

Nisei Combat Unit Has Highest I.Q. in U.S. Army, Says Writer

Japanese Americans at Camp Shelby Will Make Good Despite All Trials, Outfit Receiving Excellent Training, Declares Hawaiian Newspaperman

HONOLULU, T. H. — The all-nisei 442nd combat team at Camp Shelby, Miss., can probably boast the highest IQ of any unit in the United States army, according to John Terry in one of a series of articles to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

"High officials in the war department told us that before we left Washington for Camp Shelby, and it was repeated to us many times in camp by officers who pointed to the swift progress made by the 442nd in training to date," declared Terry, who spent one week with the boys at Shelby.

"Good soldiers are not made out of stupid material, and the material in the 442nd apparently is unequalled, intellectually, anywhere in the army."

Terry brought back two dominant impressions from Shelby:

The 442nd Combat Team will make good despite all trials, of which battle will not necessarily be the hardest.

The combat team is receiving excellent training.

On the first point, Terry pointed out that 442nd combat team members are volunteers. "They are American citizens, obviously proud of that intelligence, and quick to resent any slur, as fights have illustrated on a number of occasions.

"Furthermore, over and beyond the normal loyalties of a Caucasian citizen whose place is secure and unquestioned, these men feel they have to furnish striking proof of their Americanism, and that the battlefield offers them that opportunity.

"Time after time at Camp Shelby, AJAs of the 442nd told us of their impatience to get through with the grind of training and go into battle. They were not talking heroics. Some expressed fears that delays of one kind or another might keep them out of combat until it is too late. . . . these men

will succeed because they are grimly determined not to fail."

The thoroughness of the military training given the combat team boys is impressive, says Terry.

"To the parents of these boys that fact should be a source of comfort," he writes. "There will be casualties when the combat team goes into action, but there will be no needless waste of life. These men are not being trained like robots for cannon fodder. After following them in the field, we know."

Senior officers of the combat team are "without exception" enthusiastic about their men, says Terry.

"These officers all seem fully aware of the implications of the experiment which the 442nd represents, including the value that a brilliant combat record will have as psychological material to throw back at Tokyo over the radio."

Some friction was evident in the beginning between Hawaii and mainland AJAs in the combat team, Terry noted.

"One cause of friction was the high proportion of non-commissioned ranks held by mainland AJAs at Camp Shelby at the time when the Hawaii group arrived. The islanders had expected to serve under corporals and sergeants who were also from Hawaii.

"The army, however, had to have a cadre of NCOs around which to build their organization, and the mainlanders were already in camp and available. Meanwhile normal adjustments are taking place. Current training activities are designed in part to determine what men have qualities of leadership. Men who meet the test will be recognized and will win NCO stripes. Every man in the combat team has a chance . . .

"A growing mutual respect is replacing the early consciousness of differences. Daily association, a recognition of common problems

and a common purpose, together with a more equitable distribution of NCO stripes are influences leading to a more unified spirit. Individual friendships are forming without regard to places of origin."

John Terry's articles to the Star-Bulletin, numbering 15 in all, will be published soon in booklet form, that newspaper has announced.