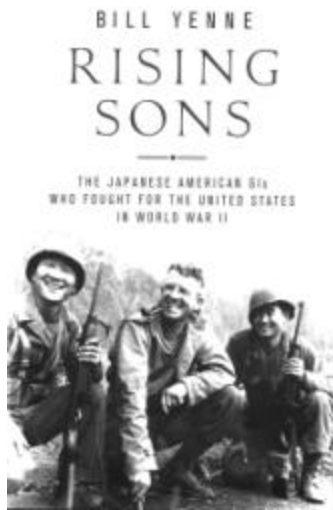


BOOK REVIEW

RISING SONS: The Japanese American GIs Who Fought for the United States in World War II By Bill Yenne 2007 – Thos Dunne Books, St Martin's Press

"As sons set-off to war, so many mothers and fathers told them, live if you can, die if you must, but fight always with honor, and never, ever bring shame on your family or your country. Rarely has a nation been so well served by a people it so ill-treated."
PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, June 2000



Despite the fact that they and their families had been forced into internment camps, thousands of the American sons of Japanese immigrants responded by volunteering to serve in the U.S. armed forces during WWII. As military historian Bill Yenne writes, "It was their country, and they wanted to serve, just like anyone else their age. These young Japanese

Americans thought of themselves as Americans. and they wanted to prove it.

Most of these young Japanese Americans served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and its component 100th Infantry Battalion. For its size and length of service, the 442nd was the most decorated in the history of the U.S. army. The Japanese American GIs of the 442nd eventually earned 21 Medals of Honor and 9,486 Purple Hearts, while their outfit was awarded 8 Presidential Unit Citations.

Rising Sons brings to light the stories of these young men who faced down discrimination to serve their country. Some of these sons of Japanese immigrants came from Hawaii, where they had witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor firsthand, and they responded like most Americans by signing up to serve. Most of the Japanese Americans served in Italy and France in the terrible and difficult battles at Anzio and Cassino, in the Vosges Mountains, and on the Gothic Line. Detached from the regiment for service in southern Germany, the 442nd's artillery battalion had the ironic distinction of being one of the American units involved in the liberation of Dachau. Japanese Americans also proved themselves invaluable in the Pacific serving in the Military Intelligence Service or in the infamous special-ops commando team known as Merrill's Marauders.

Weaving together impeccable research with vivid firsthand accounts from surviving veterans, Bill Yenne recounts the incredible stories of the Japanese American soldiers who fought so bravely in World

War II, men who fought so bravely in World War II, men who were willing to lay down their lives for a country they were uncertain would ever accept them again. Their courageous actions proved that they, too, were true members of America's Greatest Generation.

BILL YENNE is the author of more than two dozen books on military and historical topics. *He Wall Street Journal* recently called his *Indian Wars: The Campaign for the American West* "splendid" and went on to say that it "has the rare quality of being both an excellent reference work and a pleasure to read." His other works include *The American Aircraft Factory in World War II: Operation Cobra and the great Offensive: Sixty Days That Changed the Course of World War II*; *Aces: True Stories of Victory and Valor in the Skies of World War II*; *Black '41: The West Point Class of 1941 and the American Triumph in World War II*, and *the History of the U.S. Air Force*. He is a member of the American Aviation Historical Society and is a regular contributor to *International Air Power Review*. He worked with the legendary U.S. Air Force commander General Curtis E. LeMay to produce *Superfortress: The B-29 and American Airpower in World War II*. He lives in San Francisco.

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