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Japanese American internment in Arkansas

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### Newspaper article, "These Were American Soldiers," addition to General Comment by project director

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From the,  
Arkansas Gazette of  
November 2, 1944

**These Were American Soldiers.**

Four American soldiers who served in the Italian campaign are shown in an Associated Press news picture. One lost a leg at Cassino. Another lost his right eye and an arm near Rome. Another lost an arm at Anzio.

These Americans soldiers are Capt. Kiyoshi Kuramoto, Sgt. Robert Y. Oda, and Pvts. Kenneth Otagaki and Tamotsu Shimizu. They are members of the 100th United States Infantry Battalion, which was the first group of Nisei (nee-say) or Americans of Japanese descent, too take part in active combat in this war.

The 100th Infantry Battalion has a fine record, which is discussed in "Nisei in Uniform." The nucleus of the organization was composed of men from two Hawaiian infantry regiments of the National Guard. A number of the guardsmen had taken part in the defense of the Honolulu area during the Japanese attack of December 7, 1941. Two members of the battalion captured the first Japanese prisoner taken by the United States in World War II. The battalion was sent to this country for training, and then transferred to Africa. It took part in the invasion of Italy at Salerno. Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark conferred upon it the War Department's distinguished unit citation for its performance at Salseta and Belvedere.

Americanism, as these Nisei show, is a matter of the spirit. The 100th Battalion fights in defense of its country, the United States, as other Americans fight for the same reason. Our flag means home and a way of life to the Nisei who are willing to battle for it.