

Henry Ikemoto

HIGHWAYS

OF HONOR



Military Intelligence Service

442nd Regimental Combat Team

100th Infantry Battalion

On September 2, 1994, California Governor Pete Wilson signed into law Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 62, which contains provisions for designating portions of three California highways as Memorial Highways to honor three entities of the United States Army, composed almost entirely of Japanese Americans, which made exceptional contributions to Allied victory in World War II.

The three entities are listed in the bottom line of the inscription on the highway markers as the "100/442/MIS Triad." The foregoing three abbreviations stand for: 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Linguist-intelligence personnel of the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army.

Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway 23 memorializes the over 6,000 graduates of the United States Army Military Intelligence Service Language School, predominantly Japanese Americans, who served as linguist-intelligence specialists in the war against Japan and in the Occupation of Japan.

During World War II, U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service linguist-intelligence personnel participated in every major amphibious landing and land campaign in the Pacific and in India and Burma, beginning in the fall of 1942, to recapture the vast territories taken by the enemy in the first months of the Pacific War.

The MIS linguist-intelligence personnel served not only U.S. Army combat units and headquarters, but also served with the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy. Additionally, hundreds were "loaned" to Allied units and headquarters of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and China.

During World War II, MIS linguist-intelligence personnel played key roles in obtaining intelligence information about the enemy. The principal sources of information were interrogations of enemy prisoners of war, translating captured enemy documents, intercepting and translating enemy communications and examining captured enemy material. Other sources of information included operating behind enemy lines, conducting covert intelligence gathering operations, and training natives for guerrilla-intelligence activities. Additionally, they prepared propaganda leaflets and made psychological warfare broadcasts. Overall, the services and activities of MIS linguist-intelligence personnel made very substantial contributions to the successful prosecution of the war against Japan.

ACRS 62 concurrently contains provisions for memorial highways to honor two famed World War II Japanese American U.S. Army combat units - the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion. These units compiled exceptionally distinguished combat records in the European Theater.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team Memorial Highway 99 will include a stretch of California State Highway 99 between Saleda and Manteca. (Dedication set for August 4, 1995.)

The 100th Infantry Battalion Memorial Highway 99 will include a stretch of California State Highway 99 between Fresno and Madera. (Dedication set for July 29, 1995.)

We are very honored that the three memorial highways will stand as permanent and public recognition of the many contributions made by Japanese American military personnel in World War II, both in Europe and the Pacific and Far East regions.

We appreciate very deeply, the honor and recognition accorded us by the designation of the three memorial highways, highways that will remain as permanent symbols of the grand legacy of service to our country, service performed under the very trying and difficult circumstances that were unique to the Japanese American community during World War II.

Signed



Jim Mita

President, Military Intelligence Service Club of Southern California

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 62

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 115

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 62--Relative to special highway designations.
[Filed with Secretary of State September 2, 1994]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 62. Umberg. State Highway Routes 23 and 99 : special designations.

This measure would, in honor of the Nisei soldiers of World War II who served in units of the United States Armed Forces comprising the 100/442/MIS triad, designate specified segments of State Highway Routes 23 and 99c as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Memorial Highway, the 100th Infantry Battalion Memorial Highway, and the Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway, respectively.

The measure would also direct the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing these special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect appropriate plaques and markers.

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That, in honor of the Nisei Soldiers of World War II who served in units of the United States Armed Forces comprising the 100/442/MIS triad, the segments of State Highway Routes 23 and 99 described herein are hereby officially designated as follows:

(a) State Highway Route 23, from Highway 101 to Highway 118 as the Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway.

(b) State Highway Route 99, between the Cities of Fresno and Madera, as the 100th Infantry Battalion Memorial Highway.

(c) State Highway Route 99, between the Cities of Salida and Manteca, as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That each of the signs carrying those designation also include, in the lower right-hand corner, the following notations:

"A unit of the 100/442/MIS triad", and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is directed to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy of this resolution to the Director of Transportation.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State of California

June 10, 1995

TO: THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CLUB
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

On behalf of the State of California, I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations as you dedicate the "Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway 23." This is indeed an auspicious occasion, one that I know you have waited a long time to see come to fruition.

Recognition of the unsung heroes of the MIS who distinguished themselves during World War II is long overdue. MIS linguist-intelligence experts proved invaluable in the war against Japan. Their admirable efforts, including translating enemy documents, interrogating prisoners of war, preparing propaganda leaflets, and covert operations behind enemy lines, in no small measure contributed to the American victory and the peace that followed.

Today's renaming of this highway will ensure that we never forget the bravery with which these proud veterans served our country.

Please accept my very best wishes for an enjoyable ceremony, and for every continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pete Wilson", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

PETE WILSON

DANIEL K. INOUE
HAWAII

APPROPRIATIONS
Subcommittee on Defense

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation
and Merchant Marine

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

United States Senate

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June 10, 1995

Military Intelligence Service
Club of Southern California
707 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to extend my greetings to all those attending the series of events renaming a stretch of Highway 23 to honor Japanese American veterans of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

The thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry who served as invaluable "secret" warriors with the MIS helped turn the tide during World War II. From Burma to the Aleutians, their mastery of spoken Japanese, as well as katakana, hiragana and kanji, deciphered what had been considered unbreakable Japanese military code.

They made the difference in the vital defense of Port Moresby, in the crucial battle for Midway Island and in the mission that ultimately led to the death of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the Supreme Commander of the Japanese Imperial Navy and the mastermind of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

I am pleased that those who will travel Highway 23 will know of your heroic service. For all that you have done in defense of our country, you deserve our respect, gratitude and recognition for a job well done.

Aloha



DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

DKI:hju

NORMAN Y. MINETA
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
15TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEPUTY WHIP

RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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COAST GUARD AND
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RAILROADS
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENT

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June 10, 1995

Military Intelligence Service Club of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

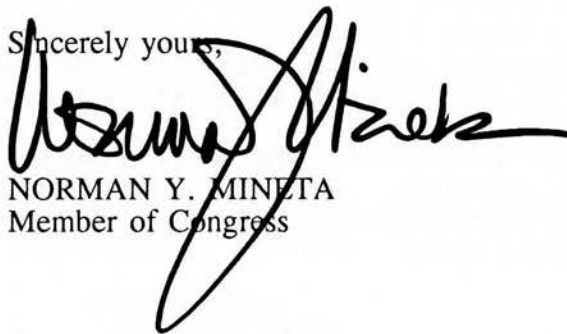
Dear Friends:

I am thrilled to be able to congratulate you on having the ten mile stretch along Highway 23 designated as "Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway" and to extend my greetings to all those attending this dedication ceremony. To the many individuals who have made this event possible, please accept my heartfelt thank you.

This momentous occasion is a tribute to all those linguist-intelligence specialists of the United States Army's Military Intelligence Service (MIS). The many contributions of these men cannot be easily measured. They served their country, the United States of America, with dedication and honor while many of their families were detained in internment camps by that very same country.

Best wishes to the participants of this very special event, and again, my congratulations on this dedication of the "Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway."

Sincerely yours,



NORMAN Y. MINETA
Member of Congress

ROBERT T. MATSUI
FIFTH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
WHIP AT LARGE

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

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June 10, 1995

Jim Mita
President, Military Intelligence Service Club of
Southern California
707 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Mita:

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Military Intelligence Service Club of Southern California for the renaming of Highway 23 between Thousand Oaks and Moorpark as the "Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway." The honoring of these courageous veterans is well deserved and long overdue.

The work of the over 6000 linguist-intelligence specialists, mostly Japanese American, serving in the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service was a vital contribution to the prosecution of the war against Japan. Participating in nearly every battle and playing key roles in obtaining intelligence information about the enemy, their efforts saved over 1,000,000 American lives and shortened the war by two years. In other words, the achievements of these unsung heroes were monumental.

I thank the courageous men and women of the Military Intelligence Service for their service to this country and congratulate them on the memorial. California's Assembly Concurrent Resolution 62 will now honor these veterans as they so rightfully deserve.

Sincerely,



Robert T. Matsui
Member of Congress

PATSY T. MINK
SECOND DISTRICT, HAWAII

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1102

May 22, 1995

COMMITTEE ON STEERING
AND POLICY
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
AND OVERSIGHT
(on leave)

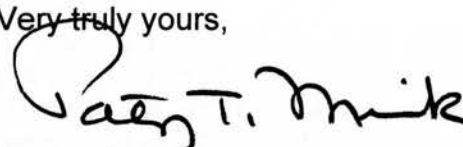
Catherine Tanaka
MIS Club of Southern California
707 E. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90072

Dear Catherine:

I want to congratulate the MIS Club of Southern California for its successful efforts to commemorate the unsung heroes of the Military Intelligence Service in the naming of a highway in their honor in Southern California. This memorial will help Americans remember the linguist-specialists of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps who played key roles throughout the war in obtaining intelligence information through varied and imaginative means.

I will always remember the sacrifices and good works of the MIS specialists in all the major battles and landings of the war, and this highway memorial will ensure that future generation will also.

Very truly yours,



PATSY T. MINK
Member of Congress

IN MEMORY OF



Colonel John Fujio Aiso, USAF-Retired

December 14, 1909

December 29, 1987

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Colonel John Fujio Aiso, USAF-Ret. He was the first Director of Academic Training, United States Army Military Intelligence Language School, beginning in November 1941. In this position, he was the key officer charged with the mission of Japanese language training of the U. S. Military Intelligence Service linguist-intelligence personnel throughout World War II. During the war against Japan and in the immediate post war period, the school graduated over 6,000 linguist-intelligence personnel, over ninety percent of them Japanese Americans. These personnel participated in every major campaign in the war against Japan and obtained invaluable intelligence about the enemy. Also, they were "loaned" to the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps as well as to Allied forces and headquarters of China, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India.

Colonel Aiso, if he were present at the dedication ceremony of the Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway, would have felt a very special pride and deep feeling of appreciation that the State of California was publicly honoring the World War II contributions of the linguist-intelligence personnel of the Military Intelligence Service of the U.S. Army.

Quotations from Superior Officers

Concerning MIS Performance by Japanese-Americans

"Never in military history did an army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement."

General Douglas MacArthur
Commander in Chief of Southwest Pacific Area

There were 6,000 Nisei and Kibei who served in the Military Intelligence Service. "These 6,000 men," in the words of General MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence, "6,000 Nisei in the War of the Pacific, saved over 1,000,000 American lives and shortened the war by two years. We used them even on Bataan. They collected information on the battlefield; they shared death in battle; and when one of them was captured, his fate was a terrible one. In all, they handled between two and three million documents. The information received through their special skills proved invaluable to our battle forces."

Major General Charles A. Willoughby
G-2 Intelligence Chief of MacArthur's Command
Nisei Veterans Reunion July 4-7, 1985

"If you are ever questioned as to your loyalty, don't even bother to reply. The magnificent work of the graduates in the field has been seen by young fellow Americans of many racial extractions. Their testimony to your gallant deeds under fire will speak so loudly that you need not answer."

Maj. General Clayton Bissell
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, WDGS

"The United States of America owes a debt to these men [Nisei linguists] and to their families which it can never fully repay."

"No group had so much to lose. Capture would have meant indescribable horrors to them and their relatives in Japan. They are worthy, as individuals and as a group of the highest praise for their invaluable contribution to the success of Allied arms."

Colonel Sidney Forrester Mashbir,
Commandant, Allied Translator &
Interpreter Section

"The Makin operation afforded the first opportunity for the language section of this division to operate in combat. Their actions and the results of their work reflect high credit on them and the Military Intelligence Service Language School. We would have been twice as blind as we were, without the graduates. Without a doubt, they have saved many American lives."

Colonel William Van Antwerp
General Staff, G-2
27th Infantry Division

"They work so close to the enemy on these missions that with the danger of being killed by Japs, they run the risk of being shot, unintentionally, by our own marines. Many have paid with their lives. They have done an outstanding job, and their heroism should be recognized. It has been recognized by the marine commanders where I saw them in action at Guam, Peleliu and Iwo."

Joe Rosenthal
News Cameraman
Pulitzer Prize Winner.

War Department Memoranda

Regarding MIS Enlistment of Japanese-Americans

CONFIDENTIAL

**WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2
WASHINGTON**

August 31, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Enlistment of Americans of Japanese Ancestry versed in the Japanese language for use as Interrogators of Prisoners of War, Translators, and Interpreters.

I. Discussion.

The Military Intelligence Service Language School, Savage, Minnesota, needs four hundred (400) enlisted students to begin a course of instruction on December 1, 1942. The men selected must possess a good knowledge of the Japanese language. Consequently, Americans of Japanese ancestry must be used because no non-Japanese with the necessary qualifications are available.

A thorough survey has been made throughout the Army within continental limits of the United States. The available personnel have been checked by Japanese speaking United States Army Officers through personal interviews and written examinations. This check will be completed of all known available qualified personnel on September 13, 1942. From past experience checking the records and percentages, not over one hundred and fifty (150) qualified men will be found.

This will exhaust the supply of qualified enlisted men within the continental limits of the United States. Consequently, qualified Nisei, wherever found, should be enlisted for this school in sufficient numbers to form a student body of four hundred (400) enlisted men for the course to begin December 1, 1942.

II. Action recommended.

The Secretary of War directs:

1. That The Adjutant General is authorized to enlist in the Army of the United States, three hundred and fifty (350) Americans of Japanese ancestry who are otherwise qualified and whose enlistment is approved in each case by the Military Intelligence Service.

2. That the men enlisted under this authority be sent from reception centers direct to the Military Intelligence Service Language School, Savage, Minnesota.

III. Concurrences.

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1 ()

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3 ()

/s/ GEO. V. STRONG
Major General
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

9 June 1944

MEMORANDUM:

Subject: Nisei.

1. A report by Lt. Colonel Marcel G. Crombez, AGF special representative in CBI, contains the following which will be of interest to you in connection with Nisei training.

a. The Nisei personnel which were attached to First Galahad (475th Infantry Regiment) have proven to be of great value to that organization. In every instance the men have been loyal and demonstrated great courage in carrying out their assignments.

b. They have proven their usefulness in the following manner:

(1) Interpreting for U.S. officers Japanese commands which were clearly distinguishable in close combat in which this organization took part.

(2) Translating, identifying, and selecting important Japanese documents for immediate dispatch to higher headquarters.

(3) As interpreters accompanying patrols.

c. One incident is worthy of note. During the early stages of the campaign in the Mogaung Valley the Second Galahad Battalion, executing a flanking movement, was surrounded by Jap elements for a period of thirteen days. During the last day the Japanese attacked the Second Battalion's position sixteen times. Each time the battalion commander was able to anticipate the direction of the attack due to the fact that the Nisei attached to his staff were able to overhear the Jap officers' instructions which they were shouting to their subordinates. The visibility in the area averaged 20 to 30 yards, and the attacking force was but 50 to 70 yards away, and the commands could be clearly heard. Through the interpretation of their commands the Second Battalion Commander, Lt. Colonel George A. Magee, Jr., was able to shift his troops to block the main Jap effort and to concentrate his fire on the Japs as they endeavored to penetrate the battalion's lines. At the end of the day the interpreters told the battalion commander that the Jap officers were reprimanding the Jap soldiers for lack of courage, to which the soldiers were replying and offering as an excuse the numbers that had been killed or were missing.

/s/ W. H. WOOD

W. H. WOOD,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Chief, Asiatic Theater,
Theater Group, OPD

The Nisei Soldiers of U.S. Intelligence: America's Superb Secret Weapon of World War II

By Dan Nakatsu

The history of Japanese Americans (Niseis) who resolutely served the United States in World War II to bring about the Allied victory over Japan is a magnificent story.

Nearly 6,000 of them served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in that war and secretly fought against the land of their ancestry, contributing tremendously to the Allied victory. They were literally, America's superb secret weapon then, and what they did has been one of the best kept secrets of the War.

Their role was truly indispensable and unique for they employed a devastatingly effective weapon, their knowledge of the enemy's complex and difficult language, which very few persons besides them on the Allied side could understand. They were superbly resourceful, courageous and determined soldiers who served without fanfare in all campaigns and all fronts of the far-flung war throughout the Pacific, in China, India and Burma, and even in Europe where they secretly intercepted the enemy's diplomatic communications. Yet, despite the contributions and sacrifices made by them, their role in that war had to remain an untold military secret all these years until only very recently. It is a remarkable story without parallel.

Then why was it so long untold?

There are variety of reasons.

(1) The U.S. Army had to keep it a secret, obviously, during the war. Then after the war, due to continuation of their operations during the Occupation of Japan, and the Korean War and because of the long prevailing Cold War, the Army could not publicly or officially disclose the story. To do so would have meant disclosing the well-developed operations, techniques and capabilities of U.S. Military Intelligence to potential or actual adversaries. In fact official description publicity and information have never been released about the MIS Nisei, their role and operations.

(2) Both active and retired Military Intelligence officers familiar with the story were, by their training and profession, discreet and cautious about publicly disclosing information about intelligence operations and system.. Such disclosure was not their duty, desire nor inclination

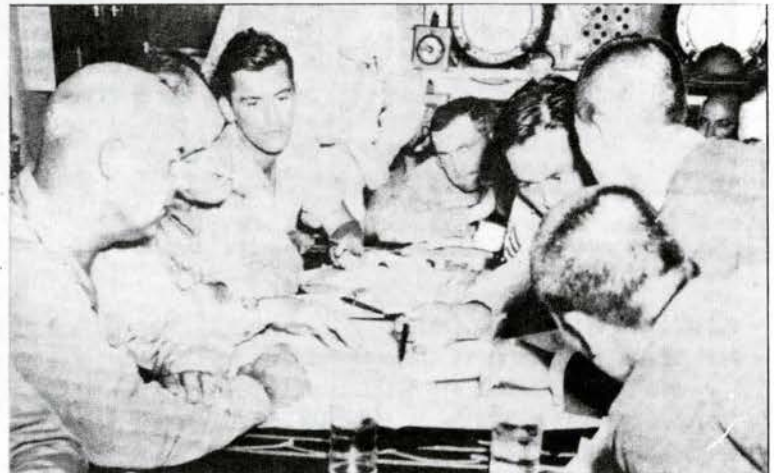
3) The Nisei themselves were reticent and modest by nature and not disposed to talk



With Officers during Psychological Warfare, 10th Army in Okinawa. L-R Kneeling: Kenneth Nakada and Fred Hirano.



Nob Yamashita and George Hayashida Using Loudspeaker To Flush Out Enemy in Luzon



Americans and Japanese Officers negotiating to repatriate 5,000 Japanese Troops on Yap Island. Conference Room, aboard Destroyer Escort Tillman, September 1945. Interpreter T/3 James Shigeta.



publicly about what they had done--they were satisfied in their own minds that they had done their duty and proven their loyalty to the United States. They felt that they had only done what they had to do in duty to their country, and they need not tell the world about it. Thus, they were neither motivated nor organized to publicize their story..

(4) Official information about the MIS Nisei and photographs were not kept as an integral

Mars Task Force, Nampakka, Burma, 12/19/44.

Sergeants George Harada, Arthur Morimitsu and Tom Tsunoda of the Mars Task Force (12th Cavalry Regiment), at Nampakka, Burma, December 1944, after relieving the Merrill's Marauders.



Gen. Frank Merrill, Commander, Merrill's Marauders. Left: Herbert Miyasaki; Right: Akiji Yoshimura. U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo



S/Sgt Nobuo Tetsutani checks the ID tag of prisoner taken on Luzon 1/21/45. U.S. Army Signal Corps

subject and were not available to the public until the passage of the Freedom of Information Act of 1971 and what is available today in official files is buried, scattered or scant.

But in the mid-70's MIS Nisei veterans came to feel that their story should be told before it is too late for them to do this because of advancing age. Some dedicated members of the MIS Assoc. of Northern California set out to get this done and their effort led to publication in 1979 of a book, "Yankee Samurai", authored after three years of research by Joseph D. Harrington (deceased in 1980), which revealed their story in great detail. Since then, the story has been receiving publicity--especially on television in Japan, ironically. But the vast majority of Americans are still unaware of this story and effort is continuing to have them know, recognize and remember what the Nisei did in the war against Japan.

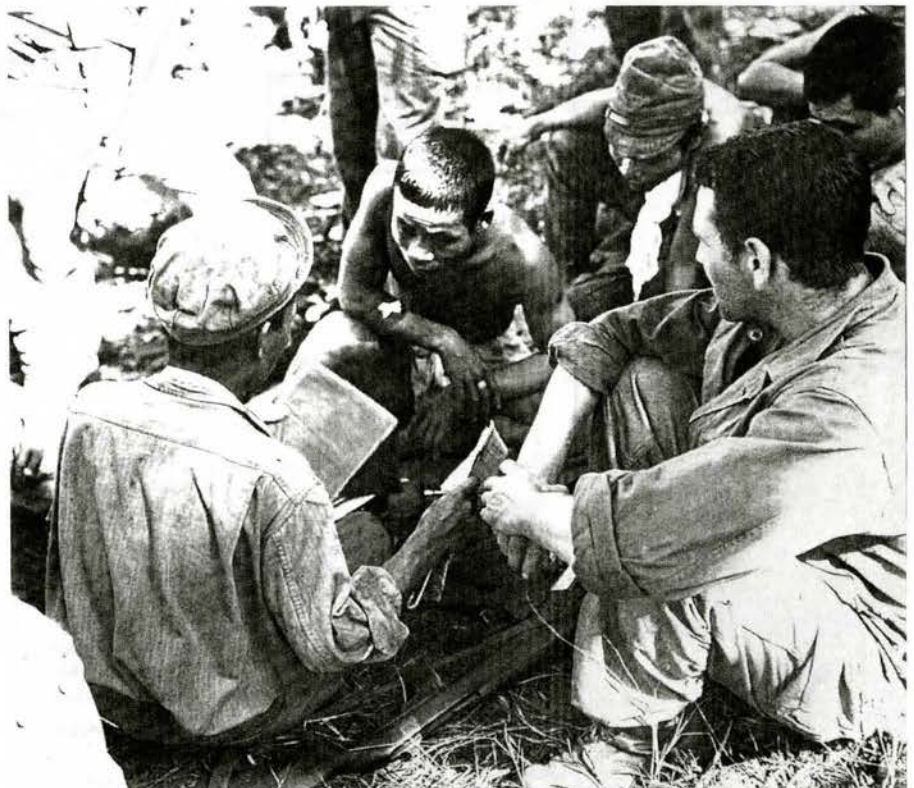


MIS VOLUNTEERS - Amache Relocation Center (Colorado) Dec 1942 Front Row L to R James Kanazawa, Kazuo Kawasaki, Eugene Hattori, Kenji Yasui, Frank Masuoka, Koe Hinoki. Back Row L to R Stanley Uno, Howard Uno, Chris Ishii.

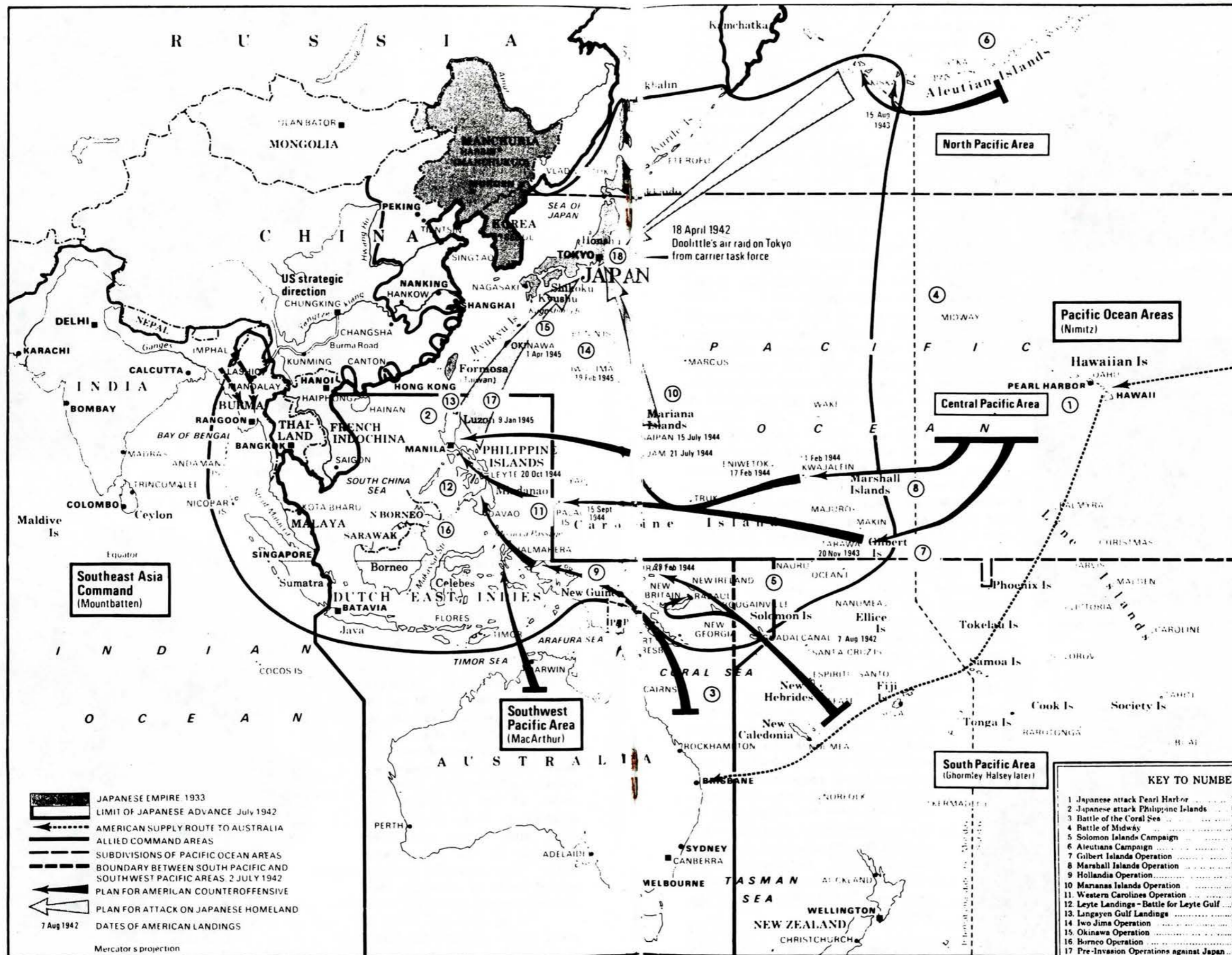
The Role and Accomplishments of the Nisei Military Intelligence soldiers

The "Go For Broke" exploits and records of the Nisei 442nd Infantry Regiment have been well publicized and recognized, and rightfully so, as the unsurpassed combat record of Japanese-Americans who fought as an integral military unit in Italy and France. The MIS story, on the other hand, is one of numerous small units of Nisei soldier who operated confidentially in detachments of ten to twenty men assigned to every combat division, army corps and every campaign in the war against Japan. They were also loaned to combat units of Australia, New Zealand, England and China.

It is also the story of much larger groups who served at intelligence centers at Army and area headquarters level.



Hiroshi Harold Tanabe interrogates Japanese POW in Hollandia, New Guinea, 5/3/44. U.S. Army Signal Corps photo



- MIS Nisei Served with**
- SIXTHY ARMY HEADQUARTERS
 - EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
 - TENTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
 - I CORPS HEADQUARTERS
 - IX CORPS HEADQUARTERS
 - X CORPS HEADQUARTERS
 - XI CORPS HEADQUARTERS
 - XIV CORPS HEADQUARTERS
 - XXIV CORPS HEADQUARTERS
 - FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
 - SIXTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - SEVENTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - ELEVENTH AIRBORNE DIVISION
 - TWENTY-FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - TWENTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - THIRTY-FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
 - THIRTH-SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION
 - THIRTH-THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION
 - THIRTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - THIRTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - FORTIETH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - FORTY-FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
 - FORTY-THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION
 - SEVENTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - EIGHTY-FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
 - NINETY-THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION
 - NINETY-SIXTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 - AMERICAL DIVISION
 - FAR EAST AIR FORCES HEADQUARTERS
 - FIFTH AIR FORCE
 - SIXTH AIR FORCE
 - SEVENTH AIR FORCE
 - TENTH AIR FORCE
 - ELEVENTH AIR FORCE
 - THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE
 - FOURTEENTH AIR FORCE
 - TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
 - CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER
 - ALASKAN DEPARTMENT
 - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA
 - SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
 - PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE
 - OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICE
 - OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
 - CHINESE COMBAT COMMAND
 - MP DETACHMENTS
 - UNITED STATES NAVY
 - U.S. MARINE DIVISIONS
 - BRITISH ARMY
 - AUSTRALIAN ARMY
 - NEW ZEALAND ARMY
 - MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
 - MAR'S TASK FORCE
 - JOINT INTELLIGENCE CENTER
 - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (JICPOA)
 - PENTAGON

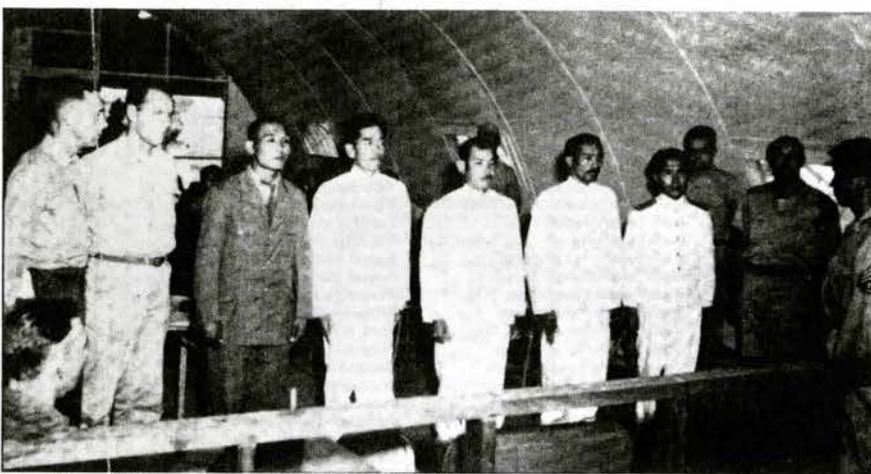
THE PACIFIC WAR—1942-45 The Allied Offensives



Courtroom Scene



Tad Ichinokuchi, Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita & Lt. Gen. Muto



War Crimes Trial conducted at Kwajalein Atoll. T/3 Sunamoto on extreme right. He was attached to the Navy. Phototaken December 14, 1945 at Kwajalein.

Three intelligence centers were operated--in the Southwest Pacific Area under General Douglas MacArthur, the Central Pacific Ocean Area under Admiral Chester Nimitz; and the China-Burma-India Area under General "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell. The largest of these centers was at MacArthur's headquarters and known as ATIS (Allied Translator Interpreter Section) in Brisbane, Australia, which had as many as 3,000 Nisei at its peak. The other centers were JICPOA (Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Area) in Hawaii and SATIC (Southeast Asia Translation and Interrogation Center) in New Delhi. From these centers, MIS officers and Nisei intelligence men were detached and assigned to units and missions. For example, about 100 Nisei took part in the battle of Iwo Jima, assigned from JICPOA. The U.S. Marines were not the only ones there, and there were men of Japanese blood who fought with them against the formidable, tenacious enemy.

Through it all, from the early crucial campaigns of Attu and Guadalcanal and mounting in numbers as the war progressed, the Nisei served with combat units as indispensable translators of captured enemy documents, interrogators of enemy POW's and persuaders of enemy surrender, and they were superbly effective. They also worked laboriously over hours of enemy documents--maps, battle plans, orders, diaries, postcards, publications, records, manuals--at area headquarters, producing voluminous intelligence of all sorts that affected and helped Allied strategy and operations. The men of ATIS, for example produced 20 million pages of translations!

In the Solomon Islands they translated and intercepted enemy radio message which confirmed that Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of Japan's Naval forces, was to arrive at a certain time at Rabaul in a flight of two Betty bombers from Truk. (From enemy communications which had been intercepted earlier, the U.S. Chief of Staff in

Washington, D.C. knew that such a trip by Admiral Yamamoto was to take place, but the flight schedule had to be pinned down.) Rabaul was at an extreme flying range of U.S. P-38 fighters, allowing only 15 minutes flight time over the target area, but the Admiral's arrival was successfully ambushed and the planes were destroyed. General MacArthur referred to this as one most singularly significant action of the whole war.

Prior to U.S. landings in the Philippines in October, 1944, thanks to translation done by MIS men,

the Japanese Navy's master plan for defending the Philippines was known to Allied forces. As enemy fleets responded to U.S. landings on Leyte (October 20, 1944), the U.S. Navy was able to thwart the counterattacks and annihilate the enemy forces.

Another major coup was the capture and translation in 1944 of enemy's Z-Plan, the Imperial Navy's strategy for defending the Marianas (Guam, Saipan And Tinian) against the U.S. Navy's carrier task forces. As the U.S. invasion of the Marianas unfolded, Admiral Spruance's carrier fleet and submarines dealt a blow to the counter-attacking Japanese carrier forces and land based aircraft. Hundreds of enemy planes were swept from the skies,

and Japanese aircraft carriers were never again able to fight the war. The MIS Nisei made all this possible with their intelligence work.

On Okinawa in 1945, the last and bloodiest battle of the war, lasting 2.5 months, the enemy's fate was sealed by two especially vital pieces of intelligence handled and translated by the Nisei. One was the enemy's final main defense plan, issued a month before the U.S. landings, that was captured early in the fighting. It was a brilliant plan which accurately predicted the site and date (April 1) of U.S. landings and the strategy that the U.S. forces would employ. The enemy's intentions and defense strategy were made clear and known through translation of this document.

The other was a minutely detailed full map of Okinawa, recovered from the body of an enemy artillery observation officer. The U.S. map of the island had

been created from B-29 aerial reconnaissance photos, and it was grossly inadequate, with most of the inland terrain only roughly shown and with many blank areas. The enemy map was translated overnight on an overlay, flown to Pearl Harbor for reproduction, and 72 hours later 12,000 copies were delivered back to Okinawa and distributed to all units. From then on it guided all the U.S.



Kenji Yasui and Karl Yoneda with the Office of War Information (OWI) psychological warfare team in Burma.

U.S. Army Signal Corps photo

National Archives



A MIS Nisei, right foreground, and Captain John Burden interrogate a Japanese sailor (POW) at Vella Lavella, Solomons, September 14, 1943.

U.S. Army Signal Corps photo

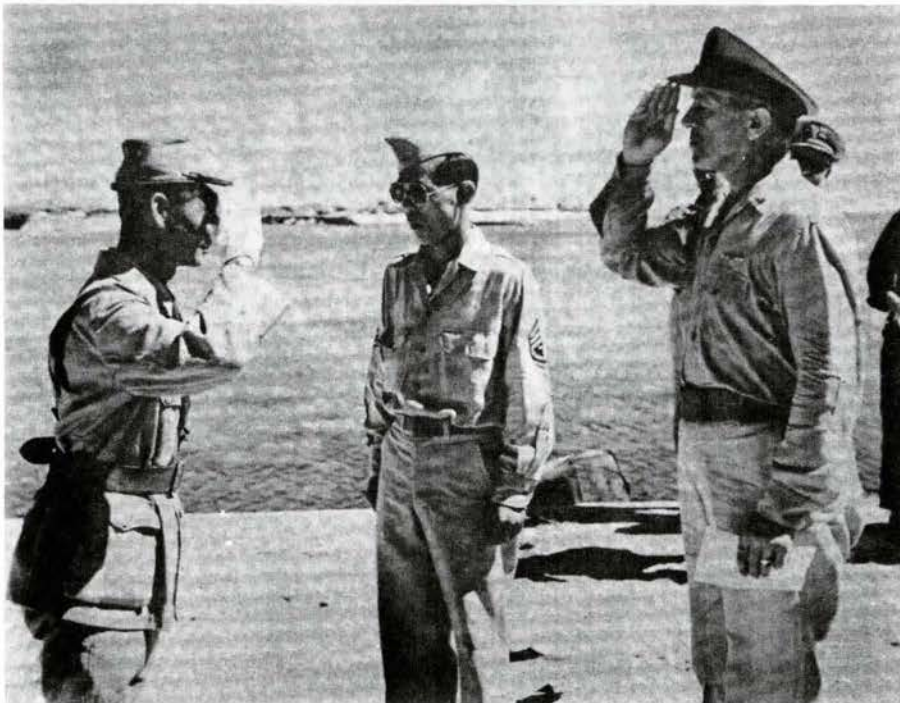


The men of JICPOA (Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Area), the Navy's Base in Honolulu for Linguists, celebrate at a party around the end of 1944.

Pictured from left are: Front row; Nobuo Furuie of Denver (a team leader), Tamotsu Koyanagi, Hisashi Kubota, Hitoshi Okimura (Chicago), William Makino, Torao Torakawa, Eddie Kawamoto, (unidentified).

Second row: Steve Yagi (W. Los Angeles), Tetsuo Shimamoto, Fred Kuga, Jiro Matsui, James Yoshinobu (Monterey), George Kawamoto, Takeshi Yamashita, Harry Okada, Shogo Nagata, James Saito, Masao Kuroki, Don Oka (Los Angeles - a team leader), Ben Yamamoto, Tad Ogawa and Roy Miyata (Los Angeles).

Third row: Butch Terao, Benjamin Kawahara, Joe Harada, Thomas Miyagi, John Otani, Henry Yokoyama, Kazuo Larry Watanabe, Stanley Yamamoto and Tsugio Aoyama (top insert). Bottom inserts: L-R: George Itagaki (a team leader), James Shigeta, Fred Hirano, Roy Akiyoshi and Mineo Yamagata. Not shown: Pat Morishita and Shunji Hamano.



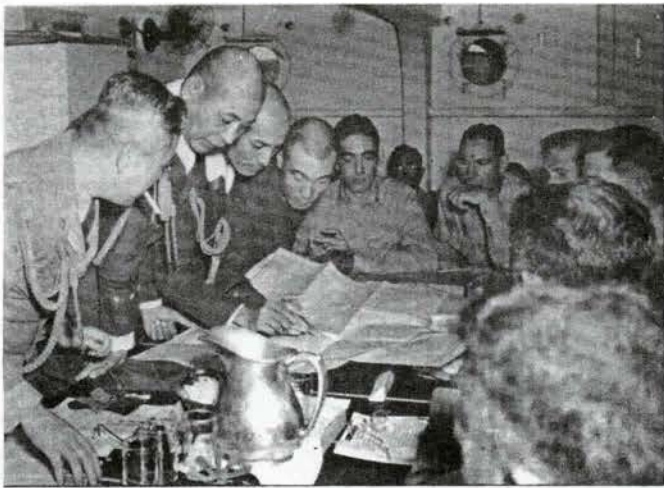
Surrender of Marshall Islands by Rear Admiral Kamada, Japanese Imperial Navy, September 10, 1945. Don Okubo served as Interpreter.

ground action and artillery fire. There was no more guess work about the terrain and the U.S. forces were able to "cook with gas," from then on.. This is indeed, a truly classic case of effectiveness of combat intelligence work performed by the Nisei.

The foregoing are only a few major examples of the tremendously valuable indispensable role of the MIS Nisei.

Maj. Gen. Charles Willoughby, G-2, intelligence chief of MacArthur's command, unequivocally stated, "The Nisei saved a million lives and shortened the war by two years."

General MacArthur was able to state with pride, "Never in military history did an army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement."



Preliminary surrender negotiations with Japanese Navy on board a destroyer offshore Truk, August 1945. Setsuo Sam Isokane as interpreter.



On Yap Island September 5, 1945, American and Japanese medical officers. Left fore front: Tamotsu Koyanagi.



MISLS STUDENTS CLASS OF DEC 1942
 L to R, T Yamada, Ken Akune, Don Oka, Eugene Hattori, Chris Ishii, Yamamoto, Ray Nimura, Koe Hinoki, Harry Akune and Milton Tanizawa.

Major General Frank D. Merrill in Burma said, "As for the value of the Nisei, I couldn't have gotten along without them." And he ordered his unit, Merrill's Marauders (2,700 men) to protect with their lives the 14-man team of MIS Nisei serving under his command.



Nob Yamashita and Min Hara — Luzon, Philippines

They Served Heroically and Resourcefully

From the frozen tundra of Attu, to the coral atolls of the Pacific, the jungles of New Guinea and the Philip- pines, the lava terrain of Iwo Jima and the bloodiest escarpments of Okinawa, the Nisei were everywhere, obtaining intelligence from enemy documents, POWs and enemy communi- cations, and calling upon the enemy to surrender. When needed they operated behind enemy lines and parachuted on assignments without real parachute training.

In Burma and else where they crept to within hearing distance of enemy troops to learn their intentions and movements, at times tapping and listening to the enemy's telephone communications.

Although they were not trained MIS men, early in the war three Nisei, Arthur Komori , Richard Sakakida and Clarence Yamagata, operated secretly in the Philippines with U.S. Army Intelligence before the Philippines fell to the invading Japanese. Two of them, Komori and Yamagata were evacuated from Corregidor in the nick of time by light plane, avoiding capture by the enemy. There was no room on the plane for the third, Sakakida, who was captured and tortured. After he interpreted for General Jonathan Wainright in the surrender of Corregidor. The enemy "converted" him to their use as a spy, but he fooled them and operated as a double agent, feeding intelligence to Filipino guerrillas which wound up at MacArthur's headquarters in Brisbane, Australia. These three men could be called the forerunners of the fantastically effective and widespread MIS operations that followed later.



Phil ishio and Arthur Ushiro Castle interrogating Japanese POW at Buna, New Guinea, 1/2/43. U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo



Lt. Pat Neishi discussing surrender terms with a Japanese Lieutenant General, east of Manila, 1945. U.S. Army Signal Corps photo



T/3 William Wada translates Admiral Fletcher's message to Japanese emissaries with instructions on the surrender of military and naval installations in Northern Honshu.



Veterans of the Alaska campaign back at Fort Snelling for re-assignment. June 1944.

Standing: Don Oka, Jewett Kariya, Yoshio Hotta

Kneeling: Ted Ogawa, Nobuo Furuiye, Roy Miyata

Sergeant Kenji Yasui swam the Irawaddy River in Burma to an island held by enemy troops, and pretending to be Japanese officer, commanded them to surrender. Barking orders in Japanese like a genuine officer, he assembled them and put them through a close order drill as he did so. Of 17 men, 3

had to be killed by supporting GIs, and one committed suicide with a grenade, trying to take Yasui with him, but 13 surrendered, and Yasui had them push him on a raft back to U.S. troops waiting on the river bank. He was aptly named, "The Little Sergeant York" and was awarded the Silver Star.

On Saipan, following the enemy's final demonic and suicidal Banzai attack, Sergeant Bob Hoichi Kubo entered a large cave with only a .45 pistol, laid it down before eight enemy soldiers and palavered with them for two hours, even eating meal with them to which he contributed his K-rations, and succeeded in getting them to surrender, along with 122 civilians. The enemy were about to kill him at first, but were smitten by his boldness. Kubo was



Col. G.F. Blunda, commanding officer of SEATIC, awarding T/3 Henry Kuwahara with Bronze Star medal. New Delhi, India.

Kuwahara was also awarded the British Empire Medal for obtaining information from Japanese POWs which resulted in the successful capture of Pinbaw, Burma, in August 1944.

awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his unbelievably courageous feat.

In Burma with the Merrill's Marauders, Ser-geant Roy Matsumoto crept to within yards of an enemy unit preparing to attack, learned what they were about to do and exactly when they would, then crawled back to the Marauders and enabled a trap to be set. As the enemy moved into position to attack, he shouted in Japanese the order to charge, to which they dutifully responded, attacking prematurely. When the action ended, 54 enemy were dead, with no loss to GIs. He was awarded the Legion of Merit.

On Iwo Jima, Corporal Terry Takeshi Doi earned the nickname "Gut Doi" by volunteering to flush enemy from their caves. Armed with only a flashlight and a knife, and stripped to the waist to show he had no gun, he approached and crawled through cave after cave, urging the enemy to surrender. He brought them out one to three at a time, and even up to a dozen.

His courage was simply incredible, and he was awarded the Silver Star.

The heroic and resourceful actions of the MIS Nisei were simply myriad. As the war progressed closer to Japan, they further performed an unequalled, compassionate role on Saipan and Okinawa, saving the lives of thousands upon thousands of noncombatant enemy civilians and by flushing them from caves, often at the risk of their own lives.

Throughout the war they faced danger from not only enemy action and fire, but from being mistaken for the enemy by their own side. Some were actually "captured" by mistake and handled as POWs by U.S. troops, and they had to be "sprung" by their commanding officers and buddies.



Iwo Jima - February 1945 - Front clockwise: Ben Kawamura, Tamotsu Koyanagi, George Kawamoto and Tad Ogawa.



Tinian Campaign, L-R: William Fujita, Nobuo Nag Ta, Don Oka, Setsuo Sam Isokane and Tameo Kawasaki.

Some were killed in action, in New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon and Okinawa. The names of three of them--Sergeants Frank Hachiya of Oregon, George Nakamura of California and Terry Mizutari of Hawaii--appear on three major buildings named after them at the U.S. Defense Language Institute in Monterey. Mits Shibata died on Iwo Jima (where Ernie Pyle was also killed) near Okinawa, when he was mistaken for the enemy and riddled by GI's automatic rifle as he sought to rescue some non-combatant civilians. Eddie Fukui perished in a kamikaze attack on his ship at the Kerama Islands west of Okinawa as he intercepted enemy radio communications. Bill Imoto, Shōichi Nakahara and Satoshi Kurokawa are others who died in different places. And over twenty ATIS men were killed in a plane crash on Okinawa. Their names were Japanese, but they all served and died as American soldiers.

As General; "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell said, "The Nisei brought an awfully big hunk of America with their blood." He was referring to the 442nd Infantry Regiment's casualties in Europe when he said this, but he knew that the Nisei had also risked their lives and shed their blood in the war against Japan.

Reviewing the exploits of the MIS men, Major General Clayton Bissell, Chief of the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, told a graduating MIS class in 1944: "If you Japanese-Americans are ever questioned as to your loyalty, don't every bother to reply... Your gallant deed under fire will speak so loudly that you need not answer."

Their Contributions Continued Long After the War

When the war ended in August of 1945, their work was not over, for now they were needed to bridge the language gap in the Allied Occupation of Japan.. This they did, performing again an indispensable role. They served in both military and civilian capacity in almost every aspect of the Occupation. Many continued in military intelligence duties, gathering information from Japanese soldiers returning from China and internment in the Soviet Union.. Their



Japanese soldiers captured on Saipan being interrogated by Nisei linguists. 1944



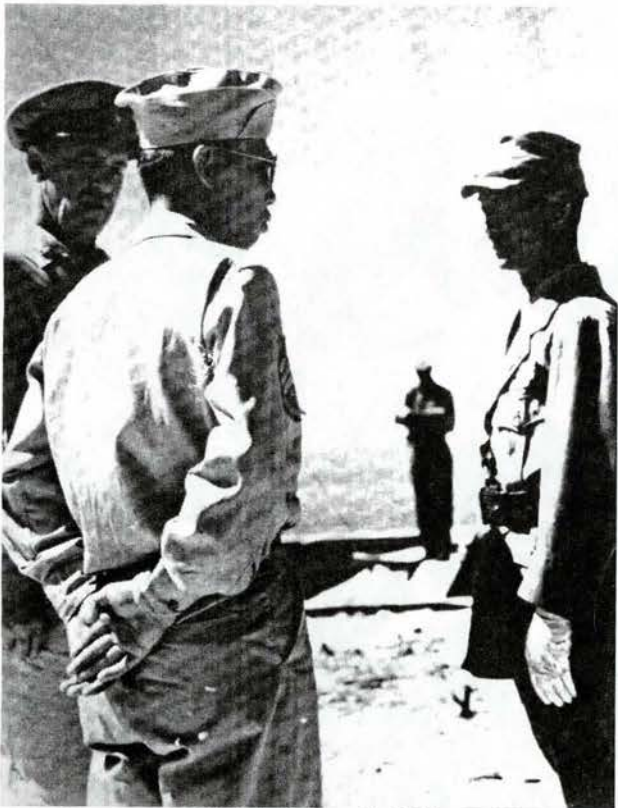
Iwo Jima, with the 5th Marine Division, 3/9/45 A wounded Japanese soldier who was talked into giving himself up by MIS Nisei linguist Tom Miyagi.



Tadashi Kubo (right), one of the earliest graduates of the MISLS, is shown in Guadalcanal, holding up a captured Japanese flag with his "buddy." Each MIS man was accompanied by two such "buddies" at all times in combat zones to protect him from being shot at by fellow GIs.



Jiro Arakaki interrogates a Japanese commanding general of Yonakunajima, Okinawa. Seated, and facing camera, is Col. M.F. Smith. 10/7/45.



Surrender ceremony, Jaluit Atoll, Sept. 5, 1945
L-R: Capt. H. B. Grow, Commander of Majuro,
Tech. Sgt. Don S. Okubo & Admiral Kamada.

War came in 1950, their knowledge of Japanese again was invaluable because most

Koreans spoke and understood Japanese. They performed well again in Korea as MIS men.

Most of the MIS Nisei in World War II were volunteers. Many were Kibei, or "returnees to America," who had been sent to Japan by their parents to be educated there before the war. Not all Niseis were bilingually expert, for the Japanese language is a difficult language to learn and use. But they teamed up with the Kibei who Japanese was superior, to do their job.

They Really Fought Two Wars

At home in the U.S., many of their families were in detention camps, behind barbed wire and guarded by army soldiers, since all persons of Japanese ancestry had been evacuated from the West Coast in 1942 by the U.S. Government and placed in these camps in isolated locations. Yet, from these camps the Nisei responded to the Army's call for volunteers to serve in the MIS and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Like the Nisei who served with the 442nd Regiment in Europe, these MIS Nisei fought two wars--one against the military enemy and the other against racial prejudice and distrust toward their kind at home. By fighting the first, they would overcome the other. The U.S. Army made it possible, despite much misgivings and suspicion at first about their loyalty, for the Nisei to prove themselves against the enemy. The MIS Nisei responded resolutely and convincingly to this opportunity and challenge.

For the Nisei of the MIS, further, there was a certain compassionate dilemma to be resolved in their hearts and minds. Being Japanese by blood, whose parents had come from Japan, they would literally be fighting their kin, but their loyalty to country had to be upheld. They had been taught at home, "To thy parents be truly respectful and to thy country be utterly loyal." For the Samurai of old Japan, the path of loyalty would have been the only honorable one to take, even at the price of warring on one's own kin. Because they were so resourceful and also loyal, the MIS Nisei are now appropriately and deservedly called the "Yankee Samurai of World War II."

1941 - 1981, The Legacy Continues

Surprisingly, even before the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941, several U.S. Army officers, with admirable prescience as well as faith in the loyalty of the Nisei, set about establishing a secret school to train them in military intelligence. These officers, principally John Weckerling and Kai E. Rasmussen, had been American military attaches in Japan in the 1930's and were acquainted with difficulty in mastering the Japanese language. They foresaw a dire need for American soldiers capable of deciphering the language in the event of war with Japan.

The standard Japanese language, especially its writing is difficult because of its complex structure and form. It provided an effective, built-in barrier to the intelligence operations of an adversary.



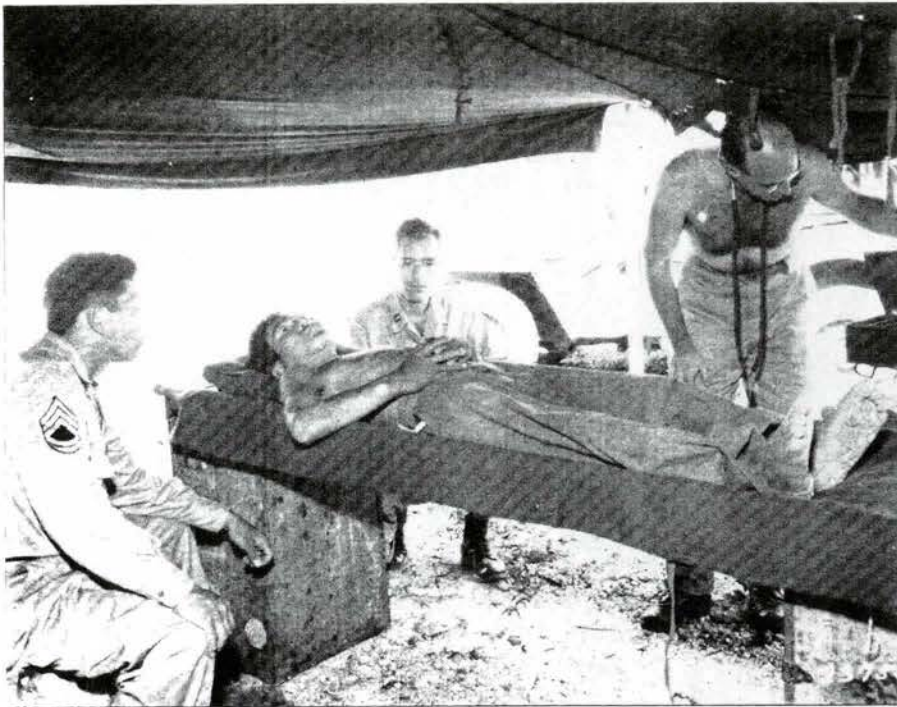
Vic Nishijima calls on natives to come out of cave on Aka Shima, Okinawa.



Eugene Wright, Charles Hamasaki and others checking over Japanese map captured at Rendova (Solomon Islands). 6/30/43.



Japanese POWs being interrogated by MIS Nisei. Attu, Alaska. May 1943.



T/Sgt Charles Hamasaki and Capt. Eugene Wright interrogating Japanese POW on stretcher. Medical officer is Capt. Robert Boals.



MIS Nisei interrogate Japanese POW on Leyte, 17 June 1945.
Left: Bud Mukai, team leader, (Los Angeles, CA). Center: Ralph Saito (Hawaii).

These officers succeeded in obtaining the War Department's approval to proceed in the summer of 1941, and with a meager budget of \$2,000 for supplies, they launched the school on November 1 in a small hangar, which still stands today, at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco. There were four civilian Nisei instructors and 60 students (58 Nisei and 2 Caucasians) assembled from various army units. Teaching materials had to be developed, and the first seats were orange crates. A special military language dictionary in Japanese and English had to be created, all handwritten. Japanese military manuals and standard Japanese dictionaries, which had been brought back from Japan by the two former military attaches, were later reproduced and printed by Harvard University in volume for the school's use as it expanded.

The first embryonic MIS school was located only a short distance from the headquarters of the U.S. 4th Army and the Western Defense Command in the same Presidio, where the Commanding General, Lt. General John L. DeWitt, ordered the evacuation from the West Coast of all persons of Japanese ancestry in 1942. The General publicly stated at that time, "A Jap is a Jap." with undisguised venom. These stinging words of contempt were *seared into the minds of Nisei in uniform* and became symbolic of the racial hate and prejudice they would have to overcome. "we'll have to make him eat those words," was not an uncommon thought as the Nisei went overseas, to Europe and the Pacific.

From the sparse beginning at Crissy Field, when war came the school underwent rapid expansion as the need and demand for its graduates mushroomed. The total evacuation/relocation of Japanese from the West Coast in June 1942 also caused the school to be moved at that time to racially more hospitable Minnesota--to Camp Savage, a former Civil Conservation Corps log-cabin camp twenty miles south of Minneapolis. There it underwent great expansion as combat units in the Pacific demanded more and more MIS soldiers. In 1944 the school was moved to more comfortable quarters at Fort Snelling in St. Paul.



Marshall Yen Hsi-shan's headquarters in Taiyuan, North China. September 1945. Seated: On right is Marshall Yen Hsi-shan. Center is Major General (then Major) Richard Irby. Standing: Sixth from left is Arthur Morimitsu, MIS Nisei. Tenth from left is Lt. General (then Lt.) Jeffrey Smith. The American delegation was in North China to accept the surrender of the Japanese forces.

Photo courtesy of Arthur Morimitsu
 NJAHS Archive

The MIS Nisei are deeply grateful even today to the people of Minnesota for the tolerance, sympathy and kindness extended them during those years. Minnesota demonstrated to them and epitomized the finest American qualities of decency and fairness, worth believing in and fighting for. A cartoon rendition by an MIS Nisei artist of gopher, the state animal of Minnesota, wearing an Indian war bonnet, became the mascot symbol, the insignia, of the MIS Language School. It was a snarling gopher, ready to fight.

By the war's end, the school had trained and sent afield 5,700 men. Then after the war it was moved back to the West Coast in 1946, to the Presidio at Monterey, where it became the now permanent and extensive U.S. Defense Language Institute, which has trained through the years since then more than 70,000 valuable military linguists in various strategic languages. Many of the Nisei faculty continued to serve long afterward, some even up to the present, helping to develop and operate the Institute. Today, over 5,000 students are enrolled annually there, and over fifty different languages are being taught.

There is felt in all this history today *a continuing legacy of resolute purpose mission and service to country--* to the institute and to the nation--from the MIS Nisei, the "Yankee Samurai" of World War II.

Also, it must be said that while no book about American military heroes may ever show the names of Brig. General (ret.) John Weckerling and Colonel (ret.) Kai E. Rasmussen, they are rightfully among the finest and greatest unsung heroes of American military history. For it was their foresight, faith and determination, indeed, that gave birth to the role and accomplishments of the MIS Nisei in the war against Japan, and they, too, are part of the story. General Weckerling and Colonel Rasmussen must be given special honor and distinction not only for their magnificent prescience and leadership, but for their steadfast faith in the Nisei--at a time when the Nisei, in their darkest hour, scorned and suspected, really needed such trust.



503RD PARACHUTE RCT ASSOCIATION, WORLD WAR II
503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment 462nd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
161st Parachute Engineer Company



From the office of:

Secretary-Treasurer

B.G. George M. Jones, USA Ret.
Honorary President

Resolution

Whereas, Imperial Japanese Forces launched a vicious, unprovoked, sneak attack against United States military installations and ships in the Hawaiian Islands on December 7, 1941, a day that will long live in infamy, beginning a war in which the Japanese inflicted more than 170,000 casualties on American service men and women, and

Whereas, reports and rumors of air raids and imminent amphibious assault by Japanese Imperial Forces against our West Coast proved to be false, and

Whereas, without formal hearing or trial, some 120,000 Japanese Americans were treated as security risks and forced to give up their home, business and property, sometimes with only two days' notice, and were herded under Military Police guard into concentration camps under primitive living conditions; none of the Japanese Americans thus restrained were lawfully accused, much less convicted, of sabotage, espionage or treason, and

Whereas, The 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team was assigned a number of Japanese Americans who shared with us the dangers of the combat jump and the battlefield, and knew their likely fate if captured was horrible torture and certain death as traitors to their ancestry; now

Be it therefore resolved, in this year of 1983, the 41st anniversary of the interment of those loyal Americans of Japanese descent, that the 503d Parachute Rct Association, World War 2, belatedly expresses formal recognition to our fellow Japanese American paratroopers and those who fought so valiantly in other American military units for the special contribution made by them to the successful prosecution of World War 2, and further acknowledge the patriotic sacrifice made by their families in sending their sons and husbands from behind barbed wire enclosures to fight, bleed and die for their country.

And be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to every living former member of the 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team and their next of kin whose address is known, and to such other persons and agencies as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.

Adopted by the 503d Parachute Rct Association, World War 2, during its annual general membership meeting at Las Vegas, Nevada, July 21, 1983.

Maurice S. Linton

Maurice S. Linton
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Robert M. Atkins

Robert M. Atkins
President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTORS

ABE, VICTOR H.	ISHIMARU, STONE	ODA, JAMES AND DR. MARY
AISO, CHIYO	ISHIO, SUNAO	OGAWA, JAMES
AKUNE, HARRY	JAPAN AIRLINES (JAL)	OKA, DON
AKUNE, KEN	KAMIDOI, DR. THOMAS	OYAMA, HARRY
ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA)	KANDA, MAMORU	SAIKI, BARRY
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