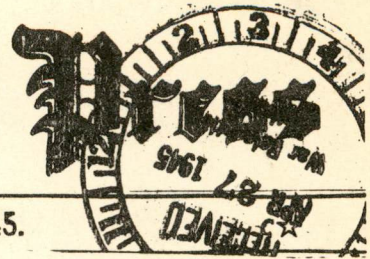


St. Paul Pioneer Press



ST. PAUL, MINN., THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1945.

Ex-Jap Soldier Justifies His U. S. Citizenship

Judge Robert C. Bell wants an ice skater named Audrey Miller to know he did the United States a favor when he admitted Terry Takeshi Doi, a Nisei serving as a soldier in the Army, to citizenship.

Audrey, a Canadian, was seeking American citizenship here in United States District court July 26, 1944. When she was asked to take the oath of allegiance with Doi, she stormed from the courtroom, refusing, because Doi was a former member of the Japanese army.

"How can I be sworn in alongside a man who belonged to an army now killing American boys?" Audrey wept.

Judge Bell ignored Audrey and swore in Doi.

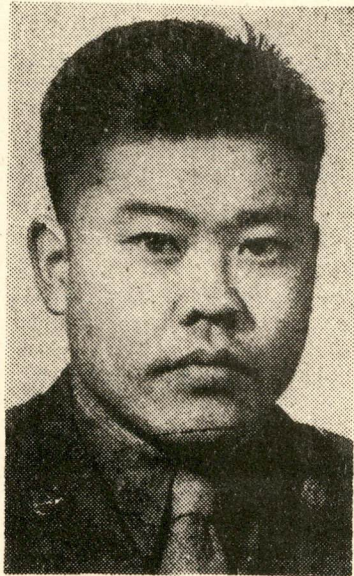
Wednesday Judge Bell received a communication from Lt. H. W. R. Fishel, attached to the Third Marine division Intelligence telling him Doi was one of the first soldiers to land on Iwo Jima.

"I know you'll be happy to learn that Terry did one of the finest pieces of work possible," Lt. Fishel wrote. "I took him on numerous 'ave calling' details which he carried out with amazing skill. His work on the speaker system was equally fine.

"The limits of censorship prohibit details, but I can say Terry is one of the bravest and most capable men I have seen out here—that includes Marines as well as Army—and did not hesitate to put his life in great danger whenever it was felt that a useful military purpose would thereby be served.

"And it is my opinion and that of all others who have worked with Terry that any doubts which ever have been cast upon his loyalty to the United States are not only unfounded, but insulting."

Judge Bell said, as far as he knows, Audrey is now residing in California, but that she is still a citizen of Canada.



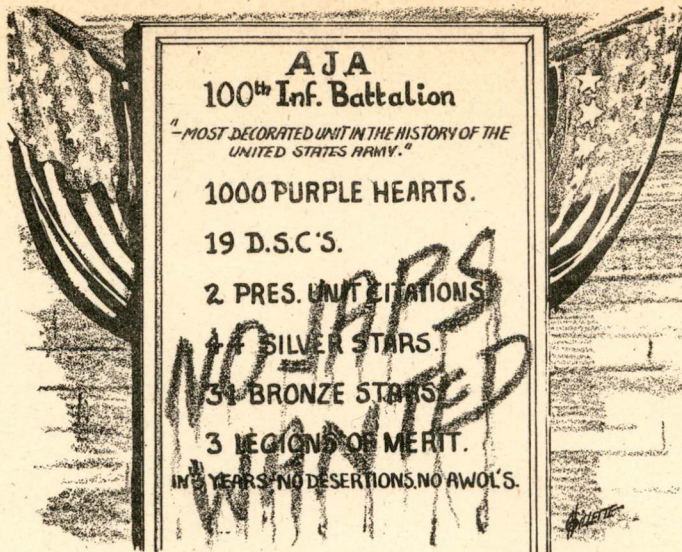
TERRY T. DOI

FEATURE CLIP SERIES NO. 2.

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EDITORIAL...

NO JAPS WANTED?

On May 24 the first veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion were released on the point system in Hawaii. At the same time, in Hawaii and on the West Coast, old-timers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were beginning to drift back to civilian life. Both units were among the most decorated in the entire Army, with the 100th holding a record for the greatest number of decorations for any unit its size. Both had fought with the Fifth Army in Italy and later with the Seventh in France and Germany, meeting some of the stiffest opposition that the Germans could muster.

The three-year record of the 100th, at the latest tally, looked like this:

More than 1000 Purple Hearts, two Presidential Unit Citations, 44 Silver Stars, 31 Bronze Stars, 19 Distinguished Service Crosses and three Legion of Merit Medals. And there was not one desertion or AWOL to mar the record.

Both the 100th and 442nd are made up of Nisei—Americans of Japanese ancestry. Nisei are also members of other combat outfits. They are in the AAF in Europe and the Pacific. Nisei are fighting in the Philippines and on Okinawa.

Yet four days after the first demobilization of the 100th Battalion's veterans, a farmer in Parlier, Calif., pleaded guilty to spraying the home of another farmer, Charles Iwasaki, with buckshot. The shots narrowly missed Iwasaki, his wife, father and three children. The farmer was given a six months' suspended sentence.

This was neither an isolated incident nor a coincidence. All over the West Coast last month, as thousands of relocated Japanese-Americans and veterans were coming home, there were repetitions of the same thing. In Newcastle, Calif., three men were tried on charges of firing and attempting to dynamite the home of Nisei Suio Doi. They were not convicted. "White" stores and businesses have refused to sell or to employ Japanese on the Coast. "No Japs Wanted" signs have sprung up in shop windows.

Advocating the exclusion of Japanese-Americans from the West Coast and in some cases from the country, were such organizations as the Americans League,

the State Preservation League and the Japanese Exclusion League. Statements by the publications and leaders of these organizations all had two things in common: they avoided all mention of such "un-American" organizations as the 100th and 442nd, and they all said that they were acting to defend the interests of millions of American soldiers who were fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. Mr. A. J. Ritchie of the Exclusion League, wrote: "The league is building interest for a postwar election after 10,000,000 Yanks get back from the Jap battlefronts, to vote on a Constitutional Amendment that would make it impossible for a Jap to have citizenship, no matter where he was born." And the league's newspaper quotes Gen MacArthur as saying: "The Japanese have proved that they are barbarians."

The professional Jap haters, in speaking for 10,000,000 Yanks, have overlooked a number of points. They have overlooked the fact that it is perfectly possible to hate the man you are fighting, to call him a barbarian, without hating and discriminating against Americans of the same ancestry. They overlook the fact that Americans have been fighting not a racial war, but a war against the powers that advocated the "superior race" myth as a basis for their existence. And they overlook the fact that fighting men everywhere judge their fellow soldiers not by the color of their skins, but by the way they fight.

The returning veterans of the 100th and the 442nd have proved the hardest way—with their blood and their lives—that they are Americans in every sense of the word. Those who came back, looking at a "No Japs Wanted" sign, certainly could not be blamed if they began to wonder if it was all worth while, if perhaps they would not be better off back in the Army, where a man's record means more than his ancestry.

To the Japanese Exclusion League and its fellows, then, this message: Keep the American soldier out of your plans for an economically adjusted "pure" America. Soldiers judge men by their actions alone. Nisei fighting men belong. Not all civilians do.

BRIEF ★ 12

June 12, 1945

ARMY AIR FORCES MAGAZINE, Pacific Ocean Areas
(Guam Hq.)

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