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Editorial from PACIFIC CITIZEN, December 11, 1943:

Contradictions in Policy

Official policy regarding the utilization of Japanese manpower in military and civilian service in the nation's war effort has been most notable by its contradictions.

Although the War Department is proud of the combat record of the Japanese American battalion from Hawaii, and while a hardhitting combat team of volunteers is in training in the United States, Japanese Americans are not being drafted at present and are still classified as 4-C in selective service. While high military officials moot the question whether or not the draft will be reinstated for men of Japanese ancestry, a large, but undisclosed, number of Japanese Americans are today at battle stations on the Pacific front from the Aleutians to New Guinea and beyond. A Japanese American soldier from Texas who fought in the defense of Java is now in a Japanese prison camp, while a nisei sergeant participated in the invasion of North Africa.

The Army Air Forces will not accept Japanese Americans for training, but there is Sgt. Ben Kuroki of the Eighth Army Air Force, a turret gunner who has won a Distinguished Flying Cross with an oak-leaf cluster and an Air Medal with three clusters. And there was the nisei sergeant with the Air Forces in the defense of Bataan, who is today somewhere with MacArthur on the Pacific front.

It is reported that the Navy Department is hesitant about the recruiting of Japanese American seamen for the merchant marine, and the U. S. Maritime Training School is turning down Japanese American volunteers, but several hundred Americans of Japanese ancestry are today sailing in convoys from Murmansk to Rio. Some of these seamen have been torpedoed off Malta and attacked off North Africa, but are going back to sea.

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P. Adventure Service

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Classification (Japanese)