



**GO FOR BROKE**

*Bulletin*

**442ND VETERANS CLUB**

VOL. XLVI

No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 1995

*52<sup>nd</sup>  
and  
looking ahead...*



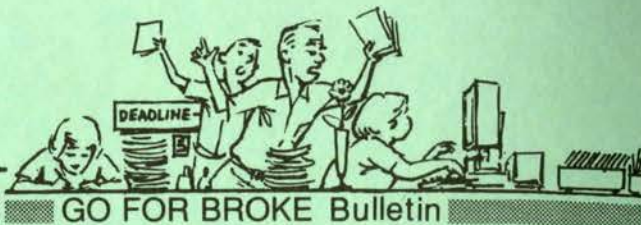




442ND OFFICERS

and

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GO FOR BROKE Bulletin

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by **HENRY KUNIYUKI**

The 442nd Veterans Club 52nd Anniversary Memorial Service and Annual Banquet were successfully concluded on March 25, 1995. Participation at the Memorial Service held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific totaled four hundred members and guests, according to Assistant Director DOUGLAS MINER of the Cemetery at Punchbowl. Judge FRANK TAKAO of 171st Chapter served as the Master of Ceremonies. The presentation of the Colors were by select troops of 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry (USAR). The 111th Army, National Guard played the National Anthem and Hawaii Pono' I. NADINE MATSUDA, 442nd Yonsei did well in leading the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance. We were proud to have our own Chaplain, the Reverend ERNEST UNO of 3rd HQ Chapter give the invocation. Messages from Senator DANIEL K. INOUE and Governor BENJAMIN CAYETANO were read by the President, followed by a welcome speech by the Assistant Director of the National Cemetery. Former prisoner-of-war, WILLIAM PATY, gave an excellent memorial address. The complete text of his memorial address is published in this issue at the request of several participants at the Memorial Service. Mr. PATY's address was followed by wreath presentations by General Chairman JOE OBAYASHI (522-B Chapter) and Memorial Service Chairman CLAUDE TAKEKAWA (171st Chapter), both representing the 442nd Veterans Club. The Sons and Daughters Chapter wreath was presented by Chapter President ALAN KUBOTA and Go For Broke Bulletin Editor EDWIN GOTO. The 442nd Choral Group's beautiful renditions of "Let There be Peace on Earth," "Kanaka Wai Wai," and "Bless This House," were much appreciated by the audience. The traditional rifle volley and the

sounding of the tapes concluded the Memorial Service, with Bishop YOSHIKI FUJITANI of Honpa Hongwanji Mission intoning the benediction. Volunteer members of the Sons and Daughters Chapter did a fine job as usual, serving as ushers and reception hosts. We were blessed with Hawaiian sunshine for the Memorial Service. The Board of Directors of the 442nd Veterans Club congratulates the Memorial Service Committee for the excellent program honoring our war dead and other 442nd members who are no longer with us.

The 52nd Anniversary Banquet held on Saturday evening, March 25, 1995 at the Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom was also an unqualified success, thanks to the able leadership of General Chairman JOE OBAYASHI and Banquet Chairman EDWARD ICHIYAMA of 522nd Artillery Chapters. Participation totaled 630 plus members and guests. "50th Anniversary of the End of World War II" was the theme selected for the Annual Banquet. ED ICHIYAMA served as the Master of Ceremonies, in the absence of PAT MORITA who was unable to be present due to Academy Awards commitments.

In conformance with the 442nd Veterans Club By-Laws, and as set forth in the notice of annual meeting, a brief business meeting, a brief business session was conducted by the President to formally establish the "Executive Committee" of the 442nd Veterans Club. The Executive Committee of the Club has been in existence for many years, but so far as we can determine, it has never been given formal recognition. Because of the importance and need to have an Executive Committee, plus questions recently raised concerning its nature and scope of authority, the Board of Directors decided to recommend to the general membership that an Executive Committee be specifically established in the By-Laws of the Club. According to the resolution formally adopted by the general membership present at the business session, the officers, including the Immediate Past President of the Corporation, the Chairpersons of the respective standing committees, the Chaplain, the Historian, and the Legal Counsel will consti-



tute the Executive Committee. The resolution, as prepared and researched by our Legal Counsel BOB KATAYAMA, authorizes the Executive Committee to have general supervision of the affairs of the Corporation between Board of Director business meetings. The Executive Committee will make recommendations to the Board, and perform such other duties as are specified by the Board or By-Laws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Board and none of its action shall conflict with any action taken by the Board of Directors.

After the brief business session, the gala banquet commenced on schedule at 6:30 PM, with the Master of Ceremonies regaling guests with ethnic stories. The Presentation of the Colors, the playing of the Star Spangled Banner and Hawaii Pono I by the 111th Army Band were an appropriate opening ceremony. The Color Guard, consisting of MITSURU KUNIHIRO, 522-B Chapter; STANLEY SAKAI and MITSUO SAKAMOTO, 522-C Chapter, and IWA O YOKOOJI, 171st Chapter, after being rightfully out-of-practice these past many years, amused the audience with unintentional military movement errors. Chaplain ERNEST UNO prefaced his invocation by announcing the untimely death of our former 442nd RCT's Personnel Officer, Captain HOWARD F. RIEBESELL on March 18, 1995. His Memorial Service eulogy is published in this issue of the Bulletin.

ED KANAYA of the 232nd Engineers Chapter rendered a beautiful Lord's Prayer on his flute after the Chaplain's invocation.

A splendid served dinner of Thai BBQ chicken and filet of mahimahi was garnished with health individual servings of giant strawberries and raspberries, graciously donated by ED ICHIYAMA's good buddy, MANABI HIRASAKI of Oxnard, California. MANABI HIRASAKI, a member of 522-C Chapter, has the reputation as the "Strawberry King" of California. The 442nd Veterans Club sincerely appreciated the thirty crates of strawberries and six cases of raspberries donated by MANABI and SUMI HIRASAKI, both of whom were present at the banquet and duly recognized by the MC. After introduction of the 1995 officers and the traditional cake-cutting ceremony, awards were presented to deserving individuals. The 442nd RCT's Friendship "Kansha" Medallions were presented to Director GENE CASTAGNETTI, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific; THELMA CHANG, author of I Can Never Forget: The Men of the 100th/442nd; Major General HERBERT WOLFF, President of the Hawaii Army Museum Society; and CHESTER TANAKA, author of the historical novel Go For Broke.

Representing the Board of Directors of the 442nd Veterans Club, I was pleased to present the Presidential Distinguished Service Awards to three members of the our Administrative



*Kansha Medallion Recipients*



*Distinguished Service Award Recipients*



Headquarters for their unselfish devotion to their respective voluntary assignments. It was also publicly announced that all of our so-called "Cabinet" members are serving exceptionally well. The Awards Committee had approved three of these individuals to be honored with our token of sincere appreciation. It came as a surprise to these three recipients as their names had been classified secret until the announcement that evening. The honorees were: Property and House Rules Management Committee Chairman HAROLD FUKUNAGA of George Chapter; our Legal Counsel ROBERT KATAYAMA of Fox Chapter; and Staff Artist Extraordinaire and Editorial Consultant JACKSON MORISAWA of Howe Chapter.

After Retirement of the Colors, the entertainment portion of the banquet began with three melodious renditions by TRACI TOGUCHI, followed by the awarding of many door prizes. Banquet guests enjoyed dancing until late evening with live music provided by the 111th Army Dance Band. A silent auction, benefiting the 442nd RCT Foundation was also held with mounted and unmounted prints donated by Staff Artist MORISAWA. Auction items also included a book donated by author DOROTHY MATSUO. The receipts of the silent auction totaled over \$600.00.

In his final financial report to the Board of Directors, General Chairman JOE OBAYASHI said that his Memorial Service and Banquet Committees held the expenses to almost \$2500.00 below the approved budget of \$7000.00. His committee is thankful for the many wonderful door prizes donated by members and local business establishments. JOE OBAYASHI was especially appreciative of the cooperation and assistance received from his committee members, in particular, Executive Secretary JENNIFER BAKER. We are also thankful to JACKSON MORISAWA who designed both Memorial Service and Banquet program covers. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXTEND A HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO GENERAL CHAIRMAN JOE OBAYASHI AND HIS COMMITTEE FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

The following served on his committee: CLAUDE TAKEKAWA, 171st Chapter; ED ICHIYAMA, 522-C Chapter; Executive Secretary JENNIFER BAKER; GRACE FUJII, S & D Chapter; YOKICHI HOKAMA, 522-C Chapter; JERRY ISHIMOTO, 522-B Chapter, and ALAN KUBOTA, S & D Chapter. The President served as an ex-officio of the Planning Committee.

The 442nd continues to receive very favorable publicity during the various commemorative events celebrating the end of World War II. The latest was the selection of our Legal Counsel ROBERT KATAYAMA by the White House to be a participant at the ceremonies held in Washington D.C. on May 8, 1995. BOB was one of six veterans so honored, and was prominently featured on national TV with President CLINTON and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a laying-of-the wreath ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and a military review at Fort Myer, Virginia. BOB has been asked to write about the tremendous experience, which honored the 442nd RCT, in this issue of the Go For Broke Bulletin, to be embellished by photographs taken by official White House photographers.

Another military review, held at Schofield Barracks to honor World War II veterans on May 8, was officially represented by President-Elect PAUL TAKIGUCHI, PAUL MATSUMOTO, and ED ICHIYAMA. The 25th Infantry Division's Commanding General MG GEORGE FISHER, singled out the feat of the 442nd RCT in his address to his assembled troops. One of our 442nd Veterans Club's Coordinators for the World War II VE/VJ Day Programs, ED ICHIYAMA, was sorely disappointed at the very minimal 442nd membership participation at the Schofield event. Both he and his Co-Chairman, IWAO YOKOOJI, respectfully urge a better participation of our membership, especially during the forthcoming September events at the National Cemetery of the Pacific and the Veterans Parade in Waikiki. An appropriate preface to ED ICHIYAMA's article on World War II Commemorative events, published in this Go For Broke Bulletin, is: "E Pili Mai - He Ohana Kakou!" (Let's



Come Together as one - We are All Family!)

Several meetings were held to further plan the memorial at Ft. DeRussy, honoring the AJA veterans organizations: 442nd RCT, 100th Infantry Separate, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Construction Battalion. The memorial project, initiated by City Councilmember ANDY MIRIKITANI has the complete support of LTG ROBERT L. ORD III, Commanding General, USARPAC. General ORD is being represented by MICHAEL HARADA, from his Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering, USARPAC. MICHAEL has a personal interest in the project as he is the son of a Company D veteran. Artistic Designer JACKSON MORISAWA has completed a fine design proposal, assisted by WALLY KAGAWA and CHILLY SASAKI, to be submitted to the U.S. Army for approval. Councilman MIRIKITANI reported that an additional sum of \$180,000 to augment the initial appropriation of \$125,000 has been approved by the City Council with only one dissenting vote of Councilman STEVE HOLMES. Donations will be solicited from members of the various AJA veteran organizations if additional sums are needed. Three hundred granite blocks, salvaged from the Ft. DeRussy reconstruction project, have been temporarily stored at City & Council Public Works Yard for possible use at the proposed memorial.

A continuing duty as President of the 442nd Veterans Club is to represent our organization at various AJA Veterans Council Affairs and other community functions. The Veterans of Military Intelligence Service held their annual banquet on January 28, 1995 where at HENRY FURUYA was installed as their new president. The 1399th Construction Battalion's annual luncheon, held on April 16 at the Heritage Ballroom, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, was rather interesting as that organization formally terminated its incorporation by a resolution passed at business session prior to dining. The 1399th Club will hereafter operate through the jurisdiction of a Committee, similar to a "Kenjin-Kai."

Your attention is also directed to Judge KEN SARUWATARI's and HENRY "BRUNO"

YAMADA's articles in this issue regarding their respective Baseball and Golf Committee activities.

The President's Report is concluded with a note of thanks for the beautiful bouquet of flowers received from the club during my recent appendectomy at Kuakini Medical Center.



EDITOR'S

*Message*

by ED GOTO

Another quarter has gone by and so has another anniversary! By all accounts, this year's memorial service and banquet was well received by all who participated. Our thanks to all who made the "52nd" a success.

This edition has again turned out to be lengthy. There are a number of special articles and a lot of "lead-in" to the 50th anniversary of the ending of WWII. Since this is my only means of communicating with most of you chapter reporters, thanks for your work and for next issue, remember, don't go over board! (I know it's hard to do when your motto is "Go For Broke" but try anyway - Jennifer and I, and your treasurer will appreciate it.)

For those of you who haven't yet seriously considered contributing to what it is that my own Sons and Daughters chapter is trying to do, I ask that you welcome our requests to do an oral history, contribute your memorabilia to our archives room, or even just participate if you can in our social gatherings - we missed a lot of you at our Christmas party. Even if you don't have a son or daughter, we still consider ourselves part of your extended family. We want to learn from you, even its just by talking with you at one of our gatherings.

In the spirit of "do what I do," this is all I have for you this edition. Read on and enjoy.





## Chaplain's Message

by Chaplain ERNEST UNO

Dachau, Manzanar. Both of these names represent barbed-wire topped enclosures where men, women, and children were imprisoned because of their race. The survivors of these and other concentration camps are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the closing of the camps. 522nd FA Battalion members can be justifiably proud of their role in opening the gates of the Dachau prison compound which captured the imagination of writers who saw the irony of Nisei GIs freeing and feeding emaciated prisoners, while their own families were still being held behind barbed-wire fences back in the United States.

One of those camps, Manzanar, is now a symbol of the mass evacuation and the incarceration of 110 thousand men, women, and children, since it has been established as a National Historic site. The 442 veterans from Hawaii may not readily relate to the experience of being confined against their will behind fences guarded by armed troops, unless they happen to be among the contingent of GIs who were bused to the two camps in Arkansas - Jerome and Rohwer.

I was privileged to go with the bus load that went to the Rohwer camp. For me, it was not a cheerful experience, since I had just recently returned from visiting my own family at another camp in Colorado. I've often pondered why I even volunteered to go visit Rohwer, other than using the trip as an excuse to get out of Shelby for a weekend. What other good excuse would there be? And my best recollection of the visit was that of sitting like a wallflower in the dance hall while all the other guys were having a ball doing their version of the jitterbug with the cute mainland chicks. I also recall spending a restless night in an unfamiliar room in an almost bare

cabin with curtains and frills - an effort made to give a feeling of "home" for a displaced family. My sleeplessness was due to my wondering about what would happen to these people once the war was over and the camps were closed? There certainly was no "home" for them to go back to on the west coast. In my case, there was the very real threat that my family would be deported back to Japan.

Perhaps my mentioning these trips to the relocation camps will rekindle the memories of those who endured the bumpy bus ride to an unknown place in the heart of Arkansas' swamp lands, with the prospects of meeting some cute mainland girls. Although these trips were dubbed the Army's sociological experiment - an effort at overcoming a threatened ruinous division within the ranks of the unit between the locals and the mainland "Kotonks," such high-minded ideas never entered our minds as far as I could recall.

Unbeknownst to most of us, particularly the Buddhaheads, was the division among the draft-age young men in some of the relocation camps, the most notable of which was at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. At the time when most of us were caught up with patriotic fervor to prove our loyalty to the United States by volunteering for the army, a group of young men numbering 63 resisted being drafted into the army in spite of their having sworn an oath of loyalty to the United States. The grounds on which they resisted were that they and their parents were being detained illegally and in violation of their civil rights under the Constitution of the United States.

The conviction by a federal court for which they spent eighteen months of a four-year sentence in a federal prison for draft evasion, was subsequently overturned by an appeals court, and the men were freed and all charges against them dropped. This group called themselves the Fair Play Committee.

The revelation that there were such draft-resisters may come as a shock to most of us in Hawaii, where there is no record of an organized resistance to the draft among the Japanese Americans. But the fact is that following in the



footsteps of the Fair Play Committee were over 200 so-called copycat resisters to the draft.

The point of all this is that there was this downside to the mass evacuation that caused a lot of turmoil within the several camps, and that for a small group of men, the determination of loyalty was a matter of conscience. Unfortunately, fifty years later, these men of unfailing loyalty to the Constitution of the United States are regarded as outcasts. It is my sincere hope that those of us as combat veterans, who put our lives on the line to prove our patriotism, will show respect and goodwill towards the men and their families who withstood ostracism and antagonism for their unfailing belief in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and standing up for their right to due process under the law.

Shalom,  
Chaplain ERNI

## CONTRIBUTING

*Editor*

by JACKSON MORISAWA

### WWII Memorial

The military, in redesigning Fort DeRussy, initially designated an area of 5100 square feet as a memorial site. It is situated in an auspicious location near the corner of Saratoga Road and Kalakaua Avenue.

The City and County under the leadership of Councilman ANDY MIRIKITANI allotted \$125,000 for the memorial. President HENRY KUNIYUKI requested that I submit a design proposal for the memorial to honor Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in WWII. It may seem obnoxious on my part but I always looked upon most memorials as passive reminders of the past. Memorials should, in a way, express a viable atmosphere which includes the enjoyment of the present in accord with nature. Symbolic creations such as statues and sculptures are inevitable, but they should not dominate the

scene, rather they must complement the viable atmosphere. Therefore, I was seeking a more profound quality to express instead of merely relating the experiences of AJA in WWII. In querying the behavior of the AJA under adverse conditions of discrimination and battle situations, there was always the inherent characteristic of their cultural heritage which dominated their action. The moral and ethical values instilled in them by the parents was the means by which they were able to cope with the adversities and reestablish their right as Americans. Recognition of this characteristic quality is a theme befitting a memorial for the AJAs.

The AJA Council unanimously selected my design concept and relegated the responsibility and supervision to complete the memorial to the 442nd Veterans Club. The team of CHILLY SASAKI, designer and draftsman and WALLY KAGAWA, architect, and RON OBA, coordinator, worked diligently to finish the proposed plan for the memorial.

Unfortunately, we learned that there was a gross misunderstanding and misinterpretation in the memorial designation. In meeting with the military contingent from Ft. DeRussy, we found out that the memorial was designated to honor a military unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, instead of Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in WWII. The military was very positive in avoiding ethnic implications. The 442nd representation faced an unenviable situation to explain to the AJA Council the changes which will eliminate the other units from being equally honored in the memorial. However, the AJA Council graciously accepted the changes.

The new designation changed our rationale very much, but the concept of a viable atmosphere should be maintained as much as possible. The emphasis on human characteristics and cultural heritage have to be reduced drastically since much of the memorial must now be focused on the achievements of the unit.

It is hard to overcome the precedent set by the military. A military unit itself is of primary importance instead of human qualities associated with the unit. It does not matter to the military that



the 442nd RCT was made up of AJA majority or that the subsequent success of the unit was determined by the quality of the men involved.

As we prepared to continue our quest for our memorial, we experienced another unexpected turn. Mr. MIKE HARADA, who is the direct representative for General ORD, Commander of Hawaii Military Command, gave us a new outlook on the memorial. He convinced the General that all four units, 442nd, 100th (Separate), MIS, and 1399th should be honored. Since his office oversees the Ft. DeRussy operation, their word stands above the military contingent from Ft. DeRussy.

The memorial site area has been greatly increased from the original 5100 sq. ft. Townscape Inc. and H. INOUE Associates, the designated landscape developers for the Ft. DeRussy general plan, met with the memorial committee. They showed us their suggested landscaping ideas. One of the plans seems to be very favorable. It maintains a vast park and garden atmosphere surrounding a central theme for the memorial. The four park areas surrounding the central site works well in representing the designated four units. With this as the basic design, many variations can be applied to create a memorial concept for the four unit designation.

Since the army does not want the site to be designated as AJA memorial, we must find an appropriate name. If you have any suggestions, please write to us. Temporarily, it is designated as Brothers in Valor - WWII Memorial.

Although our original concept and rationale has been defused, there is still the possibility of maintaining a viable atmosphere. And in the meantime, Councilmember MIRIKITANI has helped tremendously in obtaining further appropriations for the memorial. In recent news, I read that the island of Maui is working on a 100/442 memorial to the tune of 4 million dollars. Does this tell those of us in Oahu something?



SAM GOTO, a Fox Chapter member, passed away recently in San Diego, California.

JAMES MUKAI, an Item Chapter member, passed away on October 25, 1994 in Fresno, California.

JACK MISAKA, a Fox Chapter member, passed away on January 13, 1995.

DANIEL HORIKAWA, a Fox Chapter Honorary member, passed away on February 7, 1995.

CARL OGAWA, a George Chapter member, passed away in March, 1995 in Los Angeles, California.

HISASHI FUJIYAMA, a Fox Chapter member, passed away on March 3, 1995.

ICHIRO HASEGAWA, a Service Chapter member, passed away on March 16, 1995.

HAROLD RIEBESELL, the 442nd RCT Personnel Officer, passed away on March 18, 1995 in Colorado.

JACK ANDREWS, a 522 C Chapter member, passed away on March 29, 1995 in Texas.

KENNETH KAWAMOTO, an Item Chapter member, passed away on May 10, 1995.

BARNEY MIYAJI, a Fox Chapter member, passed away on May 12, 1995.

YOSHIO WADA, an Associate member, passed away on May 14, 1995.

TOM HIGA, a Fox Chapter Maui member, passed away on May 21, 1995 in Maui.

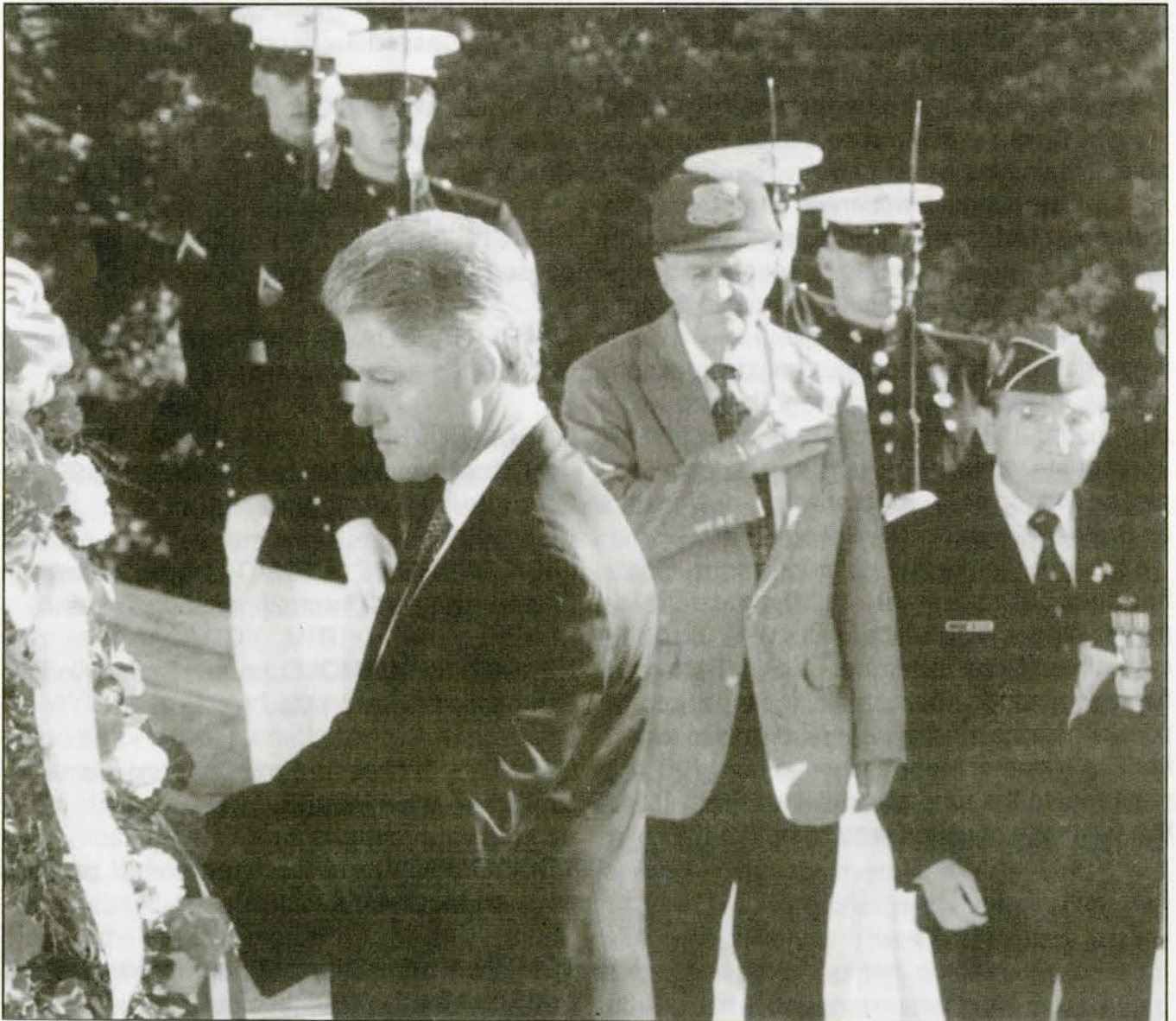


## **The 50th Anniversary of V-E Day** **by ROBERT KATAYAMA**

A clear blue sky greeted the opening ceremony on May 8, 1995 of the 50th Anniversary of the V-E Day Commemoration at Arlington Cemetery. Standing at attention on opposite sides of the stairway leading up to the Tomb of the Unknowns was an honor guard consisting of men and women of the five uniformed services. As President CLINTON approached the foot of the stairway escorted by the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, the Army band played the National Anthem in his honor. The President then ascended the stairs and placed a large wreath at the foot of the Tomb. He

then went to the six WWII veterans, including BOB KATAYAMA, to shake their hands and extend his greetings. The President and the veterans were escorted to the rear of the Tomb where the Commander explained the change in name from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to the Tomb of the Unknowns because those interred there included not only WWI and WWII but also Korea and Vietnam remains.

One interesting side-light occurred when the President descended the steps to meet with the other WWII veterans and families. There he saw BOB's two grandchildren and asked who they were with at this ceremony. They pointed to BOB and said "our grandpa." The President beckoned to BOB and said, "Come over here,





Grandpa." BOB joined him along with BOB's children and grandchildren and had an official photo taken.

Following the wreath laying ceremony, the WWII veterans and their guests were bussed to the Fort Myer Officers' Club for a hearty brunch.

With the beginning of the Fort Myer review almost ready, the six WWII veterans and their families were escorted to a tent in the rear of the reviewing stand. The President appeared again to shake hands with each person. Also with him were the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Secretary BROWN of the Department of Veterans Affairs remarked to BOB that he hoped to see BOB at the November 8 "Salute to the Japanese American Veterans of World War II" ceremonies in Los Angeles.

The President, along with General SHALIKASHVILI, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary BROWN and Defense Secretary PERRY and their spouses along with the six WWII veterans and their spouses or daughters were escorted to the reviewing stands. As BOB came through the entrance, someone in the stands yelled, "Go For Broke!" (This person later introduced himself as from the 141st Regiment of the Texas 36th Infantry Division.)

Following a thundering 21-gun salute in honor of the Commander-in-Chief, General SHALIKASHVILI was the first speaker, who described the exciting events that took place fifty years ago. Mr. F. MACINTOSH, then a lieutenant and a fighter pilot of the Army Air Corps with 104 combat missions to his credit next addressed the gathering and also introduced President CLINTON. The President's message was brief. He offered reverent words for those he called "freedom's warriors" while also acknowledging those "millions of heroes here on the home front." He concluded by saying "and today we the sons and daughters of their sacrifice say, 'Thank you and well done.'" In his speech, the President also listed the achievements of each WWII veteran on the reviewing stand and referred to ROBERT KATAYAMA, a private in the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team which broke through the

Gothic Line in Italy." Thereafter, the President and the Commander of the Honor Guard, and the six WWII veterans inspected the assembled units consisting of men and women from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard along with the bands of the Army and Marine Corps. Upon completion of the inspection, the units then passed in review to conclude the formal part of the ceremony. A fly-over is separate formations by aircraft of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and Coast Guard was an impressive conclusion to the day's memorable events.

### **The 50th Anniversary of VJ Day by EDWARD ICHIYAMA**

The US government has officially designated Hawaii to host a series of events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the End of World War II (also known as VJ Day.)

President CLINTON is scheduled to participate in the core events, which will be held during September 1 - 3, 1995. Defense Minister of about 40 nations have been invited, and it is expected that a substantial number of these nations will be represented.

The core events are:

#### **Friday, September 1, 1995**

10 A.M. 25th Inf. Div. Review at Schofield Barracks

2 P.M. Parade of ships off Waikiki including ships of other nations. Official reviewing stand is Ft. DeRussy.

7 P.M. "Hawaii Remembers." This event will honor all veterans as well as personnel who served on the home front such as Pearl Harbor shipyard workers. Local entertainers will be featured. Kapiolani Park.

#### **Saturday, September 2, 1995**

8 A.M. Massing of the colors and wreath-laying ceremonies by veterans' organizations which served in the Pacific theater at Punchbowl.

9 A.M. Memorial Service at Punchbowl with President CLINTON as keynote speaker.



2 P.M. Veterans Parade. The parade route will be from Ala Moana park through Kalakaua Avenue to Kapiolani Park. Official reviewing stand for President CLINTON and other dignitaries is at Ft. DeRussy.

6 P.M. Hanger Dances. These will be at various military bases to honor WWII veterans and their families.

### **Sunday, September 3, 1995**

11 A.M. Ecumenical Church Service at Aloha Stadium. President CLINTON will attend. This event will officially signal the "Beginning of the new era of Peace & Goodwill."

5:30 P.M. Visiting Japanese WWII veterans will meet with American WWII veterans at a reception at Hawaii Army Museum, Ft. DeRussy.

### **Monday, September 4, 1995**

Japanese WWI veterans and American WWII veterans will dedicate a friendship plaque at Punchbowl.

The 442 RCT veterans have been invited to participate in all of these activities. Although generally thought of as V-J Day events, they officially signify the 50th Anniversary of the End of WWII; accordingly I believe that the 442nd veterans should participate actively and enthusiastically as we did during our 50th Anniversary celebration.

I encourage you particularly to attend the memorial service and to march or participate in the veterans parade. The memorial service is significant because IWAOYOKOOJI of MIS and the 171st Chapter is the coordinator for this program. Of equal importance is the parade in the afternoon. The Hawaii public still associates WWII with the 442nd RCT; therefore we should make every effort to participate in the parade. For those unable to march, military vehicles will be provided.

Fellow veterans, this will be our last hurrah so let us all participate and illustrate to the world that 442nd veterans are as patriotic today as we were in 1943. It is expected that over 1000 individuals representing media from all over the

world will converge here during this period to cover these events, so let us once more be in the forefront.



**by JOE SHIMAMURA**

### **Long Winded**

Effective this issue, any long-winded article is a no-no, due to the cost of putting out such an issue and complying with the wish of the new chief of the Go For Broke News, ED GOTO. This reporter will do his very best to keep the Kingsmen article as the chief desires.

Having done this bit of bulling since my return from college in the early '50's, this should be no task. Should you ask me to make the article longer, this would be a burden as far as this reporter is concerned so come hell or high water, regardless of who, why, when or where, it will be as chief ED requests, we will be keeping it short.

### **Tuscaloosa**

Still hearing regularly from that Alabama hotshot, "SANJI" KIMOTO who took a recent trip to California to get a new seeing-eye dog to replace his original one due to the aging factor of his first one, who had served him faithfully over all these years. A most handsome picture of SANJI appeared in the "Tuscaloosa News." First time in my life I've seen SANJI in a suit and I must say that he does look like a celebrity ready to go out for his Easter stroll all dressed to kill. Getting to know SANJI goes back a long way as I met him in the mess hall of Halloran General Hospital where all wounded returnees from the European Theater of operation are processed here in New York, Staten Island, and then sent to various parts of the country, normally to a hospital that specializes in the type of wound that has to be treated. From here, it was on to



Valley Forge Hospital in Pennsylvania, and since nothing else could be done, SANJI was sent to a center for the visually impaired in Connecticut where I visited him one weekend realizing how lonesome he must be all by his lonesome. This visit turned out to be a beer-drinking reunion with SANJI and all his new-found friends. He must have gone home on the point system returning in early December and it's for sure he didn't come home on a K-ration cut purple heart that was worth 5 points. All these incidents sure go back a long way. Having been the last squad, 1st platoon leader, it was no problem getting along with SANJI who was also a 1st platoon rifleman, the only difference being he was in the 2nd squad. (The snapshot should be in the article if things go right.

### **Headliner**

Thanks to that roving reporter, MARY JANE SUYEOKA, we got some first hand report that the great "ARTEEST" JOHN MATSUDAIRA played a big part in an art show held in Seattle a few months back. He may not look it, but there's one VAN GOGH you've gotta meet. Happy to report that I do have one of JOHN's masterpieces hanging in the SHIMAMURA household. If my memory is correct, JOHN was one of the casualties being hit in the stomach on the first day of battle on the hills of Mt. Belvedere. JOHN thought he had a stomach ache from eating the lousy K-rations the night before but found out different. It sure has been a long pull for JOHN, who was a messenger of the 4th platoon during this incident.

### **All's Well**

Getting old but still holding their own are CHIKA NITAHARA and KENNETH UEHARA who both underwent open-heart surgery awhile ago. A follow-up check indicated that the healing process is slow but they are getting there as the days roll by. Well, what can you expect when you hit your 90's? Our very best for a most speedy recovery.

### **Visitors**

Never got to see each one but it seems that the Ks had a rash of stateside visitors during the month of March in the way of MIDORI YOSHI, RUDY TOKIWA & JUDY, and SLIM "LONG STUFF" YEI all the way from Utah. Business, the memorial in D.C., and for MIDORI, it was chasing that white ball all over creation. Whatever it was, we do hope that it turned out to your satisfaction. Must be mighty busy on his farm, haven't heard from NOBU "MINNESOTA SKINNY" KIMURA in a long while. All goes well, we hope? 'Til the next one, keep 'em hoeing.

### **Man's Beta friend**

**by CHARLOTTE VOSS, Tuscaloosa News (Monday, November 7, 1994)**

No one knows better the meaning of "a dog is man's best friend" than SANJI KIMOTO.

KIMOTO recently returned home from San Rafael, California, where he received a new guide dog partner named Beta. KIMOTO received Beta, a German shepherd, from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. The two are developing the skills that will be needed for a true working relationship.

While living in Hawaii, KIMOTO was a member of the first class to graduate high school following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. KIMOTO decided that he did not want a career working in the sugar cane fields of his home island.

He volunteered in the U.S. Army at a time when Japanese-Americans were being questioned about loyalty. He was only 17 when the Army accepted him, an age requiring his mother's signature for his enlistment.

"I was a dogface GI," recalls KIMOTO, who was a member of the 442 Regimental Combat Team which was made up of Nisei, Japanese-Americans from Hawaii and the mainland.

He was on the front line and was among the first to advance into battle, rifle in hand.

Shortly after his enlistment, the young warrior was wounded in the shoulder and hospitalized. Upon recovery, he returned to battle, fighting until the war ended. In the months to follow, KIMOTO continued his military duty but began



to notice a loss of vision as he worked guarding prisoners of war. At this time, the experienced soldier was about 20 years old.

"It took about 2 1/2 to 3 months to lose my sight completely," said KIMOTO.

"I remember when I got on the ship to come to Valley Forge Hospital in Pennsylvania I could just see shadows. The voyage took about two weeks and I couldn't see the Statue of Liberty."

While participating in a mobility training activity at Valley Forge Hospital, the young patient learned doctors would not be able to do anything to help him regain any vision.

The next stop was a convalescent hospital where he began to learn rehabilitation by means of typing, learning Braille, and playing the piano. It also included learning to walk with a white cane.

"I was very self-conscious," KIMOTO said, recalling his first cane. "When I went home, I had a white cane and I thought everyone would watch me stumbling around."

The enterprising young man thought of something that might change those glares.

"I sanded my white cane and made it a natural color," adding he was never very good at walking with a cane by himself.

While attending the University of Hawaii, KIMOTO learned of a man, also blind, who was getting around campus with a seeing-eye dog.

"He was going all over campus with his dog and said, 'You should get a dog too. Then you can go anywhere.'"

During summer break, KIMOTO, with his brother serving as traveling companion, made his first trip to California, courtesy of the Veterans Administration. He began four weeks of training with Sandy, his first German shepherd. For almost two years, KIMOTO had depended on others to help him get through everyday activities. Now, he was almost ready to be on his own.

"It was a nice feeling of being independent," he said.

The only drawback to his excitement occurred upon his return to Honolulu - there was a 120-day quarantine.

With his life of independence, KIMOTO married and he, RENEE, and their four-legged friend eventually moved to San Diego where they purchased a cafe.

"That was when coffee was 10 cents a cup and our lunch special was 65 cents," he said.

But the expense of running a business grew while income decreased, so the cafe was eventually sold.

Over the next few years, the family became involved in a variety of businesses. SANJI and RENEE continued working as a team, but for someone else. SANJI sold and RENEE delivered for Fuller Brush Company. That relationship lasted for more than 20 years.

Life took a drastic turn for KIMOTO in 1989 when RENEE died of a heart attack.

KIMOTO decided to make a move from California. His only child, DIANE BURNS, was living in Tuscaloosa where she had landed a job at the University of Alabama.

Tuscaloosa has been home for KIMOTO for more than a year.

Phoebe, the dog KIMOTO brought to Alabama, had been his companion for more than 10 years and it was time for her to slow down.

The new Tuscaloosa resident returned to California to participate in the training of a new guide dog. California is the only state having laws governing the operation of a guide dog school.

"We gave her (Phoebe) a retirement party just before we left," said KIMOTO. But retirement has not been easy to handle.

"She was queen bee and now has been regulated to second fiddle," he said. "It takes a while for a retired dog to get used to retirement."

He said when a guide dog, who normally works about 8 years, retires, the idea is to return the animal to Guide Dogs for the Blind who will give the dog to someone for a pet. But KIMOTO's wife and daughter have always refused to allow that to happen in the past. Phoebe, the most recent retiree, is now DIANE's prized possession and her father is learning his way around his neighborhood with his new guide, Beta.

"The first week we returned home, my brother visited and would walk Phoebe on a leash and I



walked with Beta, and when Beta would walk in the middle of the road he would tell me so I could correct her and five instructions to walk along the roadside," said KIMOTO, who added that there are few sidewalks in his neighborhood, making walking difficult.

But man and dog are both learning their way around the area pretty well, although sometimes it gets a little confusing for both.

"I just go to the homeowner and ask for directions," he said. "I am getting to know my neighbors."



by **RON OBA**

*On Hill 140  
A Mother's Son reposes  
Fulfills a Promise*

ROY KUBO said, "Don't get too close to a buddy. You don't know when they'll die." We "Hawaiians" believed in the buddy, buddy system and practiced a custom, *HO'OPONOPONO*, of problem solving method with each other.

HOWARD CLIFFORD HANA, a hapa haole recruit, was assigned to F Company nilly willy even though he had the genes of the original homo Sapiens but looked more Japanese than haole. The irony is that unlike other hapa haoles, HOWARD turned out not as a Kotonk or a Buddahead but pure and simply Hapa Hawaiian. JO OKAZAKI took an immediate liking to this quiet, unassuming young man who at first seemed out of place in the hutment. Their friendship blossomed. They made a promise to each other before embarking for the front lines that if one of them should die and the other survives, the survivor will personally visit their mother to pay their condolences.

HOWARD died in the vicinity of Hill 140 where

medic IKE MASAOKA was peppered by shrapnel over a dozen places as he tried to tend to HOWARD who lay asleep with a quiet countenance oblivious to the bombardment bracketing his 3rd squad, 1st. Platoon - as he was forcefully plucked from this verdant life.

JO kept his promise and visited HOWARD'S mother in Florida.

One of HOWARD'S three sisters, Mrs. HARRIET HODGES and her husband, a retired Colonel CARROTT B. HODGES, special assistant to Deputy Commander USFK for international relations, visited JO during the Christmas holidays, 1994. Their two sons, HOWARD and KEITH with wife and children accompanied to make this a truly sentimental visit with a sumptuous Chinese dinner for friends and relatives of JO'S and his brother, Dr OSMOND and wife, ELAINE OKAZAKI.

Space does not permit JO's tenacity for details to be printed here but the significance underlying his narrative is his long lasting relationship with HOWARD'S sisters who regard him as a brother.

Brothers, HOWARD and KEITH wish to become associate members of Fox Chapter, 442nd. RCT.

### **A Sentimental Journey - Camp Shelby**

Only five Fox Veterans and their wives plan to revisit our old training grounds labeled the "Hell Hole of the 48th" in 1943. As we found out in Europe in '94 nothing remains the same. Ditto for Shelby. The old training grounds are no more. The whole area has been razed, however someone who bought one of the hutments agreed to have it towed to the area where the 442nd billeted. Those going are GEORGE & KAY KAWAKAMI, PAUL & CLARA YAMASHITA, KIYOSHI & YUKIE TAKEUCHI, BOB KATAYAMA, and RON & MICHIO OBA.. TOKUICHI & FUSAE NAKANO from Naalehu and YURI ISHIKAWA and daughter LINDA from Kaneohe joined our group but have decided to divert to other venues. There are 23 other husbands and wives in this combination of K and F veterans.



Brigadier General EDWARD RICHARDSON was the most surprised when I told him that the 111th Army National Guard Band that performed at our Anniversary Memorial Service wanted to go to Shelby and play on our behalf. I called Col. HERB SASAKI in Hattiesburg, B.G. RICHARDSON called the Pentagon, and now the General decided to go and the Director of the National Guard in Washington said, "I'm going too if RICHARDSON's going." The band will also play big band WWII dance music at our banquet at the University of Southern Mississippi.

BOB KATAYAMA will give a speech, representing our president in responding to the welcome by the Mayor of Hattiesburg at Friday's dinner and RON will lay a wreath at the Memorial and is asked to reminisce about Shelby days by the Hawaiians at a luncheon on Saturday. A mainlander will reminisce their feelings in response to meeting the Buddaheads from Hawaii. BOB has also been invited by PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON to attend the ceremonies commemorating the end of V-E day in Washington D.C. on May 8th. He reported that he was at the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery with PRESIDENT CLINTON. They proceeded to Fort Myer where six couples including himself and daughter were interviewed representing the divergent military services and ethnic groups that served in the military. Hey, they mentioned the 442nd in introducing BOB to the nation. They then reviewed the troops with PRESIDENT CLINTON. A 36th Division veteran there told everyone within earshot that the 442nd rescued the whole Texas Division.

### **Down Under - A Pacific Tour, 1996**

Tour coordinator, JOE TANAKA, says, "As requested by many members who participated in the Fox Chapter European Tour, we have received a proposal from Resch Tours, Ltd. for a tour of the South Pacific in April of 1996." It will be limited to the first forty people responding.

The tour will visit Auckland, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, New Zealand, Christchurch, Mount Cook, Queens town, Milford sound, Rotorua, Waitomo, and Auckland. A detailed description

of each stop is narrated in the handout so if interested, please call Joe for the tour \$3,696 (Honolulu), \$3,879 (Los Angeles), and \$4,146 from Denver.

### **Shinnen En Kai**

As Tea Houses get scarcer, their parking lots get to be an impossibility. I found parking between the electric pole and the guy wire outside of Natsunoya. Once inside the Tea House everything was nice and cozy. The turnout was good, the meeting by PRESIDENT MICH TAKATA was short, the booze plentiful and the sociability of the members seemed more festive as we realized that getting together and improving our relationships with each other is more important than just drinking and golf. Boy, is there something better than golf and sex? Oh, forget sex, too late.

The food was appetizing as our platters of food disappeared pretty fast. Those attending were: DR. ROY IRITANI, BARNEY & PHYLLIS MIYAJI, RICHARD MURASHIGE, GEORGE & MYRTLE NAKASATO, RON & MICH OBA, JEAN OKAMOTO, JO OKAZAKI, YOSHIO & CLARA SHIBUYA, CHIKAKO SHIMADA, GOICHI SUEHIRO, MICH & SHINAKO TAKATA, KIYOSHI & YUKIE TAKEUCHI, TOMMY & MAY TAMAGAWA, JOE & SHARON TANAKA, PAUL & CLARA YAMASHITA, FRANCES YORITA, and KEN & JOY INUKAI.

### **Fox Golf at Olomana**

What is your quality of life? Do you golf to live, or live to golf 3-4 times per week? All wives think golfers are crazy. Most golfers prefer hacking the grass on the golf course and rather dig divots than plant a seedling. At the first signs of rain there goes the hoe and shovel; back in the bag and out comes the golf clubs. The sky's going to clear so off to the course.

With wistful forecasting and raincoats in hand the following hackers participated in our semi-annual golf tournament at Olomana Golf Course: Chairman TOMMY TAMAGAWA, MICH TAKATA, JOE TANAKA, BILL TANAKA, SHIGE HIGA, YOSHIO SHIBUYA, ROY IRITANI,



BARNEY MIYAJI, ROY KUBO and RON OBA. Guests included: HICHI MATSUMOTO and MICHI OBA

A heavy downpour the day before and in the morning did not look conducive to summer play so it was peremptorily changed to winter rules - where anything goes! Lucky for this rule change as it started to rain hard on the back nine. This led to some sub-par rounds for five of the players and the winner was, oh, ah, winners were: SHIGE HIGA, YOSHIO SHIBUYA and RON OBA with net 68s. Close behind were BILL TANAKA and HICHI MATSUMOTO with net 69s. Doc IRITANI donated two dozen balls so that none had to go home empty handed.

Closest to the pins were on #8 TOMMY TAMAGAWA, #17 ROY IRITANI; Front nine by ROY I. again with a 33 1/2, and the back by BILL with a 33. YES, it rained and we got soaked on the back nine.

An aside: MAS TAMAYEI and BILL TANAKA won on Kauai and came back to Hickam for the anniversary golf to win again. MAS TAMAYEI shot a net 64, BILL, a 65 and RON, a 67. I believe F Co. took the first three places. A mainlander shot a 60 net but I guess he didn't qualify.

GEORGE KAWAKAMI was drooling. He asked, "Next time F Co has a tournament, call me, I'll come for the game." TOMMY, take note.

### In Memorium

HISASHI FUJIYAMA, 84, passed away on March 3, 1995. He is survived by his wife, AYAME and son, PAUL H., daughter Mrs. CALVIN HEE, brother TOM and sister, Mrs. YOSHIKO AH CHIN.

We all remember HISASHI as a rugged individual who didn't hesitate to encounter the enemy face to face. He confiscated a motorcycle from a German Officer and rode around till Col. HANLEY stopped him. He had thousands of Italian Lira in his pockets that suddenly disappeared during a shake down.

In recent years he joined several Senior Citizens groups and kept the ladies dancing until his legs gave way. Our condolences to his family.

JACK MISAKA died of an apparent heart attack on January 13, 1995. HIRO TAKUSAGAWA reports that SAM GOTO, of San Diego, died recently. HIRO also writes that SHIGERU MURANAKA had a stroke. MUNRO SHINTANI reports that he received a new stainless steel tube implant in his artery and is doing fine.

Honorary member, DANIEL H. HORIKAWA, succumbed after a lengthy illness on February 7, 1995. MICH TAKATA eulogized DAN befitting a close associate. Our condolences to all the family and friends of those who serenely left us during this period.

BARNEY SAICHI MIYAJI, the guy who has lived with only half a lung for close to thirty years was hale and hearty until the flu bug got to him. It comes and goes two, three times until you have a relapse. BARNEY went to Kaiser Hospital on Wednesday with congestive heart failure caused by pneumonia and by the time MICHI and I visited him, he was on oxygen, I.V. and had an oxymeter on his finger tips that buzzed when the oxygen in his body went down or when he talked too much. After four days when he complained that he was hungry he seemed on his way to recovery. They gave him miso soup and okai. Latest is that he had a relapse and had lapsed into a coma. MICH TAKATA, RON and MICHI OBA visited him for the last time on May 11th. RON did a *Ho'o Pono Pono* meditation for BARNEY before leaving his room. BARNEY was 72 years old and died on May 12, 1995. Our condolences to PHYLLIS and his family.

Fox 6 to Fox 1, over.

*Maui*  **FOX** *Fables*

by ROBERT MATSUSHITA

TOM HIGA, Fox Chapter Maui, expired on May 21, 1995 at the Maui Memorial Hospital. He was last seen on May 19th attending the Mother Chapter meeting.

He collapsed before dinner and paramedics were called to assist and transport him to the



hospital.

Our deepest sympathies to AILEEN and his children. Funeral service was held on Friday, May 26 at the Nakamura Mortuary in Wailuku.

### **"Passport to History"**

#### **Special to the Bulletin by LEONARD OKA**

*(Editor's Note: This story was originally published in "Okage Same de.." (Volume 4, Issue 1, January, 1995), a publication of the Nisei Veteran's Memorial Center. It is reprinted here by permission of the author.)*

As the founder and current president of the Maui Sons and Daughters of the 442, I had always hoped to travel to Europe to trace the footsteps of my father and all of those brave men from the 100th/442nd.

It was my dream to see the battlegrounds where these great men, many who gave their lives, fought to earn the respect of a country who doubted their loyalty. This burning desire was about to be quenched with the organization of the 50th Anniversary celebrations planned for the liberation of Bruyeres and the battles for the "Lost Battalion."

The cost to travel half the way around the world and the 3 weeks away from my job in an industry full of turmoil, the insurance industry, added a bit of stress into what I had hoped and dreamed of for all these years. But this was something I had to do. It was a need that had to be addressed. I was determined to fill this void in my life.

In the year of preparation for this trip, I went through the routine of getting my passport, buying my cold weather clothes, and attending group meetings and occasionally picking up some reading material on Europe. But even up to the day that we were to leave, the commitment of my daily life would not let me enjoy the excitement of this long-awaited trip.

But finally, on the morning of September 26th, the day we were to leave, everything fell into its place. Why was I taking the trip? What was this need I had to answer?

On my list of things to do that morning was to buy flowers and to visit my father's grave at Maui Memorial Park. My dad, CLARENCE "HEKKA"

OKA, had passed away over three and a half years ago. I remember how over ten years ago he had planned to go back to Europe to revisit the site where memories of a part of his life were still in his heart.

He was one of a few Nisei veterans who was willing to share their war experiences with his children and others who would listen. I knew that going back was something he wanted to do but his opportunity was lost due to a family emergency.

That morning I knew that this trip was just as much for my dad as it was for myself. As I talked to him at his graveside, I promised to take him with me. I knew that I saw an old picture of him in uniform at either my home or my mother's. I was determined to find it and take him to Europe with me. I found the picture at home in one of my photo albums and stuck it in my shirt pocket. Now we were ready for our trip.

As we got to the airport, I finally started to get excited about being a tourist. After all, this was a trip of a lifetime. I'd be seeing places that I had only read about and never thought I would actually see.

I was the only Sansei on this group so far. MAE MATSUMOTO, who lives in Florida, was to meet her parents and our group in Paris. I had hoped that more of our sons and daughters group would be able to make this trip. But three weeks in October was a bad time for those who showed interest earlier.

This tour was well planned, with a great mixture of tourist and battle sites. Seeing the Eiffel Tower, Leaning Tower of Pisa, and cities like Paris, Florence, Venice, Munich, Innsbruck, etc. was fun and exciting.

The packing and unpacking as we moved from city to city started to take a toll on my dad's photo. So I decided to keep it tucked away in my passport which I kept in my fanny pack. This was the photo was safer and yet still with me at all times. I didn't realize the irony of this act until later in the trip.

Even with the fun and excitement of visiting well known tourist attractions, I knew why I was on this trip. As we visited familiar towns that the



100th/442nd visited over 50 years ago, I started to get a better sense of what my dad and other GIs had experienced. Of course, there were no bombs scattering shrapnel from tree bursts above me, nor bullets whizzing by. But there were still many towns, some with buildings which stood there 50 years. The hills and valleys remain the same as very little development has happened to change the area.

The forests surrounding the towns have remained pretty much as it has for the past 50 years. I was told that the trees remain due to the amount of shrapnel remaining the trunk. It was no good for use as lumber.

The steep and thickly forested hills remain today, to give us a haunting reminder of the obstacles these GIs had to overcome. Today its beauty can be appreciated, but 50 years ago, I can only imagine the cold and darkness that this foreign land offered to these young men, many who came from warm and sunny Hawaii.

Now as I reflect back on this trip, I begin to realize what made it worth all the time and money expended. No, it's not seeing the Eiffel Tower nor the many beautiful cathedrals and places. Nor was it the museums and artwork of ancient Europe.

What made this trip so memorable and meaningful was the people.

The people of Sospel, L'Escarene, Biffontaine, and Bruyeres, who still remember and welcome the veterans as the heroes they really are.

And also the people in our group. The veterans, their families and friends of the veterans. Each one from our group added something very special to the tour. Living together for 23 continuous days made for very special memories and friendships that will be remembered forever by each and everyone of us.

But the most significant relationship forged was that of mine and my dad's! Although gone from this physical world, we were able to share many things through our hearts. I know that his experiences in WWII, as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was a very important part of his life. After all, he showed it by his 50 years of involvement in the Maui 442nd Veter-

ans organization. Serving as its first president and doing so for the first five years of its existence. It also showed in the 50-year bond of friendship between him and his fellow 442nd veterans.

Through this tour, I had a chance to share with him, the countries he traveled, the battlefields he endured, the people he fought to liberate and the men he fought side to side with.

The stories shared and the site seen will now be a part of my life also. I will never know what it felt like to hear the sounds of gunfire and the bombs falling everywhere. Nor the sight of buddies dying around me. Not that I would ever want to experience this firsthand. But at least I was able to share a little bit more from the life of this very special man, my Dad!

I mentioned earlier that there was a piece of irony which I saw in the act of keeping my dad's photo in my passport. It hit me one of those nights while sitting up in my hotel room in Menton.

A passport provides an individual with the privilege to enter a foreign country. In this instance, maybe my real passport was my dad's life and experiences as a 442nd veteran. What he and his fellow American of Japanese ancestry accomplished on the foreign battlefields of Europe gave me the right and privilege of coming back to enjoy the beauty of these free people and places.

Dad - I thank you for being my "Passport to History."



by K. TANIGAWA

The March 10, 1995 meeting broke some sort of record for attendance in the recent history of tiny HQ2. A total of fifteen persons attended, including a long-lost sheep in the person of GEORGE OKA, who now calls Chicago home. Also present



were President QUANTO WATANABE, who called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, HERB ISONAGA, LIPPY HIGUCHI, SCULLY SHIMIZU, KAZA TOMASA, BERT NISHIMURA, BOB UYEDA, LARRY ISHIDA, BOTCHAN OKEMURA, RICHARD NAKAMURA, BILL THOMPSON, MORISO TERAOKA, TOSHI HAYAMA, and K. TANIGAWA.

A sad note on this evening was information received that EDNA, wife of MASA YAMAMOTO, had passed away after a long bout with kidney failure, which necessitated countless hours of kidney dialysis for the many years she had been afflicted with this ailment. The last rites were served on the following day at the Hosoi Garden Mortuary.

BILL THOMPSON, our perennial gadfly, with his persistent harassment of UH officials, resulted in the recognition of the VVV (Varsity Victory Volunteers) with a commemorative plaque, acknowledging their work in the war effort, immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and their subsequent service with the 442nd Regiment as well as other units of the Armed Forces. BILL, however, is not all SISS AND VINEGAR (Pardon the lisp) - he has a gentler side. During the recent celebrations commemorating our 50th anniversary, he wrote a letter to the widow of 1st Lt. OLIVER FARNUM who was KIA on his first day of duty as CO of HQ2ndBn, in the Battle for Bruyeres, to offer our aloha, and that her husband has not been forgotten and that he still remains in our hearts and minds as a friend and comrade-in-arms.

For the April 14th meeting, just subtract GEORGE OKA and add MASA YAMAMOTO and SWEENEY (MIKE) SUGAI and we have sixteen members - one better than last month. BOTCHAN and BILL outdid themselves with pupus that resembled full-fledged dinners - Inari-zushi and all. Most of the discussions centered around the 442nd RCT Foundation, its future, the Sons and Daughters auxiliary, etc. Discussions like these makes one aware of his mortality - that you must move over to make room for your replacement who may or may not meet with

your standards, but you have no say in the matter.

The Merry Month of May is, among other things, Lei Day, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. Our meeting for the month took in the Halekoa Luau, where we can act like tourists and not be noticed. Everyone will agree, I am sure, that the food was excellent, but the paucity of the poi was felt by all of us poi dogs. However, it was sort of expected and rather surprising that there was poi to be had in the first place - the stormy weather that we have been having since Iniki destroyed a lot of taro patches, but they must have made an excellent comeback. Enjoyed all of that corny ALOOOOOHA! and those fantastic Tahitian dancers doing the fast shake - everytime I watch one of those numbers I fear (expect hopefully?) that the skirts will come flying out to the spectators but that has never happened to date.

Taking in all of this were TOSHI & GRACE HAYAMA, LIPPY HIGUCHI, LARRY & VIOLET ISHIDA, HERB & SUE ISONAGA, RICHARD NAKAMURA, BERT (Luau Perpetrator) & HANNAH NISHIMURA, TAKASHI OKEMURA, KEN & VIVIAN SARUWATARI, KATOON & TOSHI TANIGAWA, President QUANTO WATANABE, MASA YAMAMOTO, CAROL ODA, FRANCES SATO, ALICE SUGI, and AILEEN YONEMORI. Aloha!



by HAROLD FUKUNAGA

### March Mini-Reunion

March 10, 1995 was the date of our mini-reunion, which was coordinated by FRED IDA, who made all of the arrangements of contacting key individuals of each locale and site of the dinner at Fremont Hotel's dining hall in Vegas.



When all of the people arrived that night, it was quite an assembly of 55 participants. They came from Hawaii, California, Nevada, Chicago, Georgia, and Utah. It's remarkable that we had such a large turnout for a 1-night get-together. I guess the appeal of Las Vegas must account for part of the good response.

The dinner at Fremont was similar to the one we had the last time we met there. Yes, the main course was the ribs from Tony Roma's, which has a restaurant in Fremont. I guess we all showed our age, because most of us had difficulty finishing the ribs. ARTHUR & GRACE NISHIMOTO from Utah took some of the leftovers home to their new home that they purchased in Las Vegas. They must have a dog in their new place. ART claimed that they were getting tired of shoveling snow from their driveway and preferred a warmer climate, such as Vegas. I don't know why he was complaining because GRACE, his wife, claimed that she had to shovel the snow because otherwise, the driveway would never get cleared. What a samurai, that ART.

FRED coordinated the program and made sure that everyone had a seat, in spite of the fact that some last minute arrivals came without any advance notification. It seemed that everyone had a good time, because FRED arranged the seating, so that the Hawaii contingent was spread out among all of the tables, thus giving more people to get to know the Mainlanders better. After the dinner, all of the attendees were set up for group pictures. Because of the large size, he split the group into women and men. Some of the pictures turned out very nicely, when FRED showed them at our last chapter meeting.

The following attendees were present: Hawaii - KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA, HAROLD & JANE FUKUNAGA, HENRY HORI, FRED & DOLORES IDA, DENNIS IDA (FRED's son), SHIGEMI & BETTY ISHIZAKI, HIROMI SUEHIRO, ED TAMANAHA, SPEED & EDNA TANNA, and RALPH YEMPUKU. From the mainland - KURTIS ARAKI (SPEED's grandson), TETS & DOT ASATO, JIMMY & ALICE DOI, DEWEY & KIYOKO FUKUI, BONES &

SHIZ FUJIMOTO, GEORGE & CHIYE HAYASHI, IKE IKEDA, GEORGE & MARY KARATSU, MARY KAWABATA, MASUO & BETTY KAWABE, KO & ALICE ARIHARA, ROY & FUMY MACHIDA, MINORU & LILLY MIYASAKI, JIMMY & MASAYO MAKINO, JIM & DOT NAKAGAWA, TAKASHI & SACHI NAKAMOTO, GEORGE & MARY NAKATSU, SUE NISHINAKA, ART & GRACE NISHIMOTO, BILL & ESTHER ODA, YUKIO OKAMOTO, KAY SEKINO, NAWIE SEKINO & FUSAKO KUMAMOTO, STANLEY SERIKAKU, and TED TAKENAKA.

Because all of the participants were scattered in many different hotels, all kinds of stories were being heard. One was that MARY KARATSU had won a \$4000 jackpot, but the next day, that figure changed to \$400. Quite a contrast. FRED was saying that he was very lucky, because he hit a "crazy" slot machine, which spewed out dollar coins like crazy. He claims that he made \$300 twice in a span of over a few minutes at a time. I tried other machines, both the poker and slot but wasn't so lucky. My wife, JANE, was fortunate in hitting a \$1000 royal flush on a 3-card draw. So, we didn't do too bad as a family. I lost and she won. SHIGEMI wasn't lucky at the crap games, but maybe BETTY made up for him at her game. We heard that RALPH YEMPUKU gave HIROMI SUEHIRO, a newcomer to Vegas, a cook's tour, by a car driven by a friend and took him to all of the sights that newcomers must see, from the plush hotels on the strip to Hoover Dam and others. HIROMI should be glad that he had a personal tour. RALPH YEMPUKU said that he was lucky at craps at the Horseshoe Casino. He said that he had 9 passes, so the reward must have been at least a grand or two.

### **Shelby Tour**

When the Camp Shelby Tours were announced a few months ago at the Chapter meeting, nobody from the chapter expressed any interest. However, FRED IDA said that a number of mainland guys were planning to attend the event during the summer, so he checked and decided to attend. He said the following people have



made reservations: MARY SHIKUMA (Denver), SAKAE & GLADYS GINZA (LA), FRANK KURODA (Detroit), SAM & MARY OGAWA (Salt Lake City), STAN SERIKAKU (Chicago), YUKIO OKAMOTO (San Jose), RAY & MARGURITE SAKAGUCHI (Denver), TED TAKENAKA (Reno), JIM & MASAYO MAKINO (LA), MINORU & LILLY MIYASAKI (Richmond), DOROTHY SUGIURA (Denver), MAE TAKAMURA (Denver), FUJIO TASHIRO (Denver), and FRED & DOLORES IDA (Honolulu).

### **52nd Anniversary Memorial Service**

Many G Chapter members and some wives woke up early on March 25th to attend the annual memorial service at the Punchbowl National Cemetery. We need to thank SPEED TANNA and TAKESHI ONUMA for spending time the day before in placing tiny American flags on each G Co. member's grave site. SPEED says it took him about 2 hours to finish the job. Thanks to his knowledge of the location of the grave sites, they were able to finish in two hours. Some other chapters took many hours (some up to 6 hours), because of the unfamiliarity of the sites. The service was well planned and appreciated by all who attended, in spite of the hot weather that morning. Our chapter members who attended the service were: KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA, HAROLD FUKUNAGA, TAKETO & JUDY KAWABATA, EDDIE OCHIAI, TAKESHI ONUMA, HIROMI SUEHIRO, SPEED TANNA, RALPH YEMPUKU, and GRACE ISHII.

### **52nd Anniversary Banquet**

The annual 442nd Veterans Club banquet was held at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 25, 1995 and was attended by many G chapter members and their wives. Among those who attended were: ALFRED & HELEN AMII, KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA, HAROLD & JANE FUKUNAGA, RAY & PAT HANDA, HENRY HORII, RED & DOLORES IDA, GRACE ISHII, ROBERT & YOSHIKO ITO, TOSHIMASA KANAI, TAKETO & JUDY KAWABATA, JOHN & CLARA KIKUYAMA, ROBERT & HARRIET MIYATA, EDDIE & GRACE OCHIAI, TAKESHI

ONUMA, HIROMI SUEHIRO, GEORGE & CHIYOKO HAMADA, ED & EMILY TAMANAHA, RALPH YEMPUKU, and RICHARD AJIFU.

Approximately 600 people attended the banquet overall. G chapter was assigned 3 tables with 10 persons to a table except that one extra seat was squeezed into one table, to make it 31. The program was relatively short and lively. Many dignitaries were introduced and a few medals were given to people who were close to the 442nd Veterans Club (*Editor's Note: G Chapter reporter HAROLD FUKUNAGA was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award by the 442nd Veterans Club, to honor his unselfish commitment to the club throughout the past years.*) The dinner was good in that we were served instead of standing in a buffet line. The food was enjoyed by those on our table. The giant strawberries donated by MANABI HIRASAKI of Oxnard, California were sweet and complemented our dinners well.

A silent auction of artistic prints donated by local artist, JACKSON MORISAWA of H Co. was received well. All items were sold and the proceeds were donated to the 442nd RCT Foundation.

### **Visitors**

ROCKY MATAYOSHI was in town recently, from March 11 to April 18. He visited the principal neighbor islands, besides Honolulu during that period. He made it a point to visit us at our G Chapter meeting twice, on March 16 and April 13. All of the guys were happy to see him. It seems as if he is getting mellower as he ages, because he is conversant, as contrasted to the days when he was very quiet and serious. According to him, he didn't know that he had won a DSC, because he returned a little earlier than most of us. His discharge papers, at the time of his discharge did not show that, so he was surprised when people told him that he had won a DSC. Because of his other medals, from purple hearts to silver stars, he accumulated more points than most of us, so he was discharged earlier than we were. Evidently, his DSC was written up after he left for home.



He was very glad that he visited the Neighbor Islands, because he met some of the guys he didn't see for ages. He saw RICHARD YAMAMOTO of his platoon, who he didn't see for over 50 years. He met others in Maui and Hilo and had a good time reminiscing.

Our former company commander BILL AULL was in town for several weeks, living in his condominium in Hawaii Kai. According to TAKETO KAWABATA and KAZU MOTOBU, who had been talking to BILL occasionally, he was not feeling well enough to participate in our chapter meetings or Shinnenkai. When he felt a little better, he was asked to sit in an interview with a Tokyo television outfit and describe his days during the Bruyeres campaign. Soon thereafter he had a mishap and became incapacitated, so he couldn't drop in to our meetings. He left for his home after that and we hope that he recovers enough, so that he can visit with us in the future.

### **Condolence**

We were informed that CARL OGAWA of Los Angeles passed away in mid-March. He was being treated for cancer. CARL is a former Hawaiian, who volunteered from Honolulu. He remained in Chicago after the war for many years and then relocated to Los Angeles later. He mentioned after his relocation that he was tired of the cold weather in Chicago. He was listed as killed in action on the Territorial of Hawaii World War II Memorial, located on the corner of King and Punchbowl Streets, until the he notified authorities of the error and the correction was made.

His ashes were brought back to Hawaii, where they were buried at the State of Hawaii's Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe on May 4, 1995. Some of the G Chapter members who attended the ceremony were: SPEED TANNA, GRACE ISHII, AL & HELEN AMII, HENRY HORII, HAROLD FUKUNAGA, RAY HANDA, BOBBY ITO, RICHARD AJIFU, SHIGEMI ISHIZAKI, JOHN KIKUYAMA, and CHARLIE KAIWI and his wife.

### **Future Notes**

FRED IDA has reserved the banquet hall at Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas for March 22, 1996 for the next G Co. get-together, similar to the one he arranged this past March.

FRED is also planning a European tour next year, visiting sites that G Co. went through in Italy and France. He has been having difficulty locating the site of Hill 140, where G Co. incurred such heavy casualties. He'll keep on searching for the nearest village or other landmarks. If he can arrange that tour, we should all make an attempt to join it, because Father Time is creeping up and we won't have many opportunities in the future after that. He also stated that the tour would give any son or daughter who wish to accompany the parents a good idea of what the fathers went through in those hills, mountains, and forests. He will keep us posted on the developments.

### **Correction**

I was informed that MRS. HORII contributed the plastic "scrubbers" at the G Chapter Shinnenkai held in January, 1995. Each family received one to be used to scrub pots and pans in the kitchen.

### **Wartime Experience of ROBERT ITO**

ROBERT (BOBBY) ITO was still attending Farrington High School when the call for volunteers for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team came up in February, 1943. He was in his senior year then. He received his high school diploma after his return from service in 1946. He was in G Company from the beginning, receiving his basic and advanced training in the same company. He was assigned to the 1st squad in the 1st platoon.

He recalls that he was a green rookie when the company went into combat in Italy, just like every other guy in the company. He remembers the pounding we took on Hill 140, when the Germans barraged us day and night on that hill.

He remembers that day (July 11) that he was wounded in the neck on Hill 147. KICHIO EBISUYA, KANEICHI HAMADA, and SHIGEO



SUMIOKA were also wounded on that day. He was in the hospital and later returned to the company when it was by the Arno River, near Florence. He recalls going on patrol and crossing the river during the few days that he was there.

He recalls the next campaign in the Vosges Mountains and Bruyeres, which was a miserable time, because of the constant cold rain and heavily wooded areas, where tree bursts from artillery shells made conditions much more dangerous. BOBBY's eye glasses were broken after Bruyeres, near the railroad tracks. Because of his bad eyesight, he couldn't see without his glasses, so he went back to the Battalion Aid Station and ultimately ended in the hospital. They determined that his eyesight was unfit for combat duties, so they transferred him to a rear echelon, quartermaster outfit, after they fitted him with new glasses.

He joined this quartermaster outfit in Belgium. Soon thereafter the Germans in that sector of the war zone mounted a massive counter attack and surrounded many American units, including the quartermaster unit that BOBBY was assigned to. This counter offensive launched by the Germans was commonly caused the Battle of the Bulge. BOBBY says that the Germans came so fast, that before they knew what was going on, they were encircled and captured. They were required to walk all the way to Germany in the snow, without rations. He said that it took them about 5 or 6 days of walking before they reached the prisoner of war camp. They were not provided any rations, except for some raw potatoes, which they had to eat raw, because they couldn't cook them while walking. In addition, they weren't furnished with anything warm, such as blankets, so they had to suffer the cold and hunger while walking to Germany. BOBBY recalls the name of the POW camp was called Stalag 4B, which was located close to Berlin.

While in camp, they were provided 2 meals per day. The food was not too bad, BOBBY says. He was assigned certain working details at times. He remembers going on a couple of work de-

tails, unloading things from the trains. He thought they were American Red Cross materials that were sent from the US.

The living conditions in the barracks were not too bad, although they didn't have any heater, to keep themselves warm. They were furnished a blanket per person, so they had something to cover themselves while sleeping. They were finally rescued in May by the Russians who were attacking the Germans from the east. Soon thereafter, the Americans reached that area, so the American prisoners of war were loaded up in trucks and transported back to France. BOBBY doesn't remember much of the details, but they were provided new uniforms and sent to the US via transport ship, which landed in New York City. They were flown from there to San Francisco via c-46s or 47s. He recalls that he heard the news of the surrender of Japan while he was on the transport ship on the way home to Honolulu. He was stationed at Schofield after he returned in August until his discharge in November 1945. He said that they didn't have any duty, so they were given furloughs. He went with "PUNCHY" NAKAHARA to visit Kohala, "PUNCHY's" hometown, on one of the leaves.

After his discharge, he went to work for his father, who had a laundry. After several years, he took up electrical work after getting training at the Honolulu Vocational School. After several years, he went to work for the US Postal Service as a letter carrier, from which he finally retired.



by HENRY KUNIYUKI

### Travels and Trips

A quotation from an unknown author personifies members of the Livorno Chapter and their respective spouses: "Take time to play - it is the secret of perpetual youth. Take time to be friendly,



it is the road to happiness. Take time to laugh, laughter is the music of the soul." During the past several months, ten Livorno families enjoyed well-deserved vacations to varied parts of the world. MASATOSHI & SUMIE MITANI scheduled an East Coast/Canadian tour; SHIZUO & CLARA OIDE enjoyed a lucrative visit to Las Vegas and San Francisco; BETTY TAKAEZU and sisters visited Alaska and Las Vegas; RAY & MIMI TANAKA had an extended one-month southern states visitation with her brother and sister-in-law; JERRY & ETHEL DOI made their annual trip to their daughter's family in Sacramento; MINORU & MITSUYE NAGASAKO also had a rewarding Las Vegas trip; MORIO & RACHELO MORI spent several weeks in Nippon and topped it off with a trip to the University of Colorado Law School Alumni Award Banquet where MORIO was honored for Small Firm Distinguished Achievement; the TAKAMORI MIYAGIS and HENRY KUNIYUKIS took advantage of the 52nd Anniversary Banquet by playing tourist in Waikiki. TAKAMORI and KIKUYE were recipients of complimentary accommodations at Sheraton Waikiki as he is a retiree of the Sheraton Corporation. Our mainland member, KEN SHIGAYA and MARY also had a fantastic trip to Nippon last October according to a letter dated April 6, 1995. The "travelogue" of the SHIGAYAS, OMORIS, and TANAKAS are highlighted in this second quarter issue of the Bulletin.

### **The SHIGAYAS**

I'll let KEN tell his story:

"We landed at New Osaka Kansai International Airport and spend a couple of days with MARY's cousin in Kobe before the earthquake. It was a beautiful sister city to Seattle. From Kobe, we went to tour Kyushu for a week. It was MARY's first but my second trip. But it was a "Gaijin" tour so I learned more about Kyushu than before. From Kyushu we visited my older brother, who was born in Shiga-ken, near Lake Biwa. After a week with my brother, we stopped at Kanazawa to visit another cousin of MARY's and trained to Sado Island. That was quite an

island! We toured the island and it's a gold mine, where they used prisoners to mine the gold. Since we had purchased three-week rail passes, we trained to Sapporo and joined the "Gaijin" (English speaking) Sapporo tour. Know what? We were the only tourists so they drove us around in a taxi cab. In Kyushu, there were only four of us - two from Switzerland and two of us. Therefore, they drove us around in a van. I believe they had to honor our tours because we booked our tours back in May, 1994 and paid in advance. After Sapporo, we spent about a week with MARY's cousin in Hokkaido, mainly around Hakodate. Summarizing, we thought it was a fun trip and dined well with all sort of "go-chi-so" and still arrived home minus five pounds!"

KEN concluded his letter by expressing his condolences regarding HOWARD KIYAMA's untimely passing. He did not realized that the soldier in the photo being embraced by his tearful father was HOWARD. He had seen that famous photo in various other publications. KEN extends his very best regards to the Livorno Chapter members.

### **The TANAKAS**

First-hand detailed report was received from MIMI and RAY TANAKA regarding their one-month sojourn to the Southern states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. MIMI's brother FRANK and sister-in-law DAISY MOURI were their gracious hosts for the 5,000 mile car journey. The starting point was Brother FRANK's home located in beautiful New Market, Virginia. They were a bit late for the cherry blossom viewing in Washington D.C. unfortunately. They were blessed with Hawaii-like weather for most parts of the journey, although they found Virginia rather cool at first. Frankly, MIMI found the scenery in the Southern part of the country rather dreary as the spring planting had not been started. Visitations to river-boat casinos were somewhat interesting, but they were somewhat surprised to have to pay admission to board the ships. More details regarding the one-month vacation will be cov-



ered by RAY at our Livorno Chapter meeting.

### **The OMORIS**

In order to do some legal work in Japan and to have RACHEL enjoy the cherry blossoms, MORIO scheduled a trip thereat during the later part of March. Their good Tokyo friend escorted them on April 1st to Bandai-san spa area in Aizu Wakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture. Both RACHEL and MORIO were quite surprised to see their beautiful hotel thereat snow-covered. Both thoroughly enjoyed the luxury of both indoor and outdoor hot springs. Fukushima-ken, as you may know, is located next to Sendai and is bordered by the Japan Sea. The OMORIS also visited Kawagoye, the little Edo. Certain portion of their travel was by stretched limousine, the only one-of-a-kind available at their destination chauffeured by a proud driver. I am sure citizens of the area covered by that vehicle thought that the royal family was visiting! When they returned to Tokyo the cherry trees all over were in full bloom. Shortly after returning from that fabulous ten-day journey to Nippon, the OMORIS took off for Denver, Colorado, where MORIO was honored at the School of Law Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet. The University of Colorado Law School Alumni Awards for Distinguished Achievement is given to law school graduates who, in addition to scholastic achievements in Law School, distinguished themselves as big and small law firm practitioners and in judiciary, executive, and government positions after graduation. MORIO and RACHEL were pleased to meet old law school classmates, Boulder, Colorado friends, and old law professors, including the Dean of the Law School. The information published in the Awards Program brochure was gathered from Hawaii lawyer friends Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, and other sources. The introduction of MORIO at the awards ceremony reads as follows:

"MORIO OMORI, who grew up on Maui, Hawaii, is a decorated World War II veteran who escaped after being captured by killing their German guards in the Apennine Mountains, Po

Valley battles in Italy, and escaped from behind enemy lines. After the war, he received his education degree from the University of Hawaii, and then attended the University of Colorado School of Law, graduating in 1954. Mr. OMORI served as law clerk for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii. Then from 1956 to 1963 he was a deputy attorney general and special deputy attorney general for the State of Hawaii, litigating extensively at all levels of the state and federal court system, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Since the mid-1960's, MR. OMORI has been engaged in the private practice of law specializing in corporate and land use issues. He has served as general counsel and chairman of the Board of Directors for Pacific Savings and Loans and then as general counsel and member of the board of the Halekulani Corporation in Honolulu. Mr. OMORI represents Mitsui Fudosan and a number of Japanese clients as well. He has played major roles in the political arena as well, serving as campaign coordinator in Senator DANIEL INOUE's electoral campaigns in the '60s and '70s. He is one of the state of Hawaii's leading citizens and one of the University of Colorado's most accomplished graduates."

CONGRATULATIONS, MORIO, LIVORNO CHAPTER IS INDEED PROUD OF YOU!



*Morio Omori*



Incidentally, MORIO and RACHEL are taking another cruise on the Crystal Harmony, the same ship they took to the Scandinavian capitals and London. The next Crystal cruise will cover Portugal, Spain, southern France, Eastern Italy, disembarking in Venice. They then fly to Austria for four more days, a total of 23 days this July, 1995.

TAKE THE TIME TO ENJOY LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS! ARRIVADECII!



by JACKSON MORISAWA

TAKAO HEDANI was a Section Sergeant in 3rd Platoon Mortars of H Co. He later received a field commission and served as an officer in H Co. HAZEL HEDANI gave some articles written by TAKAO. Part I will appear in this issue, and Part II will appear in the Fall issue of the Go For Broke Bulletin. The following articles are excerpts from his memoirs of combat experiences during the Italian and French campaigns.

### TAKAO HEDANI's Memoirs

After training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi for over a year since April of 1943, H Co. left the port of embarkation, Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia on May 1, 1944 for Europe. Destination was unknown to the troops of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, but every soldier was excited and ready for combat. However, most of the foot soldiers were poor sailors and hugged their bunks (seasick) most of the 28 days before landing in Oran, North Africa. H Co. landed in Naples on June 7, 1944, where we were issued new rifles, machine guns, and 81MM Mortars at the staging area. We were prepared for combat.

On June 23, 1994, 3rd platoon had four passes to Rome from the town of Civitavecchia. I still remember clearly that I gave Pfc. GEORGE

YAMAMOTO a pass to Rome and \$10.00 to enjoy. Knowing that boy was just 18 years old and a virgin, I told him to spend the \$10.00 to become a man. Upon his return, I confirmed whether he executed my command. He said simply, "Yes."

Early in the morning of June 26, 1944, the entire 6 guns of 81MM Mortars were committed at the Battle of Belvedere. 3rd Platoon got orders to follow the infantry soldiers of the leading line companies E and F. All of the sudden the whole battalion was stopped cold by the enemy small arms and artillery fire. The front line infantry men took cover in a ravine to combat the Germans. The Germans inflicted heavy casualties on our foot soldiers from their commanding high ground. Anti-tank platoon of 2nd Battalion Headquarters Co. drove a 3/4 ton truck to our 81MM Mortar position. The occupants of the vehicle stood up with binoculars and observed the enemy situation, and they were clearly in view of the Germans. Within 2 minutes a German 88 self propelled gun made a direct hit on the truck and killed the 3 spectators instantly. This scene was the initiation to the baptismal combat action of the 442nd RCT, in general. I just thought it was another maneuver and something to be observed and enjoyed.

Nothing spectacular happened to our mortar platoon. We had our guns mounted but no officers were around to give command so the entire mortar platoon waited patiently for orders. About 11 o'clock nature called, so I got behind a bush and squatted down. Small arms fire started to rake the ravine and a stray bullet hit close to my right foot. Till this day I don't recall whether or not I wiped my rear end to get out from the bush.

The entire 2nd Battalion was in a chaotic state. Company commanders lost contacts with their platoons and platoon leaders lost radio contacts with their superiors. The Jerries were infiltrating our loosely held positions. On the right side of our defense was a high cliff of mountains and 1,000 yards to our left was the 3rd Battalion. In front of us was a farm house which had a commanding view of the valley. From the advan-



tageous position, the Germans picked our infantry position with the greatest of ease. The whole battalion was at a loss and could not advance nor retreat.

About 11:45 AM I got a reel of wire and started to extend it from our gun position to the right side of our defensive position. I ran as fast as I could through the knee high bushes. I got to the end of the combat wires where there was a small shelter. To my surprise LT. KEEGAN and Lt. Col. HANLEY were giving command from the Battalion Command Post. I left a telephone attached to the end of the combat wire and scooted back to my gun position. This time the Germans tried to hit me with small arms fire, but missed because I presented a small target. I weighted 125 lb.. with full field pack.

We fired 4 to 5 rounds at the enemy farm house observation post. Suddenly about 1:00 PM the enemy started to withdraw and we captured the high commanding ground of Belvedere. H Co. recouped and reorganized to join the victorious 100th Battalion in the town of Belvedere. I still can't imagine how the 100th Battalion passed through the 2nd and 3rd Battalion and made a surprise attack on the enemy.

Of course, 3rd platoon did not have any casualties in this encounter. The machine gunners, who were attached to E and F Companies, also were without casualties.

By virtue of the heroics by the 100th Battalion, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were saved from disaster and annihilation by the experienced German troops.

On July 1, 1944, H Co. crossed Cecina River without any enemy resistance. July 3, 1944, the 2nd Battalion faced the infamous Hill 140. The Mortar Platoon took a gun position which was contrary to the acceptable choice of placements. Without any officers to command the 45 men 81MM Mortar Platoon, we scrambled about a mile from a road junction to the right of a steep ridge. We could not locate a suitable gun position in the solid rock and there were no shelters to hide the 3 81MM Mortars. Still, the infantry men manning the 2nd Battalion forward position needed our support in the worse way possible.

There was a bushy area about half an acre. I said this was it. We can't advance further to look for an ideal gun position. The bushes were about 5 feet high, enough to conceal the gun positions but it was a daring feat to place 81MM Mortars on a forward slope with hardly any cover or concealment. We took a gamble and depended on our luck to survive. Probably the worst gun placement selection deceived the enemy. The ammunition chain was 2 miles of mountains and each person carried 4 ammunitions through the rugged trails. On the 4th of July we had a German counter attack. We celebrated by killing the counter attacking Germans from this unorthodox gun position. The intense firing heated the mortars so much that we had to stop firing to cool off the red hot barrels. S/Sgt. FRANK SAITO was the forward observer and directed fire until the 7th of July. The Germans used their best tactics to subdue the Japanese Americans. Also for 5 days the Germans tried their tactical best to neutralize our 81MM mortar positions. We had 500 rounds of ammunition at our position at all times. On 4th of July, we fired 1,200 rounds of 81MM mortar shells to quell the German counter attacks. The 81MM mortar positions were at least 3/4 miles away to the right of the battalion main line of supply and ammunition route. This caused the Germans to scout and try to locate our gun position. On the eve of July 4th, two squads of 2nd Battalion soldiers were assigned to guard our gun positions.

One incident will give a picture of how fluid the front lines were. To our right there was a farm house with pink roof tiles, so we named it the "Pink House." The Germans used this house to their advantage. They used it as a sheltered observation post and assembly area. I was located about 600 yards from our gun position. On July 5th, the Germans, 60 strong, marched tactically down the valley in front of us, attempting to cut off the supply route of E & G Companies. I couldn't resist the temptation of bombarding the enemy in the bottom of the valley. I ordered the three guns to traverse and search 9 rounds and repeat it five times. Not one German stood up after the barrage. Moments later a Red



Cross flag and a white flag were raised from the Pink House. For two hours there was no firing and stretcher bearers were busy carrying the dead and wounded. Ironically, S/Sgt. YUTAKA YOSHIDA claims that we fired some short rounds. I still think our guns were accurate with some mistakes, such as increasing the number of increments on the Mortar shells. Fortunately, again 3rd platoon did not receive any casualties during the battle of Hill 140. By word of mouth, it was reported that S/Sgt. YUTAKA YOSHIDA stood up on the ridge of Hill 140 and challenged the Germans to fight like men. No sooner had he uttered those nasty words he was chopped down by German machine guns and was wounded severely in the legs.

The Mortar Platoon had rather easy assignments following the infantry men attacking German strong points. After July 9th we traveled on foot along the stream in the valley. Although we were exposed walking in columns of two at the bottom of the valley, we only received harassing enemy artillery fires. The going was easy but the heavy load under the intense summer heat bothered many of us. We experienced strong sun strokes and felt dizzy under the heavy summer heat. Before advancing into Saint Luce, we came across a clear water creek. Noticing how thirsty we were, we all put Helizone tablets into our canteens, waited patiently for 30 minutes before drinking the water. I remember everyone drinking the cool canteen of fresh water "down the hatch." To our surprise, after traveling about 2 miles down the stream we found a huge 1,500 lb. dead white cow. There were two or three more ahead in the upper stream. All of them were ready to explode with the help of the intense summer heat. The dead cows were already full of worms and smelled very bad. Most of us took the situation as calmly as possible without too much concern of getting stomachaches. These things would never have happened in normal maneuvers, but war is an exception.

On July 12th, near the town of Saint Luce, Sgt. TOGO SUGIYAMA, the most quiet and reserved sergeant in the H Co. machine gun Platoon,

exposed himself and killed two German machine gunners. He then proceeded to protect the rifle company advancement by knocking off a strong machine gun position and snipers on the left flank of the defending infantry men.

On or about the 14th of July, we were told to protect the troops who were attacking Leghorn, a very important seaport. The 2nd Battalion was to seize the high hills looking down on Leghorn from the east. We were marching day and night in the hot scorching sun. The jeeps took a terrific beating because they were constantly under enemy artillery fire. But the 81MM Mortar Platoon just marched the entire route right behind the leading infantry men. We stopped only to mount our guns and prepare for action against the enemy.

The hot summer heat was getting to the foot soldiers, especially the heavily loaded 81MM Mortar Platoon. We were advancing quite rapidly. All of a sudden a Lieutenant came up and ordered me to mount the 81MM Mortar in an open space without any protection from the enemy. He told me that it was an order when I questioned his decision. I knew and sensed that the Jerries were observing our movements. The infantry soldiers were only two hundred yards in front of us but were well concealed. Pfc. GEORGE YAMAMOTO was digging his foxhole and went left of the gun position to make sure that an ammunition dump was established to supply ammunition for action. Before I left for the inspection I asked about 12 men to stay in the foxholes because we were exposed to the enemy. Pfc. GEORGE YAMAMOTO said he was so hot that he wanted some fresh air. He was a dead target for the German 88MM self propelled gun. His whole upper body was gone and strangely, only his dog tag was there to identify him. S/Sgt. LYMAN HARADA dug a hole and buried him. I moved the gun to a position covered with vineyards. Of course, we fired our 81MM Mortars, but at the time it was too late. Sgt. HARADA felt sick so he left us and went back to the Battalion Aid Station. He never returned for combat duties after that.

The Germans were masters of delaying and



rearguard tactics. They took the high grounds with cover and concealment, while we were left to attack them from open grounds, mostly flat and without cover or concealment. I remember clearly till this day....I was attached to a rifle platoon of George Co. on a small hill looking across a somewhat deep gully. The enemy had observation posts all along the ridge facing us. The scorching sun beat down on us without mercy. We hastily dug foxholes and tried to avoid the rays of the summer sun. We were dog tired from the strenuous work plus the devastating heat. I know I slept soundly in my fox hole. When I woke up the next morning, the hot sun was shining in my face and the entire platoon had left me. They were across the ravine taking over the enemy positions without a shot. I was so ashamed of myself and did not say anything about this episode. If the situation was reversed, H Co. would have lost a forward observer.

While providing harassing 81MM Mortar fire, the 2nd Battalion advance to the town of Luciana with 3rd Battalion on the right. I still remember vividly Lt. WILLIAMS giving some fire orders from Count CIANO's home on the cliff. All three guns were placed in a small area, 50 x 50 yards, because of clearance for the 81MM Mortar shells. The jeep drivers were subject to direct enemy fire. However, we did not stop firing because of enemy counter attacks. We were determined to give fire support to the infantry soldiers at all cost. Somehow, the attack lasted till 10 o'clock the next morning. We disassembled our guns and started to march forward. For about a mile we saw white first aid bandages and dead enemy soldiers along both sides of the narrow country road. According to the Italians, the Jerries were badly defeated in this campaign. On July 18th, Leghorn fell under 100th Battalion's main thrust.

On July 21st, the combat team pushed out as far as Highway 67, the main east-west road between Longhorn and Florence.

After a brief rear area training and rear area defense, the 2nd battalion, on the night of August 20th and 21st, was assigned to defend the Arno River replacing the British First Division

with 3rd Battalion on the left. H Co. 81MM Mortar Platoon's three sections placed their gun positions in a peach garden. Every day for ten days I climbed a 25-foot high tower of a Roman Catholic church, using the top of the tower as an observation post. Nobody wanted to take my place because it was too big a risk to expose yourself to the enemy. Every morning I gave the priest some K-rations for his kind thoughts and letting me use his tower as an observation post. You could see the Jerries fortifying the Arno River and placing machine gun positions at the outskirts of the City of Florence Across the Arno River, the Jerries laid heavy mine fields to prevent easy access of the area. Early on the morning of August 31st, we were ordered to cross the Arno River and wait for orders. About 10:00 AM we received orders to get back to our old gun positions. Somehow I felt that the action of our platoon leader did not show any leadership lately. He just ordered me to take charge and left everything to me, as if it were none of his business. I was furiously mad and grabbed him by the collar and wanted to punch him. Cpl. MUSTARD OSHIRO came dashing towards me and stopped me from punching an officer. This incident was quickly reported to Capt. KEEGAN. He called me in personally but did not say anything. He just warned me of my short temper. I weighed only 120 pounds on a 5'8 frame. However, I was never afraid to call on my right and deliver an honest shot. Luckily, we (3rd platoon) had only one KIA in this campaign.

*(To be continued.)*

## **Chapter News**

Howe Chapter met on May 21, Sunday evening, at the clubhouse. As usual we had a good turnout, good food, and good fellowship. SADA and MITSUKO TACHIBANA from Hawaii were our visitors. Bingo was enjoyed and as usual BESSIE was the big winner. Again! Making up for Las Vegas?

TOE YOSHINO's uncle AKI passed away and his wife remembered Howe Chapter generously. AKI was always generous in many Howe Chapter reunions.



The second installment of TAKAO's memoirs will be printed in the next issue.



by **ED ICHIYAMA**

"C" Btry members actively participated in the 52nd Anniversary events of the 442nd Veterans Club. Prior to the Memorial Service at Punchbowl on the morning of March 25, 1995, KOKOMO HOKAMA, NAKA SAKAMOTO, BOBBY KIKAWA, STANLEY SAKAI, SADA HIGA, & BOB ORITA placed tiny American flags and leis on the gravesides of our departed comrades. They may be gone but they are not forgotten. It was a touching scene to observe the living veterans reflecting a moment at each graveside. MARGE MARUO, BEA KIKAWA, & NAKA SAKAMOTO strung the leis - Mahalo!

At the Banquet, which was held at the Pacific Beach Hotel on the evening of March 25, 1995, Charleys outdid themselves by occupying 3 1/2 tables, a world's record for us. The drumbeat for Charley's to attend the Banquet started very early because the 522 FABn and the 171st were given the task of coordinating the Memorial Service as well as the Banquet.

Charleys stole the show at the banquet with MANABI HIRASAKI, NAKA SAKAMOTO, and STANLEY SAKAI leading the way. MANABI & SUMI HIRASAKI generously contributed 30 crates of their premium Driscoll long-stemmed strawberries and 6 crates of raspberries. This translated into 2 huge strawberries and some raspberries on individual plates for each guest. There were oohs and aahs all over the banquet at the sight of the strawberries. Mahalo, SUMI & MANABI.

NAKA SAKAMOTO, STANLEY SAKAI, MITS KUNIHIRO (522B) & IWAO YOKOOJI (171st); the 3 Stooges, plus one unwittingly contributed

to some levity during the event. These four, who were color bearers in what was supposed to be a solemn ritual, executed a hilarious routine which contributed to make the evening an enjoyable one. Imagine, if you will, this scene - on the command of right face by NAKA, the other three made a left face, thus facing NAKA, instead of all facing the same direction. Please excuse NAKA - after all he only has 20 years of active military service.

KOKOMO HOKAMA and EDDIE ICHIYAMA, who was the MC for the banquet, represented the chapter in the Planning Committee, which was chaired by JOE OBAYASHI (522B).

On April 28 - 30, 1995, 522nd veterans from all over the country converged upon Los Angeles to attend our 522 Reunion. The reunion was well attended with over 200 veterans, spouses, and guests in attendance. Banquets were held at the New Otani Hotel on the evenings of April 28th and 29th. The keynote speaker at each event was a 442 veteran - HERSHEY MIYAMURA and DANIEL INOUE. HERSHEY, incidentally, is the only living 442nd Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

The hospitality room at the Miyako Hotel was the most popular room for the attendees. The tables were laden with goodies all the time - sashimi, sushi, rice, tsukemono, strawberries, melons, etc, etc, etc. The drinkers drank, the eaters ate, and the talkers talked. A good time was had by all. HARD ROCK NAKAMURA, as usual, was kingpin in the hospitality room - danke, danke. Also to MANABI for contributing this premium Driscoll strawberries.

During April 28th and 29th, most or all of the veterans toured the Japanese American Museum to view the 522nd exhibit. The exhibit was very touching and moving, bringing back memories of the horrors we had encountered 50 years ago at Dachau.

On Sunday, April 30, 1995, a joint memorial service by the 522 and the Jewish community of Los Angeles was held at the Museum to commemorate the 50th Anniversary year of the Holocaust. Over 500 people attended the Memorial Service, DAN INOUE delivered the key-



note address, outlining incidents of Holocaust that have occurred throughout history. DAN's presentation was very informative. He was followed by JANINA CYWINSKI and LARRY LUBETSKY, both Dachau survivors who were aided by the 522 veterans. They both presented gripping accounts of their lives in the concentration camps.

LARRY LUBETSKY, incidentally, is the Lithuanian Jewish youngster who was helped by "C" Btry, who subsequently traveled with us as an interpreter. Remember him? This was truly a meaningful reunion with LARRY.

ED ICHIYAMA, who was the last speaker, represented the 522 veterans. He spoke about his personal observations and impressions of the Dachau Holocaust.

GEORGE OIYE and SUS ITO were extensively interviewed by the various media present during the reunion. GEORGE & SUS have made extensive research about Dachau and are considered historians along with TED TSUKIYAMA and HIDEO NAKAMINE, both of 522B.

Many veterans left for Las Vegas for their post-reunion gathering shortly after the Memorial Service. They descended upon the Four Queens Hotel and Casino, which was their headquarters

A good time was had by all. I understand, notwithstanding, the contributions most made to the economy of Las Vegas.

Thank you SADA HIGA and STANLEY SAKAI, our Hawaii representatives. A great big mahalo to TAD TOKUDA who baby-sat the reunion with an assist from MANABI HIRASAKI. The reunion was outstanding the beautifully orchestrated. Thanks, guys.

An important note to all you Charleys. If you have not already done so, please order your autographed copy of "My Best World War II Souvenir," by the renown author and story teller, NAKA SAKAMOTO. NAKA's account of our post-war experiences in Germany is hilarious. He names names, places, and dates as only he can - however, it is all in good-natured fun.

Auf wiedersehen!



by EDDIE IMAMURA



Senator DANIEL K. INOUE

### Taps - In Memorium

ICHIRO HASEGAWA, 73, of Honolulu, passed away on March 16, 1995 in Honolulu.

HAROLD FREDERICK RIEBESELL, 78, of Englewood, Colorado, passed away on March 18, 1995 in Denver, Colorado. (*Editor's Note: Also see "Other News."*)

### Funeral Services

ICHIRO HASEGAWA - The funeral service for the late ICHIRO HASEGAWA was held at the chapel of Hosoi Garden Mortuary at 6 PM on Thursday, March 23, 1995. Inurnment services were held on the following day at 3 PM at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. The services were attended by a large number of Service Chapter members and their wives.



The Reverend HAMA of Honpa Hongwanji Mission conducted the funeral service. TAKAO "JUICY" ITO of Service Chapter served as the Master of Ceremonies. The offering of incense (Shoko) were given by MASAJI "SHADOW" KUROZUMI, Service Chapter Prexy who represented the Chapter and RALPH CHINAKA of Service Chapter, who represented the congregation.

DAN HAKODA, a friend and classmate of ICHIRO at Konawaena High School spoke highly of ICHIRO in his eulogy. ICHIRO was born on August 13, 1921 in Captain Cook, Southern Kona on the Big Island. Upon completion of his sophomore year at Konawaena High School in Waimea, a distance of 65 miles from his home, to help his mother support their large family. In March of 1943, he volunteered for the 442nd and was assigned to Service Chapter as a Rations Clerk. He was honorably discharged from the Army on December 22, 1945.

ICHIRO went back to work as the Fukushima Store but later moved to Honolulu to work for the Veterans Administration. He then worked as the Office Manager for the Internal Revenue Service during the day and as a night clerk at Kobayashi Hotel until his retirement. He was a quiet and generous person who helped others with their problems. His hobbies were bowling, fishing, and taking care of his grandchildren.

The services concluded by the rendition of two of his favorite songs, "Hamabe No Uta" and "I'll Remember You" sung by his friend HERBERT HEE.

Our deepest condolences go to his children, grandchildren, and relatives.

**HAROLD RIEBESELL.** We received word from GEORGE and MAY MABE, Service Chapter members from Denver, Colorado, that Colonel HAROLD RIEBESELL, passed away in Denver, Colorado on March 18, 1995. His service, attended by many Nisei, was held at 10:30 AM on Monday, March 27, 1995 at the Fairmount's Little Ivy Chapel in Denver.

The funeral program we received from GEORGE MABE listed Reverend Dr. NOBUKO

MIYAKE-STONER of Simpson United Methodist Church as Officiating Minister, JIM EWART as the Organist, and DEAN THOMAS as the Soloist. The Ushers included: HARRY NAKAGAWA, JOHN NOGUCHI, JOE SAKATA, and GARY TAGAWA and the guest book and floral arrangements were handled by MARGARET MATSUNAGA and FLORENCE MIYAHARA.

HAROLD was born on May 22, 1916 in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He served with distinction as a Personnel Officer with the 442nd Regt. At HAROLD's funeral service, his oldest son RICK spoke of his father's respect and admiration for the Nisei soldiers at Camp Shelby and overseas. HAROLD always kept in contact with his Nisei friends and attended most of the 442nd reunions. He was a member of the Denver Nisei Cathay Post and was the President of the Asian American Historical Society which supported the erection of the memorial monument at Camp Shelby.

After the war, he attended Denver University and received his law degree in three years and became an attorney for Shell Oil Company. He also joined the Colorado National Guard and retired as a full Colonel.

His health began to decline after he suffered a stroke two years ago. His wife, JANE, as asthmatic patient and on oxygen, was very strong during the service. She gave her best wishes to their many 442 friends.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to JANE, their children, and to the family.

### **Annual Banquet**

The 442nd 52nd Anniversary Banquet was held at the Pacific Beach hotel on March 25, 1995. Attendees at the banquet were: SUSUMU & KOZUE AWAYA, RALPH & GRACE CHINAKA, GORDON & FLORENCE FURUTO, RICHARD & ALMA HASHI and their daughter CAROL, TAKAO & JUNE ITO, EDWIN & AMY IMAMURA, YUTAKA & TOMOE KAJIWARA, MASAJI KUROZUMI, ALLEN & SARA MATSUDA, GEORGE & HISAKO MIYASHIRO with their sons CARY and EARL, CLARA MIRIKITANI



with son GLENN, MARTHA MORIMOTO, TOSHIO & CLARA NAKANISHI, HIDEO NIMORI, ALEXANDER & JEANOKA, CYNTHIA OTANI, TOM & CHIYOKO TANAKA and their guests RAYMOND & EDITH ARAKAWA, NOBORU & MASAKO TANOUE, BILL & BETTY TOMA and their daughter LINDA, and KIYOJI & FRANCES YAMADA.

### **Western Europe (Bruyeres/Biffontaine) Tour Reunion Luncheon**

RALPH and GRACE CHINAKA who escorted two busloads of veterans and their wives and friends to the Bruyeres/Biffontaine ceremony and to Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal last October hosted a get-together luncheon for them at their home on March 5, 1995.

Those who attended and enjoyed the CHINAKA's hospitality were: TOYOKO & ESTA AKAJI, ARTHUR & JEANETTE CALDEIRA, VIOLET CHEONG, HAZEL GALLIPEAU, SAMUEL & JANE IGE, LAWRENCE & MARIAN ISHIKAWA, ALICE JOHIRO, YUTAKA & TOMOE KAJIWARA, SHGEO & TAKEKO KAWAMOTO, KIYOSHI & RUTH KAWASAKI, TETSU KOBASHIGAWA, ALEXANDRIA LAGAPA, SOON CHAN and JUNE MOW, BETTY OKADA, STEVE & MARY ONO, ATSUSHI & YACHIYO SAITO, NORIKO SAWADA, HIROSHI AND MARY JANE SUYEOKA, RIKIO & EVELYN TSUDA, CHIEKO TSUTSUI, SAN & FRANCES YAMADA, and ETHEL YANAGIDA.

The group enjoyed a sumptuous luncheon, enjoyed the many photograph albums that were passed around, and reminisced about their wonderful 21-day trip to Western Europe.

### **Golf "Ace" (Hole-in-One)**

TAKAO "JUICY" ITO experienced a golfer's dream come true in making a hole-in-one at the Westlock's 15th hole (149 yards) on Friday, March 24, 1995. JUICY said that this is his first "Ace" since he took up golf 41 years ago. His playing partners on that memorable day were his golf buddies EUGENE FUNAKI, BOBBY COCKETT, and "BIG BOY" NAITO. Congratula-

tions, JUICY, and may you have many more of those elusive holes-in-one. Incidentally JUICY, it's customary that you buy a drink for all your friends when you make an "Ace."

### **Service Chapter Profiles**

#### **GORDON TOKUO FURUTO**

He was one of the bright ones in our Chapter who delved into real estate and accumulated some nice properties in the Honolulu area. You would never know he's a millionaire - so humble and so nice.

GORDON was born in Laiemaloo, near the present Mormon Temple area in Laie, Oahu, on June 28, 1920. Coming from a large family of 5 children, he remembered doing lots of yard work in his teens to help his family. He graduated from McKinley High School in 1938 and the Honolulu Vocational School with an Auto Mechanics certificate in 1939.

He volunteered for the 442nd Regt. in March, 1943 and was assigned to Service Chapter as an Ammunition Truck Driver. Upon his discharge from the service, he worked as a Pumping Operator at the Ft. Armstrong Pumping Plant. He later worked 6 years for the Honolulu Aquarium, 3 years at the University of Hawaii's College of Engineering's Material Testing Lab and from 1966 until his retirement in 1982 at the Ocean Engineering's Look Laboratory in Kakaako as an Engineering Lab Technician.

He is a member of the retired United Public Workers (UPW) Union.

He married FLORENCE HOKAMA from Kohala, Big Island in April, 1953. They are blessed with five children: ALBERT, JEANNE, STACK, LYMAN, MARY KIM, and GORDON JR. and three grandchildren: ALYSHA STACK and DANIKA & JAYNEE KIM.

GORDON's hobby is to travel. The last trip he took was to China, Hong Kong, and Korea about 4 years ago. His wife FLORENCE said they travel independently because someone has to watch their house.

#### **TAKAO "JUICY" ITO**

He is renowned in Hawaii as a great educator