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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

APR 29 1943

Colonel Wm. P. Scobey
General Staff Executive
Office of Assistant Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Scobey:

Enclosed are some excerpts from a letter from a Nisei soldier to a friend in a relocation center. It is stuff like this that keeps us going in this business of ours.

Sincerely,

E. W. Rowlett

Acting Director

Enclosure

4-29-43



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Excerpt of a letter from a nisei soldier in the U. S. Army to a friend [relocation center.]

"All of which leads me to believe that all of you will be in the army within the next six months, and so you fellows might just as well make up your mind either to find a defense job or volunteer for the army. On the response of the nisei to the mail will depend our future citizens of this country, and certainly everyone who possibly can should do something in times like this. I know that you fellows have taken a hell of a beating but, Bill, I am going to encourage all of you to join the army, because that is the best way to show that we are just as loyal as any group. I believe its un-patriotic for any capable and able-bodied nisei fellow going to school in times like this, when thousands are over in foreign lands giving their lives in the desert of Africa or the steaming jungles of the Solomons. So wonder the Americans are saying that schools shouldn't permit nisei to enter when their own sons are fighting. Can't blame them a bit. It's about time that the nisei quit thinking of their own selfish interests, and do something besides trying to better their own positions. Education is a wonderful thing to have, but when our future status depends on whether we fight for our country it seems to me to be a crime to be wasting time going to school. What the hell good is schooling going to be if, after the war is over, we become a down trodden and servile race as the negroes? Damn it, Bill, it burns me up to see so many nisei talking of going to school in times like this as if schooling and education were all there is to life and living. It isn't and in a way is the least important. Right now its more important that we get in there and fight side by side with fellow Americans, to defend all those things which we have had in the past in spite of prejudice and intolerance and stupidity on the part of some Americans. The issue, Bill, is more than that of personal feelings. Its bigger than any of that, the future of every American of Japanese descent depends on that. For that your sacrifice and mine is but a small one to make. If when the war is over they will be able to walk the streets with heads high as loyal Americans because some gave their lives, I don't believe that that is too much of a sacrifice. It's not noble or idealistic at all. Its only what any patriotic citizen should do. They say 10 out of every 14 able bodied persons between the ages of 18 and 37 will be in the armed forces by the end of this year so a lot of you fellows are going to be in too. So why wait until they drag you in, volunteer!---

Your pal,

Dave