

Summary of Treatment of Japanese- American Soldiers During World War II

1. Treatment of Japanese American Soldiers Before Japan's Attack on Pearl Harbor

- Japanese American men were volunteering or being drafted into the United States Army on the same basis as all Americans

2. Treatment of Japanese American Soldiers After Japan's Attack on Pearl Harbor

- Immediately after Pearl Harbor, there was a period of confusion within the War Department (today's Department of Defense) because the War Department did not come out with a uniform policy.
- There were about 4,000 Japanese American soldiers in the U.S. Army serving in the Mainland and Hawaii at that time
- Treatment of Japanese American soldiers depended upon their commanding officers and included:
 - Having their weapons taken away and put to menial work
 - Being discharged outright
 - At the same time, Japanese American men were still getting their draft notices

3. 1942

Military	Civilians
<p>The Army starts to segregate Japanese American soldiers from non-Nikkei soldiers</p> <p>Nikkei soldiers are prevented from returning to the West Coast to help their families enter into the camps</p> <p>June: War Department & Selective Service stop inducting Japanese American men into the U.S. Army and categorize them as IV-C, aliens unacceptable for service</p> <p>War Department also forms the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Minneapolis.</p>	<p>Most Japanese Americans living on the West Coast have been uprooted and sent to temporary "assembly" centers before being shipped off to U.S. style concentration camps</p>

4. Hawaii After Pearl Harbor

- Former Hawaii Territorial Guards, who are discharged, and other Nikkei volunteers form the Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV)
- Approximately, 2,000 Nikkei soldiers in the 298th & 299th infantry regiment

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- May 1942: Members from the VVV, 298th & 299th formed into special Hawaiian Provisional Infantry Battalion and shipped to Mainland
- June 5, 1942: The 1,432 Nikkei soldiers are activated as 100th Infantry Battalion
- Jan 31, 1943: The VVV formally disbands
- Aug 21, 1943: 100th shipped out for battle to North Africa where they would distinguish themselves and pave the way for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team

5. 1943

- Feb 1: President Roosevelt announces the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
 - Part of the reason was for propaganda purposes
 - Shortage of manpower
- Japanese American soldiers, who had been inducted into the Army before Pearl Harbor and who are assigned to ship overseas, are not allowed to visit their imprisoned families in War Relocation Authority camps if the camps are in California. Policy is changed in April 1943.
- The War Department and the War Relocation Authority pass out a separate but similarly worded loyalty questionnaire.
- Any Japanese American soldier, whose loyalty towards the U.S. is questionable, is transferred to the War Department Special Organization

6. The Draft

- January 21, 1944, the draft is re-instituted for Japanese American men
- 121 Japanese American soldiers who had been drafted prior to Pearl Harbor and whose loyalties were "suspect" were sent to a War Department Special Organization
- These 121 soldiers and other soldiers who came under "suspicion" were then transferred to the 525th, a special Quartermaster Company
- This 525th Quartermaster Company would become the 1800th General Engineering Service Battalion's Company B

7. Mainland vs. Hawaii

Mainland

Of 23,606 eligible Nikkei men, 1,256 volunteer and roughly 800 are accepted

Reason for low turnout:

Nikkei men were asked to volunteer from within U.S. style concentration camps where they and their families are being held.

Added insult was the controversial loyalty questionnaire

Hawaii

Close to 10,000 Nikkei men volunteer and an estimated 2,600 accepted

Reason for high turnout:

Pearl Harbor, their own territory, was attacked. They may have lost friends and family members, and were, thus, eager to go to battle