

News Letter

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JAPANESE-AMERICAN WAR FUND COMMITTEE PRAISED

The Japanese American Committee of the New York National War Fund was recently commended by Hendrick Willem van Loon for its share in the drive.

By the first of November 80 per cent of the Japanese Committee's quota had been met. Representatives of the Committee expressed hopes that by the end of the campaign on December 7, the quota would have been greatly exceeded.

The Japanese Committee is one of twenty-six nationality groups in the United Nations Relief Wing headed by Dr. van Loon. Dr. Kanzo Oguri is chairman of the Japanese Committee.

Rev. Alfred S. Akamatsu and Mrs. Lilyan Asai Raymond are vice chairmen, and Takeshi Haga is secretary-treasurer.

The executive committee includes representatives from eight organizations: Jack H. Hata, Japanese American Young People's Christian Federation of New York; Rev. Giichi Kawamata, Japanese Christian Association; Stanley T. Okada, New York Buddhist Church; Rev. Sojiri Shimizu, Japanese Christian Institute; Masato Takahashi, United Seamen's Japanese American Victory Club; George Yamaoka, Townsend Harris Association; and Tokuji Kasai, Japanese American Committee for Democracy.

Once more New York City sees Nisei soldiers on their furlough from Camp Shelby, Miss. Today's arrivals are members of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, composed of infantry, artillery, and engineer battalions.

Visitors a year ago were members of the now famed 100th Infantry Battalion fighting in Italy with General Clark's Fifth Army.

Members of the 442nd have just completed their basic training. Half of the members of that Regiment were detailed to Alabama where they guarded Nazi prisoners picking peanuts.

A member of the 442nd related that a Nisei officer ordered

NISEI SEAMEN form Victory Club

American seamen of Japanese descent "on the beach" in New York have organized a seamen's club under the leadership of representatives of four East Coast maritime unions.

The United Japanese American Seamen's Victory Club is pledged, among other points, "To unite all Japanese American seamen for victory of the United Nations, and to fight side by side with all other Americans to stop discrimination because of race, color or creed, in order to strengthen our democracy and our national unity."

The Organizing Committee is composed of Robert Inada (Marine Cooks and Stewards, CIO), Kenneth Sato (Marine Firemen, Oilers Wipers and Watertenders),

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DISCRIMINATION FORBIDDEN

A directive instructing all FEPC Regional Directors to give Japanese Americans full protection of the President's Executive Order forbidding discrimination against workers because of race or color was issued by Will Maslow, Director of field operations of the FEPC in Washington, D.C.

The directive follows, "The Committee takes the position that it cannot modify the Executive Order nor place one category of American citizens in a situation less favorable than citizens of other ancestry.

"President Roosevelt in a message to the Senate on Sept. 14 emphasized this position when he stated, 'Americans of Japanese ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their valuable contribution to the National wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war, it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate and equal treatment for the people of this minority as of all minorities.'

FURLOUGHED CAMP SHELBY BOYS SEE NEW YORK

his men "not to hesitate pulling the trigger on the Nazi prisoners who may take advantage of what the Germans may consider the Nisei soldiers' Axis descent." Not one prisoner took a chance.

Compared to the 100th Infantry, the members of the 442nd are younger soldiers. Many of them are no more than 18-years old. On the streets of New York City they might be mistaken for Boy Scouts. But, it is reported, their size is no indication of their military ability. Like the 100th Infantry, which has already won praise from Allied commanders for their valiant fighting, the 442nd is reported to have equalled the high train-

ing records established by their predecessors. After their furloughs, they are scheduled to complete their unit training, and then go into extensive maneuvers.

The majority of them are originally from Hawaii, and like most Hawaiians, they speak the kind of English typical of Hawaii. This English is far more picturesque than the Brooklyn accent.

Friendly in the Aloha way, direct and frank, even to the point of being mistaken as crude and rude, they crave to meet and talk with members of the Japanese American community here.

JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY

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EDITORIAL

Although one Axis partner has been knocked out of commission on the military front, victory for what we are fighting for is not yet ours to cheer, for Nazism still runs rampant on the streets of our American communities. Events on the race-relations sector of the home-front show fascism becoming bolder daily, more violent, driving ever wider wedges in what should be our strongest home-front line of defense -- Unity.

Los Angeles, Beaumont, Mobile and Detroit in summer; Hillburn, Boston, Trenton and Northampton this fall; fascist victories at home -- and coming closer to every one of us daily. Everywhere acts of vandalism and violence occur against "minorities" in America.

Those who perpetrate these acts, too, are our enemies. Those who seek to promote the Hitlerian myth of "racial superiority" -- those who seek to disrupt the unity of Americans to make us easy prey for the fascists -- those domestic fascists who, seeing fascism facing a sure death in other lands, now frantically seek to preserve it in America.

The fight against fascism is not the fight alone of "majorities" nor of "minorities." Neither is it the fight of Negroes alone against Jim Crow, nor of the Jews alone against anti-Semitism, nor of Ibero-Americans alone against "zoot suit" identification, nor of Japanese Americans as psychological enemies.

The fight essentially belongs to all Americans. The fight against any single group of "minorities" is the fight of all other "minorities." Anti-Semitism, Jim Crow, all racial antagonisms must be combated by Japanese Americans as a part of their own fight against prejudices. Essentially, it must be stressed, the fight against any divisive threat to American unity must come from all the people.

The role of Japanese Americans in this sphere is clear out. We must be in the forefront of the struggle against any act of racism. There can be no compromise on this score.

Those who, in their meretricious thinking, separate the Negro problem, or the Jewish problem, or the Mexican problem, or any "minority" problem from the Japanese American problem are themselves, although perhaps taking no active part in racism, themselves giving their moral support to it. Actually, undemocratic practice against any one group is also directed against all.

It is singularly absurd, and totally fascist, for Japanese Americans to practice Jim Crow and anti-Semitism at the same time they profess Americanism -- or democracy.

Nor is the fascist fight against racial groups alone. Labor unions, liberal thinkers, the Administration -- all those who are fighting to defeat fascism are in turn under attack by the fascists. Racial groups are only one front under constant sniping by those looking for a weak point in the democratic line.

Thus, the Japanese American who would find for himself a place in a democratic America must align himself with the same forces that are the fighters against fascism. That this obvious conclusion has escaped the thinking of many Japanese Americans is tragic.

Those who indulge in race baiting themselves, those who perpetuate anti-Negro and anti-Semitic prejudices, those who include such epithets as "kuroombo" and "ku-ichi" in their own anti-racial vocabulary have nothing to complain about in being called "Japs."

The home-front line of defense against fascism is manned by those who act democratically -- not those who merely prate it.

Getting Around

At the Methodist Church, a full program for everybody... pointers on Music are given by Hizi Kokke, San Carlo Opera star at the YRS hobby night on Fridays... art instructions by David Komuro... craft classes by Jack Hata... literature discussions led by Ferd Okada... and studies of New York City with Dr. and Mrs. Paul Ellis. Potluck supper on Wednesday nights for young adults, followed by discussions about and how to get around NYC.

A Thanksgiving dinner--at 6:30 P.M.--will be cooked by experienced chefs who are the Methodist Church dormitory on Thursday, November 28. Tickets at 75¢ are being sold now.

Tokiko Tanaka, formerly of Los Angeles has opened the Economy Beauty Shop uptown on Broadway between 112th and 113th Streets.

Robert Cullum of the WRA says the vaccine influx has fallen off considerably in recent weeks. He adds they'll be able to devote more time to help those already in the city.

The regular Open house of the JACD will turn into a Thanksgiving party this Saturday, starting at 2:00 P.M. There'll be dancing with juke box music, entertainment, door prizes and refreshments. Tickets are being sold now.

The Church Federation lists as their activities the Tuesday night joint social (Caucasian and Japanese) at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. The same evening, Church of All Nations is open for gym and swimming. Jack Hata asks any group interested in a basketball tournament to contact him or Toge Fujiwara.

A large bookcase made by K. T. Itotagawa, cost of materials donated by JACD issei members, is the newest addition to our club room. Contributions of English or Japanese books to the new library will be gladly accepted.

The Buddhist Church will present an amateur talent night, including a play, on Sunday, November 28, from 9 to 11 P.M.

NATIONAL WAR FUND



THREE FRONTS-ONE CAUSE

Letters FROM NORTH AFRICA

SECOND EDITION GREW'S BOOK OUT

"A neighboring city I visited convinced me that any American city is miles ahead in public administration, public health, public works, etc.," writes one member of the Japanese American Battalion from North Africa, now fighting with General Clark's Fifth Army in the mountain snows of the Venafro sector in Italy.

He continues, "The panoramas of grape orchards remind me of our pineapple fields in Hawaii!" But he is quick to add, "The wine is bad--and the beer is worse still."

Another homesick Nisei soldier writes, "Please send me a small French grammar and a dictionary. It is hard to get friendly with the people, the girls especially, here (North Africa) unless one knows French. Anyway it's a good way to review what French I know." He asks, "Could you send me some Castile soap? There's none around this continent. People here are very different from those I've known in America. They don't bathe. All I can say is that this part of the world is one that couldn't be compared with places I've known before."

Nisei soldiers were appalled by the poverty they saw in North Africa. An officer relates, "The Arabs live miserably. Many of them spend a large portion of their time sleeping on the streets, thinking nothing of the traffic. The buildings are Europeanized but people beg and don't bathe. One never gets to appreciate our country until he is sent away in a distant land. All the necessities of life in our country are considered luxuries over here."

Another soldier regrets that he "couldn't go on pass while still in the Good Old USA. It's when one comes to a God forsaken country like this that one really appreciates the bounties of America...Went on pass to --- the other day. Ignorance of French is quite a handicap. Walking thru town was like walking thru a stable. Poverty is unbelievable."

"There is nothing comparable to the Good Earth planted securely under one's feet," begins one soldier who evidently proved to be a poor sailor during the voyage across. Many of the soldiers thought the trip was "uneventful" since they "had met no enemy sub or bomber."

"The customs, traditions, and practice of the native inhabitants are baffling to me," says another.

Thus, the members of the first Japanese American Combat Unit to fight overseas describe what one soldier calls his "initial taste of a foreign country."

Their first impact with foreign soil was characteristically American, and provincial. They compared what they saw with America and became homesick.

There is nothing in the letters to suggest a blind, subservient obedience of the kind associated with the soldiers of Hirohito and Hitler. On the contrary, there is plenty of griping here.

The letters did not contain platitudes or slogans. They were minus the forced flag-waving and "death to the last man" stuff. But between the lines there was a calm determination to smash the Fascists and a desire to give the lie to the native Fascists who resort to the "once a Jap always a Jap" theory.

One soldier yearningly ends his letter with, "We hope we get to march on the Applan Way to Rome but greater yet is our hope to march down Fifth Avenue to the tune of 'Yankee Doodle' after victory is won."

Seamen's Victory Club

(Continued from Page 1)

Masato Takashige (National Maritime Union), and Richard Nakamura (Sailors Union of the Pacific, AFL).

Auxiliary Teru Masumoto is secretary-treasurer.

Membership in the Seamen's Club falls in three groups: Nisei seamen as regular members, families and friends as auxiliary members, and seamen of other national descent as fraternal members.

The Club sent a protest to the FEPC that Nisei were not



MFOGW Seaman Hal Okada and Shipmates, dive-bombed and sunk while delivering the goods to Malta, being interviewed by MFOGW Agent. (NNU Pilot Photo)

Within the short space of three weeks, 3,000 copies of former Ambassador Joseph C. Grew's book (translated in Japanese by the JACD) "Report From Tokyo" were sold, mainly in the various relocation centers.

Since the complete sale of the first edition, the influx of back orders has led the JACD to print the second editions, now available for sale.

The Canadian Government has permitted the importation of the book into Canada.

JACD's aim in publishing the book was to inform Japanese residents in America of the real situation in Japan, and to meet the cultural needs of the Issei, whose desire for reading materials is attested in their letters received by our Committee.

The success of the book sale was largely made possible by the cooperation from the WRA, the OWI, Simon and Shuster, and particularly, by Mr. Grew, who writes us, "...with many thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending me the translation and in the hope that it may prove of value among Japanese nationals and the Americans of Japanese descent in this country..."



Ken Sato, MFOGW member of the Seamen's Victory Club, gets his torpedoes pin from Agent Bill Bailey. (NNU Pilot Photo)

admitted to the Maritime Training School. A delegate is on the Executive Council of the Japanese Committee for the New York National War Fund. In addition, it is working to clear up a recent State Department ruling restraining Japanese Americans from shipping out without seamen's passports.

Other shore activities include plans for a basketball team as part of the Club's program to help incoming seamen feel at home in port.

Detroit CORRESPONDENT

News of nisei in Detroit was related to JACD by a friend who writes of the part the labor unions and youth councils are playing in the integration of the resettled nisei.

His letter reports, "The United Automobile Workers (CIO) local in West Side Detroit where most of the relocated Nisei live, passed a resolution to the effect that Nisei should be used in accordance with their skill in the war plants here."

"I think the U.A.W. are almost going out of their way to get the Nisei in. Presently, there are many Nisei working at the Chrysler tank arsenal and other war plants, but the Air Corps has discouraged sending any large group to any one plant so the doors of Chrysler and others are closed to any new Nisei coming in.

"The Detroit Youth Council through its Exchange Committee has been working to assimilate the Nisei into the other youth groups here. This Friday a kind of an international affair is to be staged with various nationality groups having their own booths.

"The American Youth for Democracy is still in its organizational stage, but once we get going I think we'll do our part for the Nisei too. Incidentally in our pre-convention in Detroit the then Provisional Committee passed a favorable resolution on the Nisei."

THE NEW SUN

The *New Sun* by Taro Yashima published this month by Henry Holt is the only book that deals with the underground movement in Japan. With 300 hard-hitting drawings and equally strong words, Yashima lashes out at the fascist overlords of Japan.

The artist-author, a member of the JACD, has been a resident of New York for four years since his escape from Japan where he was jailed 10 times for his cultural activities for the people.



BILLS FIGHT FOR MINORITY RIGHTS

Resolutions calling for the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion laws, and the passage of the Marcanonio Bill (H.R. 2011) and the Anti-Poll Tax Bill (H.R. 7) were passed recently by the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born at its tenth anniversary National convention at the Hotel Commodore, New York City.

A resolution, commending the WRA's general policy, was also passed at this convention.

To avoid confusion, campaigning for the passage of the Marcanonio Bill, which will permit naturalization for all Asiatics, will begin after the passage of the Andrews Bill, according to Abner Green of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. The Andrews Bill, now in Senate Committee, if passed, will repeal the Chinese Exclusion laws, as the House has passed the Magnuson Bill.

President's Message

Belief that the Chinese Exclusion laws will be repealed was strengthened by President Roosevelt's recent message in which he stated, "Nations, like individuals, make mistakes. We must be big enough to acknowledge our mistakes of the past and to correct them...I feel confident that the Congress is in full agreement that these measures--long overdue--should be taken to correct an injustice to our friends."

Anti-Poll Tax Bill

The Anti-Poll Tax Bill, which was passed by the House in June by a vote of 265 to 110, was voted out by the Senate Judiciary committee for discussion on the floor. It now awaits cloture to vote out the possibility of a filibuster by the Southern bloc. Citizens are urged to write to their Senators to vote for cloture.



Lewis Suzuki, former executive board member was inducted October 22 at Camp Upton. He has been assigned to Camp Savage.

First communication from Sgt. Ken Nekano, former JACD chairman, on active duty on Pacific front. The letter and address is available at the JACD office.

Pvt. Tooru Kanazawa, another active member of the JACD, now with the 442nd Inf. Reg., writes:

"The news of the 100th Inf. in Italy gave us a big thrill and made us anxious to go over there and take part...After what the Allies did on the Salerno beachhead, I don't believe that we need to worry about the fighting front. Our biggest danger lies on the home front, and there is where you and the others must work hard. As I see it, the biggest fight will be after the war if we want to see a truly better world emerge."

Tooru also writes that his wife has joined the WAVES and is reporting for training in NYC this week.

Lt. Shigeru Tsubota, who called at the JACD while on his leave here, writes from Italy:

"I've found time to write you simply because I am recuperating from shrapnel wounds of the right leg. Maneuvers were loads of fun, but actual warfare on battle fields, where bullets fly and shells burst in the air or on the ground is entirely a different matter."

DOHO RE-ISSUED

DOHO, an anti-fascist newspaper in English and Japanese published until the evacuation from the West Coast in Los Angeles, resumed publication on August 15 in New York. The former editor, Shuji Fujii, is editor and publisher of the paper.

We Want to See You

"REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR" RALLY

December 7

Pledge Your Faith to America!

8 o'clock at the JACD clubroom

I would like to help the work of
the JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMITTEE
FOR DEMOCRACY by contributing:
Financial support \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____