

Japanese in the U.S.

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

N. Y. Herald Tribune Editorializes:

"WHAT MORE CONCLUSIVE TEST
OF PATRIOTISM IS THERE?"

"Recently 11 wounded men from Bushnell General Hospital were feted in Salt Lake City. All were Japanese Americans who had seen service in the Italian campaign. Most of them lost an arm or a leg and were sent to Bushnell for the fitting of artificial limbs.

"It may have been something of a surprise to many Utahns to read about these Americans of Japanese ancestry and their fighting record in Uncle Sam's army. But these 11 are only a few of the hundreds of Japanese Americans who have fought bravely for their country--America--been killed, wounded, and taken prisoner, praised for performing 'brilliantly' in action and decorated for gallantry. And there are thousands more Japanese Americans now going into action or preparing to do so. The first Japanese American combat unit, the 100th Infantry Battalion, was activated in May, 1942. It first went into action about a year ago in Italy. Since then up to last May members of this one battalion, fighting in many engagements and singled out for high praise in a Fifth Army citation, have received 1,000 Purple Hearts, three Distinguished Service Crosses, 36 Silver Stars, and 21 Bronze Stars.

"News dispatches from Italy the last few days reveal the 100th Battalion has been expanding into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. All of the enlisted men and more than half of the officers of this regimental unit are Japanese Americans. Eleanor Packard, U. P. correspondent with

U.S. troops in Italy, said in a dispatch they were 'rated equally with their American comrades on either flank and were winning the confidence of other troops for their fighting qualities.' A few days ago, another news item reveals, they led an attack which threatened to outflank enemy strongholds blocking the way to Livorno and captured two villages in fierce fighting.

"Japanese Americans have seen plenty of action in this war on many fronts. Japanese Americans in the Hawaiian territorial guard fought at Pearl Harbor, reportedly shooting down a raiding Japanese plane and capturing the first Japanese prisoner, one-half of the crew of a Japanese midget submarine which was wrecked on a Hawaiian reef. A Japanese technical sergeant in the Air Forces has won two Distinguished Flying Crosses and an Air Medal with five Oak Leaf clusters for his gunnery work on more than 25 European theater bombing missions. Japanese Americans are serving as interpreters, radio intelligence men and in other capacities all over the Pacific war theater. They have seen action on Bataan, at Tarawa, Kwajalein, New Guinea, Guadalcanal, New Britain and in the China-Burma-India Theater.

"In addition to the thousands of Japanese Americans who are already on the fighting fronts, thousands more are training. There are today approximately 13,000 soldiers of Japanese ancestry in the Army, more than half of whom are now outside the continental United States. There are Japanese American girls in the WAC and in the Nurses' Corps and more than 200 seamen in the U. S. Merchant Marine.

"No one can say, after the record of volunteering for service, of gallantry in action and of blood sacrifice, that the second generation of Japanese in America have not in large numbers proved their loyalty

to their country by their readiness to serve in its armed forces, to fight for it, and to die for it. What more conclusive test of patriotism is there?" -- SALT LAKE CITY TELEGRAM, UTAH.

#