

Proving Their Patriotism



ACTIVITY: *Depicted in the film is President Harry Truman (1945–52) telling Japanese American soldiers, who served in Europe during World War II, the following: “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice, and you’ve won.” Write a newspaper article that incorporates this quote as well as some of the quotes below. What would you title the article?*

“Japanese Americans in the Pacific War had to fight three wars. One was obviously the enemy. And discrimination at home. But we in the MIS had to fight another war to prove ourselves in battle, because we were always suspect of our loyalty.”

Col. (Ret.) Thomas Sakamoto
First Language Class
Military Intelligence Service
U.S. Army, 1941-69

“They often say, ‘You’re fighting your fatherland,’ you know. I said, ‘We’re not fighting our fatherland. We’re fighting the Japanese, our enemy, you know, of the United States.’”

George Kanegai
Military Intelligence Service
U.S. Army, 1941-45; 1947-62

“I may look like a Japanese but I was not a Japanese by birth. I was an American by birth. And my upbringing and my thinking was typical American, not typical Japanese.”

Col. (Ret.) Harry Fukuhara
Military Intelligence Service
U.S. Army, 1942-71

“This is our country. Japan is not our country. No matter how you look at it, you have to fight for your country. It doesn’t matter who the enemy is.”

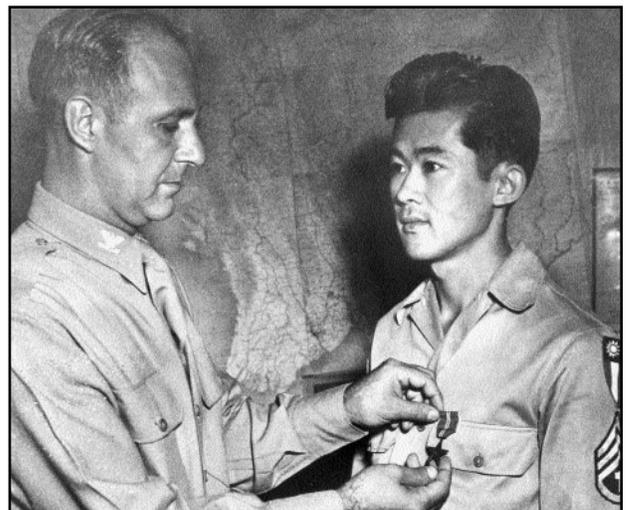
Rusty Kimura
Military Intelligence Service
U.S. Army, 1942-47

“The nisei put their hearts into this and they were fighting with their hearts and minds. It was a personal battle to prove their own loyalty, and it was a personal battle to win the war.”

James McNaughton, Ph.D.
U.S. Army Historian

“Patriotism is a love of country and a willingness to stand up and be counted. It doesn’t mean that one must give his life. It doesn’t mean that one must stand in harm’s way. But it means that he must believe in this land.”

Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii)
442nd Regimental Combat Team
U.S. Army, 1943-47
Medal of Honor recipient



COL. G.F. BLUNDA, COMMANDING OFFICER OF SEATIC, AWARDING T/3 HENRY KUWAHARA WITH THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL, NEW DELHI, INDIA. (PHOTO: COURTESY OF NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.)