

342.18 J. A. COMMENTS

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Jap-American Soldiers

HIGH EXECUTIVES of the War Department are proud of the way in which Japanese-American soldiers have acquitted in the role of American patriots and done a good job in the Army.

Existing American-born Japanese in the U. S. Army will frankly be experimented, and many old-line soldiers were very skeptical. However, Undersecretary of War Patterson and Assistant Secretary Jack McCloy insisted that they be given a chance. The performance of Japanese-American troops in battle has more than justified this confidence in them.

Reports from Italy pay tribute to the bravery of the 442nd Central Postal Directory Battalion which was under heavy fire. Most of its men were recruited from Hawaii. They fought with great heroism and the casualty lists were very heavy.

When Undersecretary of War Patterson was in the Southwest Pacific not long ago, Gen. Omar Bradley asked him to meet his intelligence unit. Patterson stepped into the intelligence tent and there met his grinning Japs. They were not soldiers, but Hawaiian-born, and were entrusted with the vitally important job of translating intelligence information picked up from the enemy.

The Japanese-Americans were all carefully investigated before

they enter the Army, but in no case has one of them, after entering the Army, betrayed trust.

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