

DRAFT

April 2, 1943

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The War Department announced today the arrival in San Francisco of approximately 2500 Japanese American soldiers from Hawaii on their way to Mississippi to join the Army's recently organized Japanese American combat team.

Upon arrival, the contingent boarded special trains for Mississippi where they will receive their initial training. For many of them it was their first view of the "Mainland", as well as their first trip on a train.

Of particular interest is the fact that the group is composed entirely of volunteers carefully selected out of over 10,000 applicants.

In Mississippi the Hawaiian contingent will join approximately the same number of United States Mainland Japanese Americans to form the new combat team. This fighting unit will contain the usual components of infantry, field artillery, engineer and medical personnel. In addition to the enlisted personnel many of the officers will be Japanese Americans.

The organization of the Japanese American combat team is part of the program announced by the War Department on January 28, at which time the Secretary of War stated that all loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry should have full opportunity to do their duty as citizens in military service against the enemies of the United States.

Every individual in the Hawaiian contingent was born on American soil and educated in American schools. The party includes 180 students from the University of Hawaii. Some of the men are from the professions - lawyers, physicians, dentists and teachers. Sizeable contributions of

SW 342.18 JAP. AM. - Volunteers
(Hawaii)
F. No. ASW 342.18 Jap. Am. - Publicity

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Bureau of Public Relations

News Division

P A R A P H R A S E

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342.18 ST. Valentine
Hawaii

March 27, 1943.

From: Hq. Western Defense Command & 4th Army

To: bBPR

Reply: SS0328 3-26-43.

Newspapers have learned from Hawaii sources that 2500 American Japanese soldiers may arrive in U. S. for training. Recommend advance factual press story of unit issue from War Department for release after arrival to forestall speculative reports. No pictures or interviews will be permitted in line with troop movement policy at Port Embarkation.

Press Branch
For Action.
3-27-43

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Publicity
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By RL NARS, Date 9-16-93