced me that the pattern of terrorism and lawlessness has been broken.

There are still occasional boycotts against persons of Japanese ancestry. However, so far none of them seem to be more than temporary localized situations, and one of them seem to be very effective. We are working in cooperation with the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice and with the Department of Agriculture in breaking down those boycotts which do exist.

In general, it is my belief that none of these forms of organized opposition can stand up very long when more evacuees return to their homes. The experiences of the past three years have clearly demonstrated that although anti-Japanese sentiment is at first brought to the surface and even intensified when people of Japanese ancestry come to live in a community where prejudice exists, it is finally destroyed only by having the evacuees come in, settle down, and become part of the community. This very thing is now happening on the West Coast. I am entirely convinced that as more and more evacuees return to their farms and businesses, and again become part of their old communities, the exclusionist groups will see that they are fighting a losing and unpopular battle in their efforts to scare the evacuees away, and the organized opposition which is now so definitely on the wane will cease entirely.

In many respects, the people of Japanese ancestry in this country are now in a better position than they ever were before evacuation, for all over the United States, including the West Coast, have been organized groups of private individuals actively aiding their resettlement and supporting their rights as Americans. No small part of this trend is due to your own efforts. By making your outstanding record as fighters against fascism abroad, you, the American soldiers of Japanese descent, have done more than WRA or any other group could ever do to win for yourselves and your families an honored place in America. All over the United States, people have heard of your achievements -- in the newspapers, in magazines, on the radio, from their own sons overseas. By carrying on the fight overseas, you have, in some ways, done even more than you could do at home to help your families make the readjustment to normal life.

/s/ D. S. Myer

Director

Reproduced at Hq 442d RCT, 4 Sep 45.

(This communication will be posted on organization bulletin boards for at least one week and all personnel will be advised of its contents).


T. M. K.

I AND E SECTION
HEADQUARTERS 442D INFANTRY REGIMENT
APO 464 U.S. Army

22 August 1945

REACTION OF VETERANS TO THE PFC RICHARD NAITO CASE

Displayed here are only a few of the many letters received by this Command in reaction to the rejection to membership by the VFW Post 51 of Private First Class Naito. The letters are self-explanatory

HEADQUARTERS 92d INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 92, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

11 August 1945.

National Commander,
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Brunner.

My dear Commander:

Recent newspaper and magazine reports of incidents involving NISEI war veterans in the United States, and particularly an incident involving Post No. 51, Spokane, Washington, prompt me as a veteran of the last war to write to you as the National Commander of VFW to urge a change in policy towards Japanese-Americans. I am sure that from your recent visit to Italy you are thoroughly convinced of the superior quality of patriotism as exhibited by members of the 442d Infantry Regiment.

The Japanese-Americans of this regiment, and the members of the 232d Engineer Company and the 206th Army Ground Forces Band, which were under my command in the successful spring offensive in Italy, have more than demonstrated their valor and patriotism in every engagement with our enemies. They have eagerly sought combat with the enemy and have proven to be superior as combat troops. Although suffering many losses in killed and wounded, they take great pride in receiving and accomplishing the most difficult missions. The government has recognized their accomplishments with three presidential citations. The great number of high awards, including over forty-two (42) Distinguished Service Crosses, testifies to their individual actions against America's enemies.

The NISEI troops are among the best in the United States Army and the respect and the appreciation due honorable, loyal, and courageous soldiers should be their's rather than the scorn and ridicule they have been receiving from some thoughtless and uninformed citizens and veterans.

Sincerely,

/s/ E. M. Almond
E. M. ALMOND,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Leghorn, Italy
8 August 1945

Colonel V. R. Miller
Commanding Officer
442nd Inf. Regt.

Dear Sir:

As a former member of an Evacuation Hospital (the 171st) who handled the biggest part of the casualties of the 442nd during the last drive in Italy, I wish to put in my two cents worth, and I feel that I am speaking not only for my own organization but for the whole Fifth Army and anyone who has come in contact with these 100% Americans. Yes, they are even more American than the people who have viciously attacked them --that certain category who call themselves "Americans".

If some of these "Americans" could have been in the vicinity of our hospital when the casualties came in--then they might feel more grateful to the gallant lads of the 442nd who fought and died to make the United States a safe place for the rest of us. Without a doubt they were the best patients we ever handled, and though many of them were in great pain, their only thought was to get back to the front--to take some of the load off of their comrades. Many times I have seen them ask to wait and let some other soldier, whom they thought needed more attention, be operated on before they were.

I am sure that the rejection of Pfc. Richard Naito's application to VFW Post #51, has turned a lot of soldiers against this organization. It is very un-American and they should all hang their heads in shame. This idea of organizing a separate VFW post for them is the most outrageous thing that has happened to them yet. I should think that any state would be proud to claim them as Native sons. I am from Louisiana and I am proud to say that as yet I haven't heard of anyone from that state denouncing these boys and if I should I don't think I'd even desire to live among a people with such a strong racial prejudice. I want to thank you, sir, for going to the defense of these loyal Americans. I'm proud to have known them and to have done something to make them a little more comfortable.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cpl. Norman E. Wood
Patient, 64th Gen. Hosp.
Apo 428 U.S. Army

August 6, 1945.

Colonel V. R. Miller,
442nd Infantry Regiment,
United States Army.

Dear Sir:

We are just a few of the boys from the 34th Division, that have fought side by side with the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Regiment. It was with deep regret we read in to-day's Stars and Stripes about the rotten campaign and discrimination that is circulating back in the States concerning the Japanese-American soldiers. No one knows better than we how they have fought and sacrificed their lives for our American ideals. When the going was tough, they did not ask for mercy. They just took it in stride. They didn't say "We aren't Americans", for they knew deep down in their hearts that they were just as American as anyone back home, although no one at home believed them. They knew it would be a hard fight to prove their loyalty to the American people, but they kept on with it. They fought for the place that they call home. They fought for the very people back home who are now turning their backs on them. A lot of them died for a belief "That all men are created equal". The thing they fought so hard for, they have lost in vain.

One can hardly believe that after all they have gone through, that there are still people back home, who are not willing to give them the break they so rightfully have earned. It only shows how ignorant people are about war and the things we are fighting for. If we are to show discrimination against Japanese-Americans, then where will we draw the line against discrimination toward German-American and Italian-American. If this is done, then what we have fought for has been in vain.

Colonel Miller, we are with you in your fight against such discrimination and disgusting and un-American ideas, voiced by a few so-called patriotic Americans who do not even know the meaning of the word.

Up until this time, we have considered the Veterans' of Foreign Wars an organization that would uphold the best traditions of American ideals. However, if they intend for their organization to be conducted in a manner of this kind, they can count us out, and we are sure that many additional veterans feel the same way.

God be with you, Colonel Miller, and your splendid organization.

With sincerest wishes,

s/ Floyd R. Parr
s/ Vincent J. Tumminelli

Also signed by 103 others.