

In reply refer to Initials  
and No.

Op-16-W

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

April 28, 1943

Dear Colonel Scobey:

I am sending you several Honolulu newspaper items which describe the induction of 2,600 volunteers for the Japanese Combat Team.

I am also sending you a 16 mm. film taken in color of the induction ceremonies and street parades in Honolulu. This film was taken by an amateur, and the focus and timing is not perfect, but I am told by our photographers here that it can be utilized by experts for incorporating into commercial news releases and also providing some still photographs. If you will be good enough to pass them along to the Public Relations Officer of the Japanese Combat Teams, I am sure the publicity for the Nisei will be worthwhile, and those in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, will probably be glad to see pictures of their own departure from Hawaii.

Among the numerous letters which I have received from Nisei are several questions regarding the draft board classification of citizens of Japanese ancestry. When it was decided, more than a year ago, to discourage Japanese-Americans from entering the Army, this classification was given all Japanese-Americans who registered. Since that time, however, the Army has adopted its present policy of accepting Japanese-Americans. Yet the 4-C classification remains a reproach to the Nisei who feel that it is now an obsolete vestige of discrimination. I am calling this to your attention because it may have escaped your notice, and you may wish to take steps to remove the rule classifying all Japanese-Americans automatically as 4-C.

I have just finished a very pleasant trip to London where I had the privilege of meeting your brother and having a talk with him. He appears to be in excellent health and spirits and sends his best regards to you. He recalled that, prior to his last visit here, he had lost a lot of weight and then regained part of it. At present, however, his weight remains constant, and his physical condition seems to be excellent. He was most cordial and interested in word from you.

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Mention of your brother reminds me of my own who is charging at the bit to get with a combat outfit. He is determined to be either a Captain or a Sergeant, either one of which he explains to me is able to go overseas at the age of 41. After three years R.O.T.C., long ago, and recently having completed both the basic training for enlisted men and that given in Officer's Training School, he feels fit and able for work in the field. It occurs to me that Major Russell, who is much older and who has not had real Army training, might not be able to accompany the Japanese troops to the African Theater. If this is the case, a Public Relations Officer for the Japanese-Americans may need to be appointed as his successor or at least as his assistant. I don't want to bother you with this, but I am somewhat shocked at my mirror-image's trying to figure out how he can become a Sergeant. Very best regards.

Sincerely yours,

*C. H. Coggins*

C. H. Coggins  
Lieut. Comdr., (MC), USN

Enclosure

Colonel William P. Scobey  
Executive Assistant to the Secretary of War  
General Staff  
Pentagon Building - 4E886  
Arlington, Virginia

# Huge Crowds Bid Aloha To Isle Volunteers

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## 20,000 Attend Ceremonies At Iolani Palace For Inductees

In the presence of one of the largest crowds ever assembled in Honolulu, and certainly the most unique gathering, some 2,800 young Americans of Japanese ancestry were bid goodspeed and aloha at a moving ceremony held yesterday in Iolani palace grounds. Officials present estimated the crowds which jammed into the grounds and overflowed onto King street, at between 15,000 and 20,000 people, predominately of Japanese blood.

### Newly Enlisted Volunteers

The men receiving the formal farewell were the first contingent of American-Japanese volunteers for overseas combat service. Expected to leave the islands soon for training at Camp Shelby, Miss., they were inducted into the Army only a few days ago, and came to Honolulu for the ceremony from Schofield by train, returning immediately afterward to their center.

Some of them had only arrived from the outside islands yesterday morning and were still in civilian dress, but the majority were in uniform—many of them wearing the dress of a soldier for the first time. They carried no arms, but each had his gas mask and in they march to the Palace from the rail

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# Big Crowd Says Aloha To Isle Volunteers

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good station up King street they demonstrated that their ROTC and other previous training in drill had been remembered well. The troops later marched back to the station by way of Hotel street.

## Each Wears A Lei

Each man wore a yellow paper lei, presented by the Honolulu chamber of commerce, but the tremendous crowd that greeted them at the Palace showered them with masses of flowers and boxes and packages of gifts, until all were well-laden for the return trip. They marched under their own officers, most of whom were reservists until recently. Commanding the unit was Lt. Bert Nishimura, who has been on active service here since mid-1941.

When the contingent arrived in the square in front of the Palace, the crowd began closing to around it and soon had infiltrated all positions, so that nearly every man had several civilians packed in around him with leis and presents. From the balcony above, where the speakers were arrayed, the entire Palace grounds suddenly became a sea of closely-packed humanity—the uniforms of the men, the gay dresses of the women, the flowers and—as one observer remarked—"not a blond head in the place."

## Ceremony Starts at 4

The troops arrived earlier than expected, but the ceremony began promptly at 4 p. m. with the U. S. coast artillery band playing a spirited introduction. Loud-speakers had been rigged by the Army Signal Corps to carry the addresses, and speakers could be clearly heard above the uproar of traffic jams on King street.

When the ceremony started, military police requested the civilians to move out of the ranks and leave the boys in the center, but this proved impossible because of the pressure, so some 2,800 soldiers executed simple movements—coming to attention and standing at ease—under considerable difficulty. It was a quiet crowd, however, and though highly charged with emotion and subtle drama, there were no hysterics or other outward manifestations.

Wives, sweethearts, parents, children, brothers and sisters, friends and relatives had come to say goodbye to the dark-skinned soldiers, and among them was even a scattering of civilians of other races, as well as curious soldiers and sailors. They climbed onto the roofs of buildings on the grounds and swarmed up into the trees. A light mist fell during part of the ceremony, but not enough to make the crowd uncomfortable.

## Gen. Wells Speaks

After the Royal Hawaiian band had played "Hawaii Ponoi," Brig. Gen. Briant H. Wells, chairman of the chamber's Army-Navy committee, opened the ceremony as

a better place to live in. We want you to be glad to get home to a place that was worth fighting for. We will do our best to make and keep Hawaii that kind of a place.

"When you come home there will be an important job waiting for you; a job that will be waiting for all of our young men who go to this war. It will be as important as the job they do at the front. They are going to fight to save Hawaii and the rest of our country and the liberty-loving peoples of all the world. After they have done that it will be their job to do their part in running the world they have saved.

"The young men who are going away to this war are the ones upon whom we must count to take the helm in the days that follow war. They are the men upon whom will fall the leadership of their generation. Their experience as fighting men will give them new recognition of civic responsibility, for they will know that a country that is worth fighting for is a country worth working for.

"We won't say good-bye to you today, only aloha, for we will be expecting you home again. May that day come soon. Until it does, you may rest easy in your minds about the loved ones you are leaving behind. We will take good care of them for you."

## Vitousek Speaks

Roy A. Vitousek, speaker of the House, addressed the assembly briefly, pointing out that after war began the Japanese people of Hawaii did not shirk or sulk because they were not permitted to bear arms, but volunteered for any kind of service and did a thorough job. Now they had their opportunity to serve as "full-fledged nephews of Uncle Sam." The people of Hawaii had thus become even more amalgamated, and the Territory felt that in this particular problem "we lead all America."

Harold W. Rice, president of the Senate, observed that he had never seen a crowd in Hawaii "as large as this or as closely-knit." He wished the volunteers aloha from the House and Senate "from the bottom of our heart," and hoped that wherever they go, or wherever they see the enemy, "you'll give 'em hell and make them know that you fellows from Hawaii are tough!"

Charles R. Hemenway, speaking next, declared this was a day Hawaii would always remember. "We Americans are not a homogeneous people," he said. "But we are bound together by a belief in our way of life, and our way of life in Hawaii may well become a pattern for the whole country." The volunteers, he said, do not ask or observe greater credit than other soldiers who fight as volunteers, either in combat or at home, and had justified Hawaii's trust and confidence.

## Will Make History

Ernest K. Kai, secretary of the

Chairman by emphasizing the fact that these troops were all volunteers, not inductees.

Territory said that it was only



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processes had been set aside, he said, possibly because the drafted troops of Japanese ancestry who went to Camp McCoy last year had proved such a credit to the Territory and had served so well that the Army wanted more men of the same type.

He characterized the gathering as an historic occasion in Hawaii's history, pointing out that it had been inspired by a suggestion from Governor Stainback.

The Rev. Henry P. Judd delivered the invocation.

In a paternal address to the new soldiers, Mayor Lester Patrie of Honolulu told them there would be an "important job" waiting them when they come home from the war, the job of doing their part in running the world they are going out to save.

"The people of Honolulu know that you are going to war because you cherish your country and your homes and your fellow Americans, and are willing to fight for them," he said. "We know that you realize that you are doing just what millions of other young Americans are doing today—offering your lives to your homeland because you feel that it is the right thing to do."

**No Time for Heroics**

"This is no time for heroics, and you are not the kind of men who enjoy heroics. We are sure that you much prefer to start out in the Army as soldiers who have a job to do and who have the will to do it, no matter what the cost may be to yourselves."

"This will be the first trip away from the Islands for many of you. You will be thrown among people who know very little about Hawaii and the little that most of them think they know will be wrong. The opportunity will be two-fold for you to serve this homeland that you love. You will fight to save it from our country's enemies, and you can, if you will, win new friends for it among our fellow Americans from other parts of the United States . . ."

"There is sometimes a tendency, when one is young and among strange people far away from home, to feel that what he does and says and how he acts does not matter. I don't have to tell you men how wrong that is. Your parents, your friends and your home community will be judged by your actions. We want you to give a good account of us here at home and we are sure you will do so."

"You will run into many strange peoples before you come back to Hawaii. Not all of them will be in foreign lands. Our own vast country can supply a wide variety. It will be helpful to remember that the things they say and do which may seem queer to you are natural to them, and so are not funny from their viewpoint. Avoid making fun of someone who doesn't do things your way. Your own ways will probably be just as strange to him . . ."

**Won't Forget Volunteers**

"We are not going to forget you while you are away. We will go right on doing all that we can in our part in the war. And we will go right on trying to make Hawaii

Make History  
K. Kai, secretary of the said that it was only these men take their place in the Army to fight America's enemies. "I know well that sacrifices have been made by you and your families so that you may go to war, and will continue to be made . . . You are on the threshold of making history—this is your chance to make it live through the years and in the pride of your children . . . You will come through this with flying colors. You have demonstrated your faith in the future of Hawaii . . ."

Answering for the volunteers was Toshi Ansal, former member of the Maui county board of supervisors. "We volunteers," he said, "have assembled and have started basic training. The sudden change from civilian life has been new to us but we are adjusting ourselves rapidly and trying to become soldiers. This is the thing we have always wanted to do, and it meant very much to all of us when the opportunity arrived. Thank you all. We as Americans feel it to be an honor to pick up arms and fight for our homes, our country and our freedom."

An extemporaneous speaker who had not been originally scheduled on the program was Robert Horton, representing the Department of the Interior. Pointing out that Americans have always fought for their own kind of government, he said it was one to be proud of. "I see Japanese people here," he said. "I don't know much about the Japanese, but I know you are American soldiers. You realize that this is the best form of government. We have no Mitsuis and Mitsubishi's here to tell their puppets what to do. You are men and individuals. You have freedom. Go out and fight for it!"

has designed an

# 2,600 NEW U.S. SOLDIERS GET PUBLIC ALOHA

## Members of New AJA Combat Team Feted At Ceremony Here

By L. NAKATSUKA

Twenty six hundred American doughboys of Japanese ancestry—week old volunteer inductees of an army combat team—became Hawaii's favorite sons Sunday.

Coinciding with their army debut, they were given a rousing sendoff by 15,000 well wishers who thronged Iolani palace grounds for three hours Sunday afternoon.

The community turned out en masse, predominantly residents of Japanese ancestry, to demonstrate its good will and faith in the American-Japanese youths as they marched to war.

Stirring music, inspiring addresses of confidence and a great, enthusiastic crowd, all combined for the memorable occasion.

### Give City a Thrill

The boys in turn gave Honolulu, and all Hawaii, its greatest thrill in many a year. They took over the city for a day and won the hearts of the people.

They treated Honolulu to its first parade since the war.

It was a long parade covering many blocks, which started at Iwilei, where they had arrived by train from Schofield Barracks, and was climaxed with the farewell ceremonies at Iolani palace.

It was not a spectacular parade, but more an event of individual personalities for the spectators who strained and struggled in the surging crowd to catch a glimpse of their son, their brother, sweetheart or friend for possibly the last time before their departure to the mainland.

Now stationed at Schofield, the volunteers will leave soon for combat training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

### Thousands Watch

Led by a coast artillery band, they marched in columns of fours on Hotel St., turning makai into Richards St. and on along King St. before they swung into the palace grounds.

Thousands jammed the sidewalks at the entrance and thousands more filled the palace grounds.

The crowd that came to do them honor, estimated at 15,000 to 17,000, was believed to be the largest ever to assemble at Iolani palace in a decade, at any rate, since President Roosevelt visited here in July, 1934. Late comers flowed into King St.

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The soldiers formed into a solid khaki square in front of the palace steps, while University of Hawaii coeds and others placed paper leis, provided by the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, on their shoulders, and friends piled gifts upon them.

Boys from every island, from practically every dock and corner of the territory, were represented in the group.

### Others Join Group

In addition to the 2,600 volunteers, there were a few hundred other American-Japanese soldiers who had been transferred to the combat unit from an engineer's unit.

From the speaker's platform on the third floor of the palace, Maj. Gen. Briant H. Wells, USA, re-

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**ALOHA TO VOLUNTEERS:** A solid sea of khaki uniforms is caught in this photo, taken Sunday afternoon at Iolani palace grounds where 1,600 American-Japanese volunteers were tendered an aloha tribute by the community. Fifteen thousand spectators jammed the palace grounds to congratulate the combat team, soon to leave for Camp Shelby, Miss., for training for overseas duty.—Star-Bulletin photo.

## AJA Soldiers Given Aloha

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hired, chairman of the chamber's army and navy committee which arranged the program, opened the program.

The ceremonies started officially at 4 p. m., the Royal Hawaiian glee club singing the Hawaiian anthem.

Gen. Wells, congratulating the volunteers and citing the excellent record made by AJA troops formerly at Camp McCoy and now at Camp Shelby, said their eagerness to volunteer should convince "doubting Thomases" of the loyalty of American-Japanese to the United States.

Initiated by Governor

The aloha ceremony, he said, was initiated by Governor Stainback.

Speakers who commended the volunteers included Mayor Petrie, Rep. Roy A. Vitousek, speaker of the house; Senator Harold W. Rice, president of the senate; C. R. Hemmenway, representing the business community; Ernest K. Kai, secretary of the territory, and Robert W. Horton of Washington, D. C., special assistant to Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Toshio Ansal, former Maui supervisor, responded for the volunteers by thanking their friends for the expressions of confidence, and pledged the combat unit's determination "to pick up arms and fight for our homes, our country and our freedom."

Mayor Petrie told the volunteers, "I know you young men well enough to realize that you don't want a fuss made over you. This is no time for heroics and you are not the kind of men who enjoy heroics."

Mr. Vitousek said the AJA volunteers have vindicated the liberal

community. Ernest K. Kai, secretary of the territory, and Robert W. Horton of Washington, D. C., special assistant to Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes.

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Mr. Vitousek said the AJA volunteers "have vindicated the liberal policies of this territory regarding racial matters. You have shown that the peoples of these islands, although of many varied racial strains, are amalgamated as one."

Senator Rice exhorted them to give the enemy "hell," and in the same line of thought, Mr. Horton, a special speaker not originally listed on the program, told the volunteers to fight to kill for democracy's sake.

Mr. Kai extended Governor Stainback's congratulations and said it was only right that American-Japanese be permitted to take up arms along with other Americans to fight their common enemy.

"You do not ask nor do you deserve greater credit or praise," Mr. Hemmenway said, "than the thousands of other volunteers for this service who must be content to continue to serve at home."

From the palace grounds, the volunteers marched through downtown on Hotel St. to Iwilei, thence to Schofield.



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April 12, 1943

Dear Mr. Farrington:

Thank you for your letter of April 7 with the attached clippings from the Honolulu newspapers pertaining to the Japanese American volunteers. Naturally, I am pleased to know of the great interest manifested in the Army's program for using Japanese Americans by the Hawaiian Japanese residents.

In accordance with your request I have asked our Bureau of Public Relations to put your name on their mailing list for all War Department press releases pertaining to Hawaiian Japanese Americans.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY  
John J. McCloy

The Honorable J. R. Farrington  
Delegate from Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

CAEW:KPS:MDH

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L. K. ...

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J. R. FARRINGTON  
DELEGATE FROM HAWAII

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D. C.

April 7, 1943

Hon. John J. McCloy,  
The Assistant Secretary of War,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

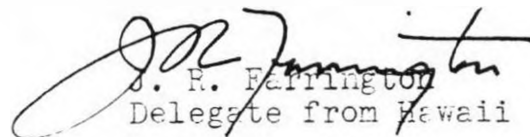
I have received the attached clip-  
pings from the newspapers of Honolulu, telling  
of the community ceremonies conducted in Iolani  
Palace grounds for the Americans of Japanese  
ancestry who had volunteered their services to  
the United States Army.

In view of your active interest in  
fostering the policy that brought this about,  
I am sure you will be very much interested in  
the enthusiastic manner in which it has been  
very generally accepted throughout the Islands.

I would greatly appreciate anything  
that may be done by yourself and others concerned  
to keep me informed as to the progress of this  
general program.

I thought your talk to the new Repub-  
lican members of Congress last night was intensely  
interesting and believe that all others there  
shared this sentiment.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. R. Farrington  
Delegate from Hawaii

JRF:MT