

## LOOK TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN, EPISODE 7 TRANSCRIPT

ROB BUSCHER: Welcome to *Look Toward the Mountain: Stories from Heart Mountain Incarceration Camp*, a podcast series about life inside the Heart Mountain Japanese American Relocation Center located in northwestern Wyoming during World War II. I'm your host, Rob Buscher. This podcast is presented by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

ROB BUSCHER: The seventh episode titled "Doing Their Bit" will explore the many ways that Heart Mountain incarcerated demonstrated their loyalty to the United States, and how they supported the war effort from behind barbed wire.

### INTRO THEME

ROB BUSCHER: Even before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, different elements within the Japanese American community had competing visions of how they fit into the larger society.

ROB BUSCHER: Many Issei kept to themselves and maintained their traditional Japanese ways. *Deru kugi wa utareru* - a traditional saying loosely translated to "the nail that sticks up gets hammered down," which was commonly quoted to their Nisei children. In the white-dominated American society of the 1920s and 30s, this attitude acted as a survival mechanism that allowed the Issei to quietly succeed without drawing the racist ire of the white working classes.

ROB BUSCHER: But the American-born Nisei who knew no other country but their own wanted badly to fit in and be considered truly American. Although they spoke a different language and ate different foods at home, were they any less American than their other classmates being raised in the same schools?

ROB BUSCHER: Try as they might to not make a target of themselves, many Issei community leaders were arrested and held by the FBI in the hours after the Pearl Harbor attack. Destabilized by the loss of its established leaders, the Japanese American community was unable to mount effective opposition to the evacuation orders and subsequent mass incarceration.

ROB BUSCHER: In place of the Issei traditionalists, the federal government anointed the Nisei leaders of the Japanese American Citizens League, which during that era was firmly assimilationist in its views about the community. JACL's Executive Director was 25-year-old Mike Masaoka, who had grown up in Utah. In the days following the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Roosevelt, Masaoka testified to the Tolan committee at Congress that Japanese Americans would be willing to move from their homes in the name of national security. An excerpt from Masaoka's testimony transcript reads:

MIKE MASAOKA VOICE OVER: Oh, yes; definitely. I think that all of us are called upon to make sacrifices. I think that we will be called upon to make greater sacrifices than any others. But I think sincerely, if the military say, "Move out," we will be glad to move, because we recognize that even behind evacuation there is not just national security but also a thought as to our own welfare and

security because we may be subject to mob violence and otherwise if we are permitted to remain.

ROB BUSCHER: In the spirit of greater sacrifice that Masaoka talked about, the Heart Mountain incarcerated embraced multiple ways of showing their patriotism. At times, that sacrifice went to extremes, as incarcerated turned on each other. Members of Heart Mountain's Fair Play Committee and others who refused to kowtow to the government's narrow view of patriotism were denounced as troublemakers who brought shame upon the rest of their community. But even draft resisters engaged in the many projects inside Heart Mountain that contributed to the war effort.

ROB BUSCHER: Some of the most memorable images in the study of WWII are the many iconic propaganda posters featuring Uncle Sam, promoting recruitment drives or Rosie the Riveter in Home Front production campaigns. Propaganda played an important role in unifying the country under the same wartime ideology that encouraged individual sacrifice on behalf of the greater good in order to preserve the American way of life. Propaganda was also used to drive public opinion against its wartime enemies through poster campaigns that featured exaggerated racialized caricatures of Japanese soldiers and evil Nazis.

ROB BUSCHER: For more than a year during the war, Heart Mountain operated its own print shop that manufactured propaganda posters for the U.S. Navy. There,

several dozen artist incarcerated were able to adapt their creative talents to serve the war effort.

ROB BUSCHER: Gompers Saijo was twenty years old and in his second year of art studies at Pasadena City College when he and his family were incarcerated at Heart Mountain. Gompers received his unusual first name, because his Issei father was a fan of socialist writer Jack London and often attended rallies at the Port of Oakland where union leaders talked about the benefits of organized labor. He named his first son after Samuel Gompers, the founding president of the American Federation of Labor.

ROB BUSCHER: At the Pomona assembly center, Gompers met some of his fellow artists who would also spend the war at Heart Mountain. They included Benji Okubo, whose sister Mine was also a prominent artist of the incarceration, and Hideo Date. Gompers worked in the poster shop, where he made silk screens and mimeograph printing announcements for activities such as the haiku and shodo clubs.

ROB BUSCHER: One of the more recognizable posters made in the shop depicted a large Navy gunship with the warning, "Let Me Do The Talking." Part of the campaign to encourage wartime secrecy, this poster told defense workers to remain quiet about their work. The Navy was pleased with the product, as Capt. C.K. Fink told camp director Guy Robertson in this memo.

C.K. FINK VOICE OVER: The posters have been very favorably received, and it is felt that the evacuees at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center have turned out a thoroughly professional job on silk screen production. It is believed there will be a considerable volume of work of similar nature to be done.

ROB BUSCHER: Another worker in the poster shop, Fujiye Fujikawa, was 23 when she was incarcerated. Before the war, she graduated from Los Angeles City College with a degree in commercial art. She also studied at the Chouinard Art Institute and worked at an advertising agency before she was sent to Heart Mountain. In camp, she became one of the leaders of the poster shop. The May 15, 1943, edition of the *Heart Mountain Sentinel* named her that week's camp hero.

SENTINEL VOICE OVER: At the poster shop, Miss Fujikawa receives the fullest cooperation of her staff where most of the beautiful work turned out is done by a silk screen method.

ROB BUSCHER: Fujikawa lived in Heart Mountain with her widowed mother, two sisters and a brother. They all relocated from Heart Mountain by early 1944. Fujikawa left first for Cincinnati and then Philadelphia, where she worked in an advertising agency.

ROB BUSCHER: Another of her colleagues at the poster shop was Yosh Kuromiya, who would leave Heart Mountain in a different manner. He was one of the 63 young men who resisted the military draft in 1944, and was subsequently sent to federal prison. Kuromiya said that when he worked in the poster shop, he was already sour on the war effort and his imprisonment.

YOSH KUROMIYA VOICE OVER: About that time, my attitude toward the government was at a pretty low ebb. The irony is that I was happy to do the work. I really felt I was doing my part for my country.

ROB BUSCHER: By November 1943, the shop was producing hundreds of posters a day, and the military had plans for even more.

SENTINEL VOICE OVER: To speed production on the order for 100,000 posters by the Navy at the Heart Mountain and Granada centers, work was started this week to modernize the poster shop at 30-25, Everett R. Lane, manufacturing head, announced. The local shop was recently moved from 27-25. The local shop filled a Navy order for 4,000 posters some time ago. A large steel furnace which is enclosed in brick will provide heat for the shop. The sheltered furnace will allow silk screen production during the winter months. An exhaust fan will draw out fumes from the shop.

ROB BUSCHER: As an operation that primarily produced propaganda posters, ironically the print shop served its own propaganda purpose as the WRA promoted the shop's work as proof of Japanese American loyalty. WRA photographers visited Heart Mountain to take pictures of the shop's workers, and even followed Fujikawa and others after they left camp. Those later photos were used as part of the propaganda campaign showing the successful resettlement of former incarcerated throughout the country.

ROB BUSCHER: The March 18, 1944, Sentinel featured on its front page a story headlined, "Two Ex-Heart Mountain Girls Making Good in Philadelphia:"

SENTINEL VOICE OVER: Among the evacuees who have made new homes from themselves in this Eastern city are two former residents of Heart Mountain, Fuji Fujikawa and Yoneko Watanabe, who share an apartment where they often entertain friends. Miss Fujikawa, who supervised the silk screen project at Heart Mountain, is now doing silk screen work for a Philadelphia advertising company. She is the daughter of Chiye Fujikawa, 12-8-F, Heart Mountain. A native of Courtland, California, she was employed as a silk screen artist in Los Angeles prior to evacuation.

ROB BUSCHER: Stories like these were another form of propaganda that surrounded the incarceration and those affected by it as the WRA vigorously encouraged the incarcerated to leave the camps and resettle elsewhere in the country.

ROB BUSCHER: Despite enthusiasm for the poster shop's work at the Navy, internal disagreements in the War Relocation Authority led to the shop's closing in 1944, when the WRA decided to bring the Heart Mountain operation under management of the larger print shop at camp Amache in Colorado. The Heart Mountain shop resisted the reorganization, but ultimately its contents were packed up and shipped southwest. In May 1944 the Amache Silk Screen Shop received \$1,500 worth of equipment from the discontinued Heart Mountain shop.

ROB BUSCHER: While the print shop was openly producing propaganda posters to support the war effort, perhaps the most potent source of pro-government propaganda at Heart Mountain was the Sentinel newspaper.

ROB BUSCHER: Although it was heralded as the best of the WRA camp newspapers for its high standard of journalistic content and professional print quality, the staff of the Heart Mountain Sentinel often preached to their fellow incarcerated the need to outwardly display their patriotism. Their writers touted the government line on the vast majority of WRA policies, encouraging incarcerated to resettle Eastward and later supporting the military's recruitment campaign. Editorials frequently attacked those who attempted to organize resistance to the draft and others who were deemed troublemakers by the camp administration.

ROB BUSCHER: At the heart of the Sentinel's creation was Bill Hosokawa, a newspaperman from Seattle and head of the Emergency Defense Council of the JACL, a job in which he cooperated with government authorities as they prepared the forced evacuation. As we have explored in previous episodes, the full extent of Hosokawa's relationship with the WRA is unknown, but it is clear that he and his staff enjoyed certain privileges that most incarcerated did not.

ROB BUSCHER: Kara Kondo who worked as the paper's society section editor remembers the staff's trips into the nearby town of Cody, where the paper was printed at the offices of the local paper Cody Enterprise.

KARA KONDO RECORDING FROM DENSHO: The paper was printed in Cody, and occasionally -- I think I only went once -- but we went to go out when they took the paper to be printed. Bill Hosokawa would take us and we would even stay to have dinner and we would all go to a movie. They trusted us, I think. Who would want to go off somewhere, even in Cody?

ROB BUSCHER: Perhaps the trust for the staff of the Sentinel was because the paper did little to rock the boat for the government, often touting the collaborationist positions of JACL in their editorials and other articles. Mits Koshiyama was one of the young men who resisted the draft at Heart Mountain in 1944. He recalled how the Sentinel treated the resisters unfavorably and saw the staff's JACL connections to blame.

MIT'S KOSHIYAMA RECORDING FROM DENSHO: I think in the camps, JACL took a low profile, because a lot of people openly said that they don't trust the JACL any more, because they heard rumors that JACL was cooperating with the government. That's why all the *Issei* men were put into separate government camps. Those were the rumors, and JACL was very unpopular in the camps. Those people really had to watch their steps.

MIT'S KOSHIYAMA RECORDING FROM DENSHO: In Heart Mountain, very little was seen about JACL. But JACL had gained power with the government. Government gave them the power to actually be the spokesperson for the people in the camps. And all the camp newspapers were run by JACL personnel, their type of thinking. So there was no speaking out in the camp papers about constitutional rights or anything.

MIT'S KOSHIYAMA RECORDING FROM DENSHO: *Heart Mountain Sentinel* was very weak on constitutional issues. You never read about, if you, if you think that it was strong -- it was a well-organized paper, but never spoke up against the government. Always took the government's side. If dissidents brought up an issue, the *Heart Mountain Sentinel* always, always took the government's side. And they made sure that the people coming into the, work in the personnel of the *Heart Mountain Sentinel* were all pro-JACL people.

ROB BUSCHER: Bill Hosokawa stayed at Heart Mountain for the first year of the camp's operation and built the Sentinel into the newspaper it became. His work led WRA Director Dillon Myer to help Hosokawa leave camp for a job at the *Des Moines Register* in Iowa. From there, Hosokawa continued writing editorials that were published in the Sentinel by his former staff. Hosokawa's successors maintained the same editorial line as he did, and they saw the Sentinel through contentious issues like the military draft with a decidedly pro-government position.

ROB BUSCHER: Like millions of their fellow Americans, the prisoners at Heart Mountain participated in a variety of Home Front activities to support the war effort. As we explored in a previous episode, to make sure the troops had enough to eat, food rationing was put into effect on certain commodities like sugar, coffee, meat, cheese, canned milk, and other processed foods.

ROB BUSCHER: Americans from across the country were encouraged to supplement their diets by growing their own fresh produce in what they called victory gardens. Separate from the large scale agricultural project that grew food for the entire camp, individual victory gardens were also planted inside Heart Mountain. To encourage this practice, camp administrators designated a nine-acre plot inside Heart Mountain that was divided into 228 units that each measured 22 by 40 feet.

ROB BUSCHER: Garden plots were allocated to individuals or families and were intended to help incarcerated put more food on the table outside of the mess hall. However, some people took advantage of other incarcerated' labor and helped themselves to the free produce, as indicated from a 1943 announcement from the Victory Garden Committee.

VICTORY GARDEN COMMITTEE VOICE OVER: Recently victory gardens in the center have suffered from a series of vandalism perpetrated by thoughtless individuals while the owners have been absent. Though it may seem a minor incident, yet burglary in itself constitutes a crime and is an act of which we should justly be ashamed. We urge those individuals who want vegetables to ask for them. We feel the owners will gladly give or sell them at a reasonable price.

ROB BUSCHER: The Sentinel frequently reported on the progress made by the victory gardeners. In early 1944, it noted how the gardeners had resumed their efforts for a second season.

SENTINEL VOICE OVER: To date, all planting has been completed. A variety of vegetables are being grown, such as gobo, China peas, green beans, cucumbers, green onions, and some cantaloupes and watermelons. One of the big improvements this year is the construction of paths between the neatly tilled plots for the benefit of workers as well as sightseers. Most of the people who applied for shares in the garden were older Issei, with a large number of them

being women. Only a few have had previous agriculture experience. It is the consensus of the majority of the gardeners that with the experience gained last year and the added rainfall, the victory garden project will be highly successful.

ROB BUSCHER: Another Home Front campaign that Heart Mountain internees participated in was the purchasing of war bonds. Although the US was better positioned than its European allies given its abundance of natural resources and massive manufacturing capabilities, fighting a war on two fronts was incredibly expensive. To fill its war chest, the US launched major war loan drives, encouraging its citizens to invest in the government's war effort by purchasing war bonds.

ROB BUSCHER: War bonds paid a lower rate of return than most bonds and other investments, but buying them was more about patriotism than making money. The government relied on strong propaganda messages to sell their bonds. Some campaigns focused on supporting the troops through popular slogans such as "Back the Attack" or "Bonds Buy Bombs." Other campaigns relied on fear based slogans like "Bonds or Bondage," suggesting that failure to support the war loan drive might result in enemy occupation. Heart Mountain camp administrators and other groups within camp embraced these efforts wholeheartedly.

ROB BUSCHER: The *Sentinel* ran multiple stories about the war loan drives, often featuring photos of veterans from the European front. The *Sentinel* touted each successful campaign, demonstrated by this story about the camp's efforts during the fifth loan drive in July 1944.

SENTINEL VOICE OVER: Residents and members of the administrative staff came through with flying colors in the community-wide fifth war loan drive conducted between June 12 and July 8, according to final figures released by Kaz Narita and Tosh Oka, co-chairmen of the evacuee drives, and Elsie L. King, chairman of the appointed personnel drive. With an additional \$93.75 worth of stamps and bonds between July 6 and 8, local residents boosted their total purchases to \$6,636.45. No quota was set for the evacuees.

ROB BUSCHER: War bonds and stamps were often given out as prizes at various events in camp, such as a March 1945 pin-up contest where young women competed in a beauty pageant.

ROB BUSCHER: The war loan drives sometimes led to conflicts between incarcerated who supported the government's position on military service, and others who would later join the Fair Play Committee in their draft resistance movement. In one example, investigative files from the FBI show that a leader of the camp's war loan drive, Robert Yoshio Kodama, acted as an informant, tipping off camp director Guy Robertson about the Fair Play Committee and their organizing efforts, which he saw as detrimental to the sale of war bonds.

ROB BUSCHER: However, the overwhelming majority of Heart Mountain residents chose to support the loan drives, even after a national advertising campaign featured racist caricatures of Japanese soldiers.

ROB BUSCHER: Although the first war bond drives focused on defending the American way of life and protecting the troops, later poster campaigns vilified their Axis enemies through heavily caricatured portrayals.

ROB BUSCHER: Nazis and Italian Facists were also shown in these campaigns, but the Japanese alone were dehumanized to the extent where they no longer resembled humans. One particularly offensive poster depicts a razor fanged Japanese soldier gripping a white woman from behind while holding a knife to her throat. This image is accompanied by text reading:

PROPAGANDA POSTER VOICE OVER: Keep This Horror From *Your* Home - Invest 10% in War Bonds

ROB BUSCHER: Nevertheless, over the course of the eight war loan drives that were held between 1942 and 1945 Heart Mountain incarceratedees contributed a combined total of nearly \$10,000. A small fraction of the estimated \$185 billion in war bonds purchased nationwide, but a significant amount for a prison population who had lost their livelihoods and most of their possessions, and were now earning \$12-19 a month.

ROB BUSCHER: Contributing to the success of the later war loan drives was the fact that growing numbers of Heart Mountain families had Nisei sons who either volunteered to enlist or were drafted into the army.

ROB BUSCHER: Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor there were already Japanese

American soldiers serving in the US Army. Several of these servicemen had families in Heart Mountain, such as James Higuchi - an army medical doctor from San Jose and Sergeant Joe Hayashi of Pasadena.

ROB BUSCHER: After December 7th the military began unjustly profiling the few Nisei soldiers among their ranks, forbidding them from handling firearms and forcing them to do menial work on base while their peers continued training for active service. In Sgt. Hayashi's case, he was even held as a prisoner-of-war at Fort Stockton while the top brass decided what to do with him, in the first weeks after Pearl Harbor. Hayashi and many others like him would see their fill of combat duty after the Army authorized the enlistment of Japanese Americans in January 1943.

ROB BUSCHER: By the end of the war, approximately 30,000 Nisei would go on to serve in the military, of whom the majority would be placed in a segregated troop regiment called the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Others would work as linguists in the Military Intelligence Service, and a few soldiers who had enlisted before the war would continue serving in the regiments they were already assigned to. Similar to African American soldiers who fought for a double victory - at home and abroad, Japanese American soldiers fought fiercely to prove their loyalty as good Americans. Ultimately the 442nd would become the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in US military history, a distinction that remains to this day.

ROB BUSCHER: As discussed in the previous episode, the military recruitment drive at Heart Mountain was considered a failure compared to other camps, in large part due to the organized opposition from Frank Inouye's Heart Mountain Congress of American Citizens. Nevertheless, a total of 38 young men did enlist voluntarily as soon as they were able to do so. Their motives varied, but many saw proving themselves in combat as the best chance to secure their community's safe release from camp. Among the few dozen volunteers was Ted Fujioka.

ROB BUSCHER: Teruo "Ted" Fujioka was universally liked by his fellow inmates, having been elected president of the first graduating class of Heart Mountain High School in 1943. His large family from Los Angeles was influential in the camp. His sister, Masa, was married to Jack Kunitomi, the sports editor of the *Heart Mountain Sentinel* and also a leader among the twenty-something Nisei. Fujioka enlisted soon after he graduated from Heart Mountain High School, as he explained in a letter to a former teacher back home in June 1943.

TED FUJIOKA VOICE OVER: I volunteered for many reasons. Probably the biggest reason which prompted me to act as I did was the realization that the success or failure of the Nisei in the armed forces would greatly determine the future of all the Nisei in America after the war.

ROB BUSCHER: Another volunteer from Heart Mountain, Fred Yamamoto, also worked at the Sentinel prior to enlisting against his mother's wishes. In a Sentinel article about his army service Yamamoto explains:

FRED YAMAMOTO VOICE OVER: If you want to be an American and want to be treated like one, you have to show you're an American... Some people think I'm a sucker for having volunteered, but I know I'm not. I guess it's all a matter of the way you look at it. The only thing that we have to go on is faith in America. If a person doesn't have that, he's lost. That's what keeps me going. Maybe I'm wrong, but I like to think that I'm not.

ROB BUSCHER: Ted Fujioka was a talented writer and wrote frequently to his family and friends. In another letter written in October 1943 from Camp Shelby where the 442 did their basic training in Mississippi, Fujioka wrote:

TED FUJIOKA VOICE OVER: Sometimes I open my eyes in the early morning, expecting to see our room at Heart Mountain. Expecting to see the white celotex ceiling and walls, dim outline of our friendly stove in the corner. Babe and Dick sleeping comfortably nearby. The drapes on the windows, and the square opening in the wall dividing our room and the other room - the other room where I know Mama and Papa, and the girls were. The comfort of just having you all near.

ROB BUSCHER: But looking up into the semi-darkness I see the bare wood rafters and I hear the breathing of the men, sleeping after a hard day's work. I see neat rows of clothing on shelves with pictures of my hut mates' girlfriends or parents. And then I come out of my dreaming, come out of the world of two months back and I realize that I'm here - Camp Shelby. Realize all this isn't Heart Mountain. Realize that I'm not a kid anymore. Realize that I have a grave responsibility rested upon all of us in this, the 442nd combat team.

ROB BUSCHER: The future welfare of you and all of us who hope to remain in this land rests almost entirely on how the 100th now in action as the vanguard of America's Fifth Army in Italy, and the 442nd do in battle. We've got everything to gain by doing our utmost in battle, nothing to lose. We have a chance to prove to all who doubt our loyalty and sincerity to this nation that we too are Americans, therefore entitled to live as Americans in the truest sense of the word.

ROB BUSCHER: Japanese Americans were certainly no strangers to racial prejudice, but the clearly delineated racial hierarchy of the Jim Crow Era South laid bare the full extent of American racism. Although they were told by their commanding officers to use the "Whites Only" facilities when traveling off base, many Nisei were shocked and saddened by the unequal treatment of African Americans. This was especially poignant for the Japanese Hawaiian members of the 100th battalion, who associated whiteness with the plantation-owning classes that had oppressed their community for generations.

ROB BUSCHER: In his letter written from Camp Shelby, Fujioka continues:

TED FUJIOKA VOICE OVER: America is far from perfect - contradictory in oh so many ways - imperfect as far as democracy goes. We have endured many bitter, heart-breaking experiences... and so have all other minorities - but if we become cynical and bitter... we'll never never improve our situation. We've got to keep plugging. Perhaps I'll never see the day when America will be perfect, perhaps it will be hundreds and hundreds of years from now, but just the knowledge of

having done something towards that desired end will prove inner joy—a clear conscience.

ROB BUSCHER: After completing their basic training, enlisted Nisei were permitted to visit their families in camp where they were greeted with much fanfare prior to shipping out. Heart Mountain incarceratedees went to great lengths in offering their morale support to Nisei troops on their visits to camp. Central to these efforts was the Heart Mountain USO.

ROB BUSCHER: Of the 10 WRA camps, only Heart Mountain established its own USO branch. They often held send off parties for the Heart Mountain incarceratedees who enlisted in the Army, and dances for soldiers who came back to camp on leave to visit their families. These activities were regularly covered in the Sentinel, and WRA photographers routinely visited the USO branch to spread the word about the patriotic support from Heart Mountain incarceratedees.

ROB BUSCHER: Among incarceratedees, the USO also helped drum up support for the voluntary recruitment drive and subsequent draft. One of their great successes was helping to orchestrate the visit of Japanese American flying ace Sargeant Ben Kuroki at Heart Mountain.

ROB BUSCHER: Born and raised in Nebraska, Ben Kuroki and his family were not impacted by the evacuation orders. With their Issei father's encouragement, both

he and his brother Fred volunteered to join the Army Air Force in the days following Pearl Harbor. Despite the reclassification of Japanese Americans to 4-C, enemy aliens unfit for military service, the Kuroki brothers were accepted into service and began training by January 1942.

ROB BUSCHER: Initially restricted from overseas duty, Kuroki petitioned his commanding officer to do clerical work at the Eighth Air Force Base in England. There he volunteered to serve as an aerial gunner, and was trained as a dorsal turret gunner - one of the most dangerous positions on an aircraft that left the gunman exposed to enemy fire.

ROB BUSCHER: After surviving 29 bombing missions unscathed, including one that ended with a crash landing in Morocco, Kuroki was slightly wounded in his 30th mission when his turret was hit by anti-aircraft fire. During his recovery leave, Kuroki was ordered home to visit the WRA camps to boost the enlistment and draft efforts.

ROB BUSCHER: His April 1944 visit to Heart Mountain was a major event that elicited twelve stories in the April 29 edition of the *Sentinel*. "Kuroki 'Takes' Heart Mountain" read the front page headline. Other articles included "Community Celebration Features Visit of Hero," "Ben Kuroki Average American Despite Brave Achievements," and "Service Mothers Praise Kuroki, Express Pride in Sons' Actions." An excerpt from one editorial read:

SENTINEL VOICE OVER: With confidence of a man who knows the hell of war, the stark horrors of flak-filled skies and the sight of buddies plunging to a fiery death over an enemy target, Sergeant Kuroki pulled no punches to make clear the part Americans of Japanese descent must play in this war. "I happen to know how it feels to be shot at. I know what the boys in the 100th battalion are going through for you people," he said. "All I ask is that you do not tear down that which we are striving so hard to build up."

ROB BUSCHER: It did not matter, the editorial continued, that Kuroki "did not experience the bitterness of evacuation... he has gone through one hell after another, giving a little bit extra along the way, to prove that Americans of Japanese ancestry are as truly American as those of any other ancestry." Despite the Sentinel's support, Art Hansen noted that Kuroki's visit did not inspire universal acclaim.

ART HANSEN RECORDING FROM DENSHO: Ben Kuroki was known for being a war hero, and a war hero attached to a very elite sort of role. This is not a foot soldier, this is somebody up in the air. It's a very visible symbol. And he got a lot of acclaim, and when he came back to the United States this acclaim was capitalized upon by the government through the War Department with the urgings, in my opinion, of the Japanese American Citizens League. This was a way to really sell participation in the war effort. And so he became a stalking horse and I think a protean symbol for the things that the JACL wanted to put across.

ART HANSEN RECORDING FROM DENSHO: And he was sent on a tour of duty, as I construe it, to three different camps in the spring of 1944. And the first camp he was sent to was not an accident, it was Heart Mountain. It was where the most dissent was, and where they were having the most problem trying to put over the idea of the draft. And even though some of the fights had already been fought within the camp, there was still a group of people that were going to be getting their draft notices.

ART HANSEN RECORDING FROM DENSHO: And so he comes to that camp, etcetera, and he meets a very mixed reception. He got so much publicity in advance by the *Heart Mountain Sentinel*, he got so much publicity by the *Pacific Citizen*, he was really elevated to incredible heroic proportions. Now, the 442nd hadn't really started to get into battle in a serious way before and so that group later is going to become the symbol of military success and heroism, but at that particular point it was Ben Kuroki. So it's one person who's the carrier of Japanese American honor. And he comes to Heart Mountain and then he goes to Minidoka and then he goes to Topaz. And at every one of those places he meets with a mixed reception. The young kids and particularly the teenage girls, of which there were plenty, lionized him, and I think a lot of the draft age people looked at him with suspicion.

ROB BUSCHER: Sgt. Kuroki would go on to serve in the Pacific theater of the war after his tour of the WRA camps. Although his request was initially denied for the Army's fear of conflicted loyalties, Secretary of War Henry Stimson personally intervened on his behalf. He would go on to fly another 28 missions, including bombing raids over his ancestral homeland of Japan.

ROB BUSCHER: While Kuroki was somewhat of an anomaly as a Nisei who had never lived as part of a Japanese American community and served as just one of five Japanese Americans in the Army Air Force, hundreds of other Nisei who did come from camp were also proving themselves in ground combat.

ROB BUSCHER: Prior to the formation of the 442nd which was made up of three battalions, a single unit of Japanese American troops from Hawaii called the 100th Infantry Battalion was deployed during the invasion of Italy in September 1943 where they participated in some of the hardest won battles of the campaign. Having tasted Imperial Japan's aggression firsthand, Japanese Hawaiians were among the first to volunteer, and in numbers that far surpassed expectation.

ROB BUSCHER: By the time that most of the mainland Nisei of the 442nd shipped out, Japanese Hawaiians had already suffered immense casualties. Of particular note was the deadly Battle of Monte Cassino, where the 100th infantry battalion were gunned down in droves by the German machine gun nests that held the high ground from a Benedictine abbey at the top of the mountain. Left exposed on the muddy mine-laden fields below, their white commanders ordered dozens of Nisei men to their deaths as they fought to take this key point in the Gustav Line.

ROB BUSCHER: Of the 1,300 Nisei soldiers who landed at Salerno in October 1943, only 521 remained "fit to fight" after the battle of Monte Cassino ended in May 1944. It was here that they earned the nickname, "Purple Heart Battalion" due to their extreme numbers of wounded and killed.

NEWSREEL NARRATOR AUDIO EXCERPT: After their gear is once more in order the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion march to where they are to receive a citation from General Mark Clark, commander of the Fifth Army.

NEWSREEL GENERAL CLARK AUDIO EXCERPT: All of you Americans of Japanese descent have a right to be proud today. You have demonstrated true Americanism, and true American citizenship on the field of battle. You have realized the necessity of coming to this distant land and leaving your homes and your loved ones. In order that you could destroy this enemy who would take from you the American way of life and the freedoms, which we value so highly in America.

ROB BUSCHER: Ted Fujioka began his tour of combat duty just after this battle when the anti-tank company he was assigned to shipped arrived in Italy with the rest of the 442nd in May 1944. In July, Pvt Fujioka would participate in the invasion of Southern France, transported by glider, a large plane without a motor that carried several jeeps with mounted artillery. He would spend the next few weeks rescuing stranded paratroopers, which allowed him to interact with some of the locals and see the devastation of war firsthand.

ROB BUSCHER: Fred Yamamoto also entered the war in May 1944, landing in Rome before traveling to Northern France. There he would participate in nearly two weeks of continuous combat in the Vosges mountains near the French border town of Bruyeres where he participated in one of the great battles of the 442 in their mission to rescue the "Lost Battalion."

NEWSREEL NARRATOR AUDIO EXCERPT: Late in October on the Vosges Front in the West, there took place one of the heroic episodes of the war. A battalion of the 36th Texas Division had been cut off and laid trapped up forward in the hills, without communications, and surrounded by superior enemy forces.

ROB BUSCHER: Surrounded by the Nazis and cut off from their supply lines, members of the 141st Infantry Regiment from Texas thought they were certain to die. After two failed rescue attempts by other companies under his command, Major General Dahlquist ordered the battle fatigued 442nd who had been in continuous combat since early October to rescue their comrades "at all costs."

ROB BUSCHER: The fighting was tough in the mountainous terrain where Germans held the high ground. Anticipating attempts to flank their less guarded areas they laid camouflaged mines around the forest.

NEWSREEL NARRATOR AUDIO EXCERPT: It was the 442nd Infantry Division that was ordered to cut a way through to them. This was the famous and unique battalion composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry, volunteers all. They were fighting as they had fought in Italy to prove their loyalty to their American homeland. To prove again that Democracy embraces all creeds, all races. For nine days while the Texans held on grimly up ahead, they cut their way forward in bitter cold and in some of the toughest fighting country on the Western Front.

ROB BUSCHER: In addition to the fortified machine gun nests, Nazi artillery troops fired tree burst munitions designed to explode just above the treeline not only

showering down fragments of shrapnel, but also weaponizing the tree branches that fell on unsuspecting soldiers below. Under siege for more than a week, the trapped men of the Lost Battalion ran low on food, water, medical supplies, and ammunition. Members of the 522nd artillery battalion fired empty shells with supplies at close range to the Lost Battalion.

NEWSREEL NARRATOR AUDIO EXCERPT: On the German Front, to aid the men of the United States 36th Division's Lost Battalion, shells are loaded with food and medicine instead of explosives, to be fired across enemy lines. Trapped for five days without supplies, the Lost Battalion is able to hold out only with the help of this cannon-sent aid.

ROB BUSCHER: It was during one such maneuver on October 28, 1944, that Fred Yamamoto was killed in action when he was struck by shrapnel. Remembered as the first Heart Mountain incarceratedee to voluntarily enlist, Private Yamamoto's mother, Yumi Sato, shared the following exchange in the November 18th edition of the Sentinel.

YUMI SATO VOICE OVER: He asked my permission before he volunteered. I urged him to wait until he was called by the draft but he said that he felt he should join the army immediately. I asked him if he were prepared to die. When he said that if he were killed he knew that he would be doing the right thing for us and for his country, I gave my permission. He was not afraid to die.

ROB BUSCHER: Former Editor of the *Sentinel*, Bill Hosokawa, shared his remembrances of Yamamoto in the November 25 issue.

BILL HOSOKAWA VOICE OVER: There is no doubt in my mind that Fred was a tough, smart soldier. He was the farthest thing imaginable from the soldier type, but he was a thorough workman who learned his lessons well. That was obvious during the time he worked for The Sentinel. It was not easy for him to write. But he did a thorough job when the sand, wind, mud, cold, distance, and red tape made reporting at Heart Mountain a grind. He tried hard because he liked his work and made it a large part of his life.

BILL HOSOKAWA VOICE OVER: That's the way he must have been as a soldier, for though he despised military regimentation and hated the violence of war, he enlisted voluntarily from a deep conviction. "I'm betting on America," he once said, "and I'm not going to sit back and let someone else do the fighting for me."

ROB BUSCHER: Although their rescue mission was a success, it came at a high price. The 442nd suffered immense casualties - over 800 wounded and 30 killed in an operation that ultimately rescued the 211 surviving soldiers of the Lost Battalion.

NEWSREEL NARRATOR AUDIO EXCERPT: Adding another chapter to their record, these American born troops of Japanese ancestry received decorations from General Dahlquist for their work in rescuing their comrades in arms.

ROB BUSCHER: A week later on November 6 1944, in a different forest hill in the Vosges Mountains of France, Ted Fujioka also made the ultimate sacrifice.

ROB BUSCHER: Pvt Al Saijo, a fellow incarcerated and enlisted member of the 442nd was on leave visiting his family at Heart Mountain when he heard the news. As his closest high school friend, Saijo shared his remembrances in the November 25 issue of the *Sentinel*.

AL SAIJO VOICE OVER: The War Department's telegram to Ted's folks simply said that he had been killed "on a special mission." His friends here, particularly those with whom he attended school, know that Ted's life was entirely a "special mission." It was a special mission to make life better, to make people happier. That's the kind of pal Ted Fujioka was. That's why the American flag flew at half mast at the high school on Monday and that's also the reason that his friend's hearts were sad.

AL SAIJO VOICE OVER: Ted was one soldier who knew what he was fighting for – he told me about it. It was after he had graduated and we were both working on The Sentinel. One day after we had covered our runs, Ted said he wanted to talk to me about something. It was spring and there was a tinge of color coming into the McColloughs and the shadows were deepening and the evening shadows shifting. We walked slowly toward Heart Mountain, beyond the victory gardens, beyond the cemetery with its scraggly plants and up the hillside. We sat down picked up pebbles and tossed them at sagebrush, thoughtful.

AL SAIJO VOICE OVER: Ted grinned his friendly grin then looked off toward the mountain, becoming serious. Ted could be serious. Ted could be humorous, particularly when he was behind the “mike” and was warming up the student body audience. Basically, though, he was serious. It was Ted who first felt the need of building student morale after the bitterness of evacuation. He was the heart and soul of the Hi-Y club. That was why he was elected president of the student council and later student body president.

AL SAIJO VOICE OVER: While we sat there, Ted looked off toward the mountains and I knew he was serious. He told me about his family and how close they all felt toward each other. He talked about his girl and his hopes and about his belief in God.

AL SAIJO VOICE OVER: “I’m joining the army,” Ted said, “so that my family will have security. So there will be no stigma against my children. So that I can prove the things I believe in: things like democracy, equality and tolerance and most of all, peace.”

AL SAIJO VOICE OVER: Perhaps Ted didn’t get to fulfill his “special mission” but he tried so that other Teds might carry on where he left off.”

ROB BUSCHER: The idealistic young man who had enlisted right out of Heart Mountain high school had been hardened by his war experience.

TED FUJIOKA VOICE OVER: And now it's almost a year, so much has happened. I've learned that life is not a bed of roses. Learned a great deal from seeing the suffering of peoples of other countries, seeing the casualties and horrors of war. Realizing that the problems of the Nisei are infinitesimal compared to the overall problems of this crazy world. I still believe that the sacrifices that the volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland, the deeds of the 100th will not be in vain. Ours isn't a lost cause, there's hope. There's always a chance to improve the situation. That's America - my country... Home is where I remember and love. Home is where I'll return someday. Until next time as ever, Ted.

ROB BUSCHER: Prior to his death, Fujioka had sent word back to his family that if he died in combat while they were still imprisoned, he did not want his body returned home. His final resting place is a military cemetery in Epinal, France.

ROB BUSCHER: For the Fujioka and Kunitomi families, the death of Ted Fujioka left a hole in their souls that remains to this day. Darrell Kunitomi, who is now a board member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, never met his uncle. But his legacy remains strong.

DARRELL KUNITOMI INTERVIEW: Our Uncle Ted was the family hero. He was a golden boy. And in reading his letters, I've come to see that he was changed by the army. He changed during the incarceration, because he lost his faith in America at Santa Anita. It was so wrenching, and so horrible, and so depressing a situation that he lost faith, and he wrote to his high school teacher about losing that faith. And then somehow he got it back when they got into Heart Mountain. Somehow he found hope, and I assume that the hope he found was amongst his

fellow incarcerated. And he regained his faith in America, enough that he volunteered for service.

DARRELL KUNITOMI INTERVIEW: In his letters he talks about how he's doing it to help his family. He was probably the ultimate family man in our family, because he sacrificed his life for his family's future. He was idealistic, he was patriotic, and we can look back at that 70 years after the fact and say, "gee that's so raw... that's so naive." But we gotta remember that time where all was at stake - our future in this country. There were many people who didn't want us here whether we were in a camp or back home on the West Coast. They just didn't want us, even after Japan was defeated. So it's a very emotional thing, thinking about our Uncle Ted. It was a terrible loss.

ROB BUSCHER: A testament to his endearing personality, Fujioka's brothers in arms also mourned his death. One was Ernest Uno.

ERNEST UNO RECORDING FROM DENSHO: Ted I think was the student body president there at the high school in Heart Mountain. A brilliant young man, and he was good-looking. He was, to me, kind of my role model, kind of guy I wish I could be. I always pictured myself somewhat as a loser, he was a winner. I think when I saw his body at the battalion aid station there in, outside of Bruyeres in the Vosges Mountains, it was one time I went to Chaplain Higuchi and asked him, "How come? A guy like this who had such a brilliant future has to die," in place of someone like me who really didn't have that much of a future. And Chaplain said, "Ernie, God works in strange and mysterious ways. You never know what He wants of us, except that, you

think about it and make the best of your life in order that Ted's life was not given in vain." Well, that was pretty powerful, but that I remember very distinctly. And I've always thanked the chaplain for that.

ROB BUSCHER: After the war, Ernest Uno would become one of the strongest advocates of the young men who resisted the draft during the war. He fought to have veterans groups around the country recognize the resisters and their sacrifice as a necessary part of the community-wide advocacy during the war years.

ROB BUSCHER: As the war dragged on and the casualties mounted, the military reinstated the draft for all Nisei men of eligible service age in January 1944. One of the Heart Mountain incarcerated who were drafted was Stanley Hayami.

ROB BUSCHER: Hayami came to Heart Mountain with his family from Los Angeles, where they owned their own home and were deeply involved in the Japanese American community. An aspiring artist, Hayami drew multiple pictures of life in camp in a diary in which he also recorded his thoughts of being incarcerated. After turning 18 during his Senior year at Heart Mountain High School, Stanley was caught in the debate about joining the Army. He attended a meeting with Ben Kuroki when he came to visit Heart Mountain.

STANLEY HAYAMI VOICE OVER: Last Tuesday night I went to a meeting held by the army concerning the new order opening voluntary enlistment in the army. They gave a lot of talks telling us how we would benefit if we volunteered... Said that the reason why they wanted to put us in a separate combat unit was for publicity.

A lot of people wanted to know if they could have some guarantees so that after the war was over, they wouldn't have their citizenship taken away and the lands they own taken. They answered that we would be protected by the 14th amendment in the Constitution. Then one man says "well the 14th also is supposed to have kept us out of camp, what about that?"

STANLEY HAYAMI VOICE OVER: Then the army man said that he agrees that a great injustice was done us when we were kicked out, but he says that the army has realized that what they did was probably wrong, and is now trying to help us make up for it. He says that if we volunteer it'll do a lot to show our loyalty, and improve the relations and opinions of the American people toward us. It'll show that we are truly Americans, because we volunteered despite the kicking around that we got. On the other hand however he says if we all do not volunteer it'll be the other way around. Instead of improving our relations with the other Americans it would make it worse.

ROB BUSCHER: Hayami also met with his cousin's husband Paul Nakadate, one of the leaders in the Fair Play Committee to discuss the draft notice. Stanley's brother Walter remembered their meeting.

WALTER HAYAMI VOICE OVER: Paul had asked Stan to come over and talk with him, so Stan went. When he came back I asked him, "what did he say?" And he said, Paul explained his position... he didn't pressure him at all, in any way. He just told him what they were doing and Stan said... "I kind of agree with them but there are two sides to this... there has to be Paul's side... and also those that go..."

And I have decided to go.” So he was supportive of them, but he said he felt he had to go.

ROB BUSCHER: Hayami reported for his pre-induction physical in May 1944 and became one of the 347 Heart Mountain incarceratedees who were called upon to serve.

ROB BUSCHER: During the final days of the war, Private Hayami and his unit were caught in a firefight near the tiny Tuscan town of Tendola. Pinned down under heavy sniper and machine gun fire, he watched a fellow soldier get shot. As he rushed out from cover to rescue his wounded comrade, Hayami was cut down by a sniper.

ROB BUSCHER: Stanley Hayami would receive the Bronze Star for his bravery in the same battle that wounded his brother, Frank.

ROB BUSCHER: Although he would never have the chance to demonstrate his talents in life, Hayami’s artistic diaries would captivate future generations who study life during the incarceration. In his final diary entry before shipping out, on August 21, 1944, he wondered about his friends and their future.

STANLEY HAYAMI VOICE OVER: Tonight is my last night here in camp. I’m leaving for the Army tomorrow morning. I’m leaving on approximately the same day that I got here some two years ago, August 2, 1942. I remember that day very well - it was hot and dusty when the train pulled in next to the warehouses, we thought

they were to be our barracks. We looked outside and there were a stack of Pomona kids I knew, helping to take care of our baggage! It sure felt funny seeing people you knew after traveling some thousand miles... It'll be fun to see all these people again after years have gone by... I wonder what sort of future scientists and artists they'll make.

ROB BUSCHER: Like so many others of his generation, Hayami never got the chance to find out.

ROB BUSCHER: Years later, a niece and nephew who never knew Stanley during his lifetime would find his diary in a box in the family's garage. It is now held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and a book called *Nisei Son* includes his diary and letters. One of the most famous veterans of the 442nd, the late Senator Daniel Inouye served as Hayami's commanding officer. Inouye offered the following commentary in the book's foreword.

SENATOR DANIEL INOUE VOICE OVER: On a recent visit to the Japanese American National Museum, I saw a photograph of Pvt. Stanley Hayami, a young soldier I remember from so many years ago. It was his warm smile that made him so instantly recognizable. Although Stanley Hayami was from the mainland and I was from Hawaii, we both served in the 2nd Battalion, Company E of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Both of us fought in the Italian campaign to break through the Gothic Line, Germany's last line of defense. In late April of 1945 we were both in the battle to take the town of San Terenzo, during the final days of WWII in Europe... We were all so young and full of hope. Stanley did not live to

make his youthful dreams come true. But his diary lives on as a reminder that what happened then must never happen again.

ROB BUSCHER: The war would also end in Italy for Joe Hayashi, who was killed in the same battle in the town of Tendola. An army dispatch describes his final heroic moments.

ARMY DISPATCH VOICE OVER: On 22 April 1945, attacking the village of Tendola, Private Hayashi maneuvered his squad up a steep, terraced hill to within 100 yards of the enemy. Crawling under intense fire to a hostile machine gun position, he threw a grenade killing one enemy soldier and forcing the other members of the gun crew to surrender. Seeing four enemy machine guns delivering deadly fire upon other elements of his platoon, he threw another grenade, destroying a machine gun nest. He then crawled to the right flank of another machine gun position where he killed four enemy soldiers and forced the others to flee. Attempting to pursue the enemy, he was mortally wounded by a burst of machine pistol fire. The dauntless courage and exemplary leadership of Private Hayashi enabled his company to attain its objective.

ROB BUSCHER: Meanwhile in Germany, members of the Japanese American 522nd Artillery Unit now attached to the Seventh Army had broken through the Siegfried Line sending Nazi forces into a retreat. The 522nd were among the US troops who liberated Dachau concentration camp on April 29 where over 30,000 European Jews were systematically murdered. Former Heart Mountain incarcerated

Clarence Matsumura was one of the soldiers who first discovered the satellite camp.

ROB BUSCHER: Matsumura remembers his first interaction with Lithuanian Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor who was convinced that he was an enemy Japanese soldier. Overwhelmed, Matsumura dropped to his knees and reassured Ganor, through tears:

CLARENCE MATSUMURA VOICE OVER: You are free. We are American Japanese. You are free.

ROB BUSCHER: Though the atrocities of the Nazi death camps are beyond comparison, the impact of liberating Holocaust survivors while their own families were imprisoned in American concentration camps was a lifelong memory for those who lived through it.

ROB BUSCHER: Although the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was heralded for its bravery through several propaganda films and newsreels during the war years, its members were denied, on racist grounds, the highest military commendation - the Congressional Medal of Honor.

ROB BUSCHER: Many military leaders did not submit the names of Nisei soldiers for the Medal of Honor. They were instead considered for the Distinguished Service Cross, a significant award but in this case a consolation prize from white commanders like General Dahlquist, who had often used the Nisei as cannon fodder. Nevertheless, the 442 were acknowledged in a special ceremony in

Washington DC by President Truman upon their return in 1946 after the war had ended.

NEWSREEL PRESIDENT TRUMAN AUDIO EXCERPT: You've fought not only the enemy, but you've fought prejudice and you've won. Keep up that fight and we'll continue to win. To make this great republic stand for just what it's constitution says it stands for: the welfare of all the people, all the time.

ROB BUSCHER: In 1996, Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii inserted an amendment into that year's annual defense bill that called for a review of the 104 Distinguished Service Cross commendations given to Asian American members of the military during World War II to determine whether they deserved an upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

ROB BUSCHER: One of the soldiers reviewed was Joe Hayashi, who received a posthumous service cross.

ROB BUSCHER: Another soldier with Heart Mountain ties posthumously awarded was medic James Okubo, whose family was incarcerated at Heart Mountain. Okubo rescued many soldiers, often putting his own life at risk to do so. At the time, he received the Silver Star because his senior officer did not think Japanese Americans qualified for the Medal of Honor. The citation given for his Distinguished Service Cross elaborates on his acts of heroism.

OKUBO MILITARY CITATION VOICE OVER: On 28 October, under strong enemy fire coming from behind minefields and roadblocks, Technician Fifth Grade Okubo, a medic, crawled 150 yards to within 40 yards of the enemy lines. Two grenades were thrown at him while he left his last covered position to carry back wounded comrades. Under constant barrages of enemy small arms and machine gun fire, he treated 17 men on 28 October and 8 more men on 29 October.

OKUBO MILITARY CITATION VOICE OVER: On 4 November, Technician Fifth Grade Okubo ran 75 yards under grazing machine gun fire and, while exposed to hostile fire directed at him, evacuated and treated a seriously wounded crewman from a burning tank, who otherwise would have died. Technician Fifth Grade James K. Okubo's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

ROB BUSCHER: Okubo was one of the lucky ones who lived through his wartime service, resettling in Detroit where he became a dentist. Although he was killed in a car accident in 1967, Okubo was awarded his medal posthumously from President Clinton in 2000.

ROB BUSCHER: As he presented the medals to the surviving soldiers or their families, Clinton noted what most Japanese Americans had known for years.

BILL CLINTON AUDIO EXCERPT: Rarely had a nation been so well served by a people it had so ill treated. For their numbers and length of service, the Japanese

Americans of the 442d Regimental Combat Team, including the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, became the most decorated unit in American military history. By the end of the war, America's military leaders in Europe all wanted these men under their command. Their motto was "Go for Broke." They risked it all to win it all.

ROB BUSCHER: Many Nisei soldiers also served in the Military Intelligence Service, although they were less recognized in part because the wartime records of Nisei veterans in this branch remained classified until recently. For this reason it is difficult to ascertain the total number of Heart Mountain incarceratedees who served in this branch.

ROB BUSCHER: Among those who did were Harris Matsushige, who would enjoy a brief career as an actor in the postwar era including an extra role in the 1951 film "Go For Broke!" - named after the 442nd's motto, where he acted alongside several other Nisei veterans.

ROB BUSCHER: Another MIS veteran Paul Tsuneishi who was also incarcerated at Heart Mountain went on to become a leading advocate for reconciliation between veterans groups and members of the Fair Play Committee and other resisters. Tsuneishi held leadership positions in the JACL during the postwar era, and helped steer the national organization in a more progressive direction.

PAUL TSUNEISHI RECORDING FROM ABE COLLECTION: I've been a JACL member, I've been Chapter President, District Council member, member of the National Board. My feeling is that JACL must rid itself of its old mentality that honors people that were there at the beginning who believe the JACL's credo: "Greater

Americans in a Greater America," was essentially code word for, "whiter than white." It's that kind of mentality that JACL must lose.

PAUL TSUNEISHI RECORDING FROM ABE COLLECTION: And following its leader, who was then - and for the record, was a member of Army's G-2 Intelligence. And he was a gentleman, who, along with the preponderance of the JACL leadership, said that, "we must cooperate with the government, we must go into the camps." And he had the gall to write a book that said, "They call me Moses." Well, the Moses I know of the Old Testament took his people out of slavery and into freedom. This Moses led us into captivity in the concentration camps, and it's that mentality that we must lose.

PAUL TSUNEISHI RECORDING FROM ABE COLLECTION: I was not going to renew my membership, but the younger membership of my district honored their commitment to the resisters when the chapters of that district, which represents about 25 percent of the national membership of JACL, issued an apology to the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee and the resisters of conscience.

PAUL TSUNEISHI RECORDING FROM ABE COLLECTION: If we're going to be a viable civil rights organization, we have to overturn that old mentality and follow the leadership of those people who will honor a commitment to those people who were my age when I was here at Heart Mountain, when I was nineteen years old, 1-A in the draft, I went voluntarily into the service. Those other young men honored their conscience and the Constitution. And this is something that always comes up in time of war, and it's time for us to close the chapter on that dark part

of our Japanese American history, and help our organization lead us into a multicultural, multiracial society that honors the individual and conscience.

ROB BUSCHER: Although there was much debate about the ways in which Japanese Americans responded to the call to serve during the war years, in the 75 years since the end of the war we have come to realize that there was no single right way to respond.

ROB BUSCHER: Without the veterans who bravely fought on behalf of the country who imprisoned them behind barbed wire, resettlement in the postwar era would likely not have been as successful.

ROB BUSCHER: On the other hand, without individuals like Fred Korematsu or Mitsui Endo who resisted evacuation orders, the Supreme Court would not have been asked to intervene and ultimately rule that the Japanese American incarceration camps were unconstitutional. Likewise, draft resisters among the Fair Play Committee made important contributions to the discourse on citizen obligation in time of war, paving the way for future generations of conscientious objectors.

ROB BUSCHER: These internal divisions within the Japanese American community is yet another scar inflicted by the government that sought to divide and conquer, further destabilizing the community and impeding their ability to collectively organize. Nevertheless, the valor and sacrifice of the approximately 400 Nisei from Heart Mountain who served in combat duty helped guarantee a more favorable resettlement experience for their community, even if many did not live to enjoy it themselves.

ROB BUSCHER: Several non-profit organizations exist today that operate in the spirit of the double victory mission of the Nisei veterans, continuing to share their stories of sacrifice. National Veterans Network is a national coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to educating and enlightening the public about the experience and legacy of Japanese American World War II soldiers. The Go For Broke National Education Center operates a museum located in Los Angeles Little Tokyo where their permanent exhibit titled Defining Courage seeks to inspire new generations to embody the Japanese American veterans' core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility, and patriotism.

ROB BUSCHER: Private Fred Yamamoto's story resurfaced in 2018 when a committee of Japanese American community members petitioned the Palo Alto Middle School that he attended prior to Heart Mountain to rename the school in his honor. Sadly a number of parents successfully argued against it, because Fred shared the surname of Japanese Imperial Navy Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, one of the chief architects of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Although the community organizers were disappointed at the school board's decision, they were glad for the opportunity to educate the public about this important chapter of American history.

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