

Priv. Glenn Lee Smith, USMC

Private Glenn Lee Smith, USMC
Public Relations Section
Building 24 A 3
Camp Pendleton
Oceanside, California



1

Commander Jess Edington
Hood River American Legion Post
Hood River, Oregon

Public Relations Section
Building 24 A 3
Camp Pendleton
Oceanside, California

4 December 1944

Commander Jess Edington
Hood River Post
Hood River, Oregon

Dear Sir;

I am writing you to express my opinion and the opinion of several of the Marines stationed here at Camp Pendleton with me upon your Post's action in taking from your war memorial the name of or names of several Japanese-Americans. I think it about time that some of the veterans of this war inform the American Legion how they stand.

For my own part, I served overseas with the British Eighth Army during its campaigns in North Africa and Sicily as a volunteer ambulance driver and stretcher bearer. I returned a year ago and joined the Marines within three months of the day that I landed in New York. Earlier I had been a student at the University of Washington for three years and went to school with many Japanese students. I'm a married man and expecting to be a father very soon. I only recount this to show you that I am a pretty typical American and have a moderate amount of experience under my belt.

The fact is, that the announcement in the paper of your Post's action on Japanese Americans made me deeply ashamed that such an organization as yours with its prestige and responsibility could perpetrate such a completely bigoted and stupidly sanctimonious act. It is not the first time that your organization has been guilty of such a faux pas. Do you honestly believe that you will be able to get the veterans of this war to join your organization as their representative when you follow a course which violates the very principles which allegedly are being fought

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for by millions of American men and women?

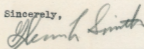
While I was in North Africa, I came in contact with a battalion of Japanese Americans. Their record was superb. They had almost 80% wearing the Purple Heart, several Silver Stars and since its formation there had not been a single case of desertion or even absence without leave. Tie that if you can!

We realize that precautions have to be taken. But is ^Tbeing fair-minded to stoop to petty recrimination against men who have proven their loyalty.

Yours is a classic example of the reactionary type of thought which is going to lead us into another war. From the comfort of your Post meeting hall you are being so presumptuous as to take on the problems that involve all of us and come up with a blundering attempt to make the loyal Japanese Americans the well-known "goat"

I suggest that you think it over and attempt to review the whole thing impartially. If we continue to thrive on hate and suspicion we are thwarting our every chance for the kind of world I want to bring my family up in.

Sincerely,



Glenn Lee Smith, Private(USMCR)

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