

The Japanese-American affinity with the Jewish community had its genesis in late April 1945, when members of the 522nd FAB stumbled upon a gruesome sight...the sight of emaciated, gaunt, malnourished prisoners in their black and white prison garb, with sunken eyes and hollowed cheeks. They wandered aimlessly around the snow-covered countryside of Dachau, Germany, dazed. The veterans of 522nd FAB offered these prisoners solace, comfort, and kindness; the prisoners appreciated and cherished these acts of kindness because they were subjected to Nazi brutality, for possible weeks, months, or even years. Since the members of the 522 FAB had witnessed at first hand the horrible ordeal of the Dachau holocaust, MR. SUGIHARA's heroic deed was deeply appreciated. Were it not for his benevolence, many of the SUGIHARA Jews could have suffered the same fate. It is ironic that the Japanese Americans who were on opposing side from their Japanese cousins in WWII would be the ones to most admire MR. SUGIHARA, whose deeds were not recognized by his own government.

With this as background, we ventured forward towards our mission to promote goodwill and world peace and to honor a great humanitarian.

The SENPO SUGIHARA Foundation of Tokyo, committed to the ideals and goals of goodwill and world peace, planned our entire Japan itinerary. We helped to support and to promote the goal of the SUGIHARA Foundation by speaking to various groups, governmental officials, corporate personnel, school students, and private groups, as well as attending several press conferences.

ED ICHIIYAMA of the 522nd FAB was selected to be the spokesman for our group. He spoke to the various groups in both English and Japanese. The basic contents of all of his messages included the respect and admiration for SENPO SUGIHARA for his benevolence, courage, spirit, and determination to help others. The messages also referred to the common ancestral heritage and bond we share with the Japanese people; that we are proud to be American citizens, but equally proud to be of Japanese an-

cestry.

Upon our arrival in Tokyo on September 19, we were met by an entourage of 30+ media people at the airport. We held a press conference at one of the airport meeting rooms where ED explained our mission, objective, and goal of our Japan visit. He also discussed the ideas and goals of the SUGIHARA Foundation which seemed to enlighten many members of the press corps. MR. SUGIHARA was still pretty much unknown in Japan; therefore, we were determined to discuss MR. SUGIHARA's deeds and his relationship with the Jews as much as possible during our trip.

The evening of arrival in Tokyo, a welcome banquet on our behalf was hosted by the SUGIHARA Foundation; there were about 275 backers and friends of the Foundation present. After ED concluded his speech, SENPO SUGIHARA's widow was presented with a bouquet of anthuriums carefully transported by KUNI FUJIMOTO and KEN MITSUNAGA. This was the picture that was widely circulated by the Associated Press throughout Japan and also appeared in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin on September 20, 1994 edition. This picture played prominently toward the success of our mission in Japan; it affirmed and reinforced our support and commitment to the SUGIHARA Foundation. We enjoyed meeting many, many dignitaries from the private as well as the public sector. We expressed and displayed not only diplomacy but the aloha spirit as we circulated among the gathering that evening.

On Wednesday evening, September 21, JOHN TSUKANO, HIDE NAKAMINE, ED ICHIIYAMA, and GEORGE KIZAKI of the SUGIHARA Foundation made the 150 mile trip from Atami to Tokyo to attend the Jewish religions service of Sukkoth or Thanksgiving. This was held at the Jewish Community Center of Japan. The rest of the group remained at Atami because of the cost involved in traveling to Tokyo. The Sukkoth was held to thank and honor MR. SUGIHARA as well as the 522nd FAB for aiding the Jews during WWII. ED responded for our group by describing the 522nd FAB's chance meeting with the

holocaust victims of Dachau. He also cited the great irony of a persecuted minority, the Japanese Americans, many of whose members were interned by their own U.S. government, helping members of another persecuted minority, the Jewish people of Europe. The presentation moved the congregation of about 400 because this was probably the first time many had heard at first hand the plight of the Holocaust victims at Dachau. Part of his speech was quoted in the Star-Bulletin edition of September 24, 1994 along with a picture of our group at the Yaotsu memorial service.

On Friday, September 23, 1994, our group attended a memorial service at Yaotsu, which is the birthplace of MR. SUGIHARA. Yaotsu is located near Nagoya. The service was held at a memorial park called Humanity Hill which is located near Nagoya. The park, with a statue of MR. SUGIHARA prominently displayed is dedicated to his compassion and his quest for world peace. The service featured speeches by various Japanese government dignitaries as well as a response by MRS. SUGIHARA. ED represented our group in placing a bouquet of flowers on the altar accompanied by SOLLY GANOR, a Jewish survivor of Dachau concentration camp, who was helped by members of the 522nd FAB nearly fifty years ago. Humanity Hill is in a serene, idyllic forested setting with mountains in the background resembling the Vosges mountains near Bruyeres, France. This is truly an inspiring scene, befitting a monument dedicated to this great humanitarian, SENPO SUGIHARA.

On Monday, September 26, 1994, we visited Saga City in Saga-ken in Kyushu. We had the privilege and honor of meeting the mayor of Saga City as well as the governor of Saga-ken. ED spoke at both meetings, emphasizing the purpose of our visit to Japan. The governor was particularly interested in our visit because he was not fully aware of the extent of MR. SUGIHARA's involvement with the Jews during WWII.

That evening, the people of Saga honored us with a reception with ED again responding for us. The banquet was attended by a cross-

section of the community, particularly those who were interested in the 442nd and had heard about our exploits during WWII. Although we were in Japan to honor MR. SUGIHARA, we accepted their gracious hospitality in the spirit with which it was offered...the spirit of friendship and goodwill. Again we had an enjoyable evening mingling with the crowd and we hope that we did our part in strengthening the bond between the Japanese and the Japanese Americans.

The following day we met with about 50 high school students at the Seiwa Girls High School in Saga City. It was an educational, heartwarming, and productive session for both the students and us veterans. ED was requested to speak in English as the girls were trying to learn conversational English. After ED's presentation, the girls took turns asking questions about Hawaii, about our experiences as Niseis during WWII, about our perception of Japan and most pointedly about personal feelings of the Nagasaki bombing. We all took turns answering these questions and we feel we accomplished a great deal in promoting cross-cultural understanding as well as improving the Japanese and Japanese-American relationship; the meeting lasted two hours.

On September 27 and 28, we visited Nagasaki City to complete our trip. This was a perfect place to complete our mission because Nagasaki City has become one of the world's leaders in the quest for world peace. We were there to pay homage to the brave people of Nagasaki City. They personify and exemplify the spirit and determination of the Japanese people; they have persevered in spite of the suffering and devastation of the atomic bombing of their city. ED spoke to the mayor and his staff and the press corps; in addition, he read a message of goodwill from Governor WAIHEE which included his commitment for world peace. This message was very warmly received by the mayor. We also presented an anthurium bouquet as well as the 100th Infantry plaque. In return, he presented us with 3 peace bells, one for Club 100, another for Governor WAIHEE, and the third to Senator DANIEL INOUE. These bells are sym-

bolic replicas of the bell which tolls twice a day from Oura Church, the oldest Catholic Church in Japan. The visit to Nagasaki City was very significant because the Atomic Bomb Museum as well as the Peace Statue are located there. The museum and peace statue symbolically represent and illustrate the futility of war; this strengthened our resolve to support and promote goodwill among all mankind.

Our mission ended with a visit to Yasukuni National Shrine where the spirit of the Japanese servicemen are enshrined. Yasukuni is akin to Arlington National Cemetery of Washington D.C. This was a touching and moving experience because we were escorted to the inner chamber of the shrine which is normally reserved for high ranking government dignitaries and the emperor. There, in the sanctity of the shrine, we prayed for world peace and renewed our commitment to support goodwill among all mankind. We also prayed that the healing process begins now as we approach the 50th anniversary of the ending of WWII.

It was not all work for us however; in between our mission service, we did find time to be tourists with visits to such places as Atami, Hakone, Kyoto, and Tokyo. The stay at Atami was interesting and enjoyable because we stayed at the Japanese style ryokan and slept on a tatami floor. We really enjoyed the onsen or spa because this was the first experience for most of us soaking in heated water. We were also introduced to Japanese style breakfasts of miso soup, rice, fish, and tsukemono... what, no bacon and eggs? We enjoyed the breathtaking scenery of Hakone Lake and its surrounding as we cruised the lake on a boat.

The visit to Kyotō was educational with all the different temples and cultural areas to investigate. We also had the privilege of experiencing the Spartan life of a monk because we stayed overnight at the Daigo Ji Temple, high in the hills of Kyoto. While there, we participated in a religious service conducted by the priest of the temple who prayed for the souls of our departed 100th Infantry and 442nd comrades. Partaking of meatless dishes for dinner as well as break-

fast may be a very healthy way to live, but...

Everything you read and hear about Tokyo is true. The world's largest city is just that ... the mind's eye cannot equate its vastness, particularly if you see it from the observation floor of Tokyo Tower. We also walked through the Imperial Gardens with its beautifully trained pine trees, perfectly sculpted and symmetrical like a painting or a picture postcard. We were given a personalized tour of the Diet building by one of the aides to a high-ranking representative of the Diet. In addition, we also had the very distinct honor and privilege of sitting in a reserved section on the opening of the Diet presided by EMPEROR AKIHITO. We also had the privilege of attending JESSE (TAKAMIYAMA) KAHALUA's sumo stable (Azumazeki) undergoing their daily practice routine. The rigorous training regimen is unbelievably strenuous with 400 lb. sumo wrestlers crashing into each other with the sound of the collision reverberating throughout the dojo. Although AKEBONO was still injured, he practices with the rest of his stablemates. Japan is noted for its festivals and we were lucky enough to be spectators at one of the largest festivals.. the annual autumn festival at Asakusa with dozens of mikoshi representing different groups participating.

In addition to the tourist-type activities as previously mentioned, we were very fortunate because we participated in cultural and social activities that very few experience. For example, we participated in the time-honored tradition of Japanese tea ceremony conducted by the girls at the Seiwa High School in Saga City. We never realized until then but a tea ceremony requires a great deal of mental discipline.

We were guests of Mayor MOTOSHIMA of Nagasaki who hosted a 9-course dinner featuring the famous Nagasaki champon in Chinatown. The champon is like a noodle stew with all kind of ingredients in it. It is delicious and we fully realize why it is so famous.

We were also guests of HIROSHI MITSUZUKA, one of the senior members of the Diet, who treated us to a gourmet bento lunch in the exclusive dining room reserved for Diet mem-

bers. We are all familiar with the usual bento lunches but this was absolutely elegant and second to none. It contained sashimi, lobster, shrimp, calamari, etc. It will be tough returning to our usual bentos.

Finally our sayonara banquet in Tokyo.. this was hosted by the exclusive Q.E.D. Club (it's Latin, meaning something or other but no one professes to know). The Club membership is comprised of 300 top corporate executives in Japan. This exclusive club is located in a district of Tokyo with its beautifully manicured lawn, its private tea house, and other trappings befitting its stature. The food? What can anyone say... tai sashimi, lobster, sashimi, escargot, etc. We were also entertained by Taiko drummers. The rhythm, coordination, and stamina the four girls and a man displayed were awe-inspiring and a fitting climax to an unforgettable evening.

What an extraordinary, outstanding and unforgettable, one-in-a-million experience. In short, words cannot adequately express or do justice to the friendliness and kindness of the Japanese

people and the joy we experienced during our two-week visit. As one of the tour members said so succinctly: "I hope this dream never ends." Mahalos go to JOHN TSUKANO, our Hawaii coordinator, and GEORGE KIZAKI of the SENPO SUGIHARA Foundation of Tokyo, who engineered our entire itinerary and visit.

The following made the trip: JOHN TSUKANO, KUNIO FUJIMOTO, KEN MITSUNAGA of the 100th Infantry Battalion; HIROSHI ARISUMI from the 442nd RCT; HIDEO NAKAMINE, YUZURU MORITA, MELVIN HAMAMOTO, NEIL NAGAREDA, TADASHI TOJO, and ED ICHIYAMA from the 522nd FAB accompanied by MRS. DAISY MORITA, MRS. JANE NAGAREDA, and MRS. CONNIE ICHIYAMA and her daughter, LESLIE MORIOKA of New York City.

Delegates to the October, 1994 Peace and Goodwill Mission to Japan, pictured at various memorial services, sites, and banquets.



Delegates with Governor JOHN WAIHEE.



CHIUNE SEMPO SUGIHARA Memorial, Humanity Hill, Yaotsu, Gife Prefecture



Nisei Vets and Mrs. SUGIHARA at Tokyo, Japan Banquet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

World War II Pacific Historical Tour

Azumano Travel Service in Portland, Oregon, has planned a commemorative tour of the sites of events that shaped the 20th century. Experienced guides will lead tours to invasion beaches, battlefields, memorials, museums, plane wrecks, secret caves, and dozen of other remaining WWII landmarks. Tour destinations include Honolulu, Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, and will culminate in Hiroshima, Japan on the August 6 ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the atomic bomb dropping. Cost is \$4900 including all flights, hotels (double occupancy), sightseeing (not including optional tours), ground travel, nine breakfasts, and two lunches. Please contact Ms. Marty Voruz at (800)-283-2619 or (503)-294-3201 for more information.

French Goodwill Ambassador Passes Away

Msr. SERGE CARLESSO (442nd VC Kansha Medallion recipient) passed away the weekend of January 31, 1995, suffering a heart attack.

The 442nd RCT has lost a very dear friend who was instrumental in establishing an everlasting relationship between the people of the Vosges, France, and the AJA Veterans.

He organized the reunions to celebrate the liberation of Bruyeres, Biffontaine, the Vosges, and "the Lost Battalion" every five years and had just completed the 50th year festivities this past October. The celebration enabled him to pass on to the younger generations the story behind the story of the Japanese American liberators. He related to them the forced internment into camps during World War II from whence many of the men had volunteered and the large number of volunteers from Hawaii. This was evidenced by the very young and old who greeted the veterans with a smile, open arms, a shake of hands, a kiss on both cheeks and the words "Merci beaucoup" and "Thank you" in French-accented English. During their visit to California, the CARLESSOS stopped at Manzanar and the museum in Independence and were present at Washington D.C. for the opening of the

Smithsonian exhibit "A More Perfect Union."

Among his many activities, he served as Founder and President of Go For Broke, France; President of Anciens Combattants La Legion Vosgienne of the Vosges; a Paris commission member of the "Torch" at the Arc de Triumphe and was recognized for his service to the veterans of France and international goodwill with a decree of Knighthood.

In the United States, he was French representative for Go For Broke National Veterans Association and associate member of the 36th Texas Division and the 442nd RCT Veterans of Hawaii and Southern California. He received many recognition awards for his goodwill services and achievements from the veterans organizations of the United States.

Msr. SERGE CARLESSO is survived by his wife MONIQUE, son, and grandson LAURANT. A compassionate gentleman and friend we will sorely miss.

Lou Hitchcock

Aloha,

I am trying to locate a fellow whom I believe is a member of your organization. His name is ED HALEY. ED was the Supply Manager for the Air Force on Wake Island about 12 years ago.

ED found a vase with what he thought was Arabic writing on it while walking the beach one day here on Wake Island. I just wanted to get in touch with him because I wanted to know if he had even found out anything more about the vase. I'd like to get a photo of the vase if it wouldn't be too much trouble.

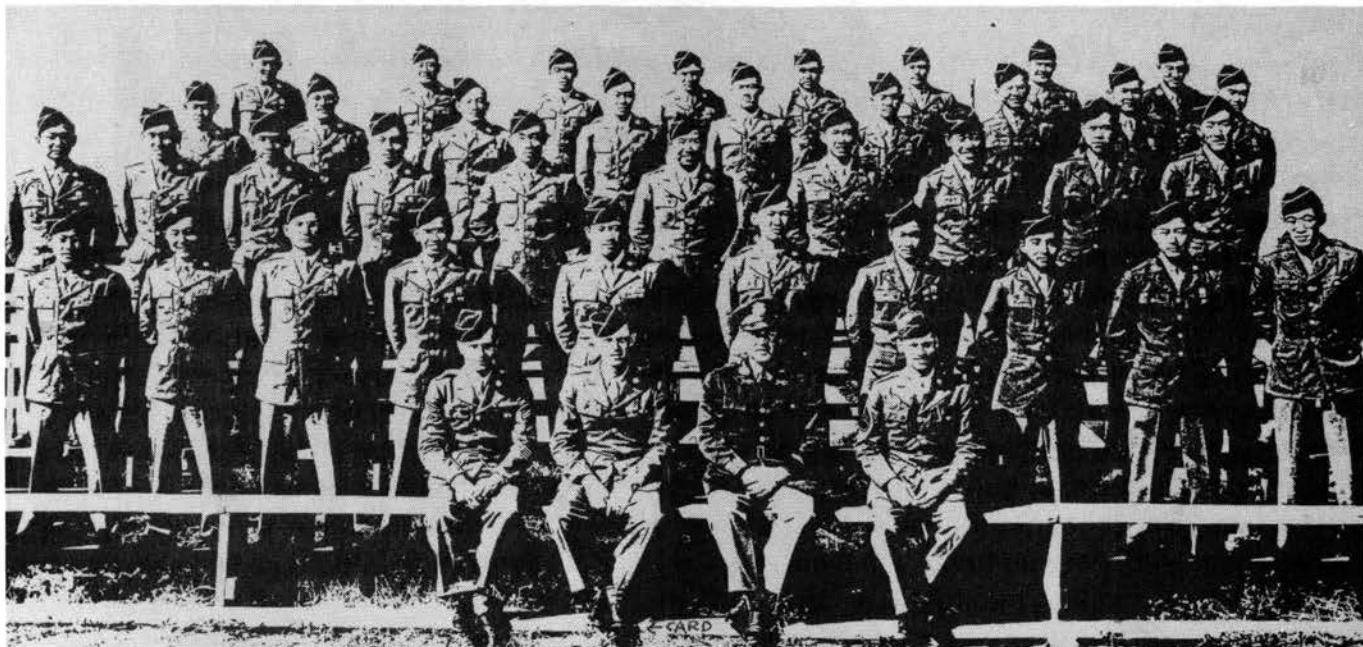
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AZ.

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HAROLD CARD

The following photograph is a xerox copy of a picture belonging to HAROLD CARD. It was taken in or about the latter part of 1944 at Camp Blanding, Florida. Then CPL. CARD was a part of a cadre that trained the 442nd RCT. He would very much like to contact some of the men he helped train. If anyone recognizes himself or anyone else in this photograph, please contact:

*HAROLD CARD
c/o OSCAR E. CARTER, JR.
R.R. 1, Box 144
Hobson, NY 12534-9717*





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50TH ANNIVERSARY

NAZI ARMIES IN ITALY SURRENDER

By Sgt. HOWARD TAUBMAN

Staff Correspondent

AFHQ, May 2—The German armies in Italy and in part of Austria have surrendered—completely and unconditionally.

The long, bitter, back-breaking campaign of Italy has been crowned with victory. In the theater where the western Allies made their first breach in Adolf Hitler's Fortress Europe, the fighting has come to an end with the surrender of an entire front.

This front covers not only the rest of Italy where the routed Germans have been fleeing in disorder but the western area of Austria. The Germans defending the Austrian provinces of Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Salzburg and parts of Carinthia and Styria have surrendered to the Allied might of the Mediterranean Theater.

This means that vital cities like Innsbruck and Salzburg are ours without a fight. It means that Allied forces take over Austrian territory within ten miles of Berchtesgaden, where Hitler built what he thought was a personal fortress so deep in the fastnesses of the Alps that it would take months and years to approach it.

It means that the bankruptcy of German aggressive policy and German arms has caused an old line Prussian military leader like Col. Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff and a convinced Nazi like SS General Karl Wolff, the two commanders on this front who have surrendered, to ignore Hitler's and Himmler's injunction—to fight to the end.

It means that other fronts where the Germans have any sort of sizable formations may choose to follow suit. It may be that here, in Italy, where the Allies have done their hardest and most sustained fighting, the way has been shown to German commanders how to end the useless slaughter at once.

But above all else, the surrender in Italy means that the valorous fighters of the 5th and 8th Armies, who have fought their way up the entire length of the relentless Apennines, need not begin the heart-breaking task of conquering the mountains that lead to the Brenner Pass and into Austria.

It means, too, that the fliers of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces need not go plunging into the black alleys around Brenner Pass or in the other narrow passages among the Alps where the Germans (Continued on page 2)

Takami Corp. USA is proud to announce the grand opening of the Ilikai Chapel located at the Ilikai Hotel on May 5, 1995.

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