

TRANSLATED
By Rusty Kimura
M.I.S.

May 3, 2000

Translator's note:

Translation of a documentary on the exploits of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II which appeared in the May 2000 Japanese publication TV Fan as a special edition commemorating its 25th anniversary. These two fighting units were comprised almost totally of Japanese Americans (commonly referred to as Nisei) from Hawaii and from the concentration camps of America.

The reporter and interviewer: Mr. Masakiyo Watanabe
(End of note)

> Special edition commemorating the 25th year of publication <
A COLOSSAL SACRIFICE *** A LEGACY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

An interview with Nisei soldiers who staked their lives in the war in Europe.

Interviewees: WWII veterans Douglas Tanaka, Albert Takahashi, Don Seki, Tetsuo Asato. (Through the good offices of the 100th/442nd MIS WWII Memorial Foundation).

Interviewer: Masakiyo Watanabe

While drifting with the current of worldly affairs, there are times when we suddenly pause to reflect on where did we Japanese, who take our daily existence in America as a matter of course, come from and where are we going?

The answer may be found in the life's attitude of the Nisei who are referred to as the children of immigrants. I would like to explore that source.

Over a half century ago America and Japan were at war and America's pacific coast was immediately engulfed in a cataclysmic wave of anti-Japanese sentiment. 120,000 Japanese residents were forcibly interned in remote desert areas. Despite their anger at the government's action, the Nisei swore allegiance to America and enlisted in military service. The Nisei 442nd Regiment with its GO FOR BROKE slogan was formed. Employing a "devil may care" style of fighting it racked up a record of highest casualty rate in the annals of the U.S. army.

Why did they adopt such a rash style of fighting? From the Nisei standpoint, America was their country--there could be no other--so they must give more than 100%, else there would be no future for their own after the war. It can be said that this attitude was a reflection of the Issei (1st generation Japanese) immigrants' philosophy. The Nisei soldiers heroic military feats

impressed the American public and thus contributed to elevating the status of Japanese Americans in the mainstream of America.

Today, we who enjoy the fruits of their sacrifices must appreciate the Nisei soldiers correct decisions and their tremendous sacrifices and enlighten the coming generations of the legacy left to them. Now, let's hear about the WWII experiences of the following four veterans who were with the 442nd Regiment.

VETERANS: Tetsuo Asato, Don Seki, Albert Takahashi, Douglas Tanaka.

INTERVIEWER: Masakiyo Watanabe (Editorial Department)

> PEARL HARBOR: 1941 (the 16th year of Showa) <

ON DECEMBER 7, 1941 AT 7:55 A.M. (HAWAII TIME), THE JAPANESE AIRFORCE ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU, INFLICTING TREMENDOUS LOSSES ON THE U.S. NAVY, INITIATING THE OUTBREAK OF WAR BETWEEN JAPAN AND AMERICA.

Interviewer: Of the four Nisei veterans gathered here who have acquiesced to be interviewed, Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Seki are from Hawaii and Mr. Asato and Mr. Takahashi from California. Their ages range from 74 to 82 years. The difference in environment and upbringing between Hawaii and California was great and thus affected their home environment. A common thread is that as offsprings of immigrants, these Nisei were of the same generation, fighting in the same war and returned alive. Although it is over fifty years since their combat experiences, they still feel lucky to have survived. There are probably aspects of their experiences that they would rather leave untouched, but for the sake of leaving a legacy for the coming generations, they agreed to this interview for which I am grateful.

First, tell us about your personal activities on Pearl Harbor day when war started between the U.S. and Japan. Mr. Tanaka, you were with the Territorial Guard, the parent organization of the 100th Battalion, weren't you?

Tanaka: That's correct. On that day, though it was a Sunday, we were on duty from early morning patrolling Waimanolo Beach. This beach was located only a mountain peak away from Pearl Harbor. In those days it was a sugar loading port. Suddenly, clouds of smoke could be seen rising above the mountain peak. While we stared at it wondering what had happened, planes with the rising sun marking appeared. I thought that our air force was enthusiastically being realistic today and wondered why. So I asked 2nd Lt. Johnson, but he too was puzzled (laughter).

Interviewer: The residents of Honolulu were said to have wondered why the rising smoke was black, when during practice, it was always white. Mr. Takahashi, you were in Central California at the time, a place near Fresno called Dinuba weren't you?

Takahashi: Yes, father was a farmer. After high school, I helped on the farm. That day, being a Sunday, a Caucasian friend and I were out flying in a second-hand small plane that we had bought together. We exhilarated in our flying but when we landed at the airport, an instructor came running to inform us that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor. Where's Pearl Harbor we asked and he replied that it was in Hawaii (laughter). We couldn't understand why Japan would attack Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: Mr. Seki, you were in Honolulu, weren't you?

Seki: I was playing poker with some friends in the evening of December 6. Having no luck, I switched to craps. The night had turned to morning, then someone said, or perhaps it came from the radio, that Pearl Harbor was attacked from the air. We went out to investigate but seeing nothing unusual, we went back inside to resume our crap game (laughter).

Asato: At the time, my father was farming in El Monte (outside of Los Angeles). There were many Japanese living in that area. I don't remember much about that day but the next day at school, I heard a Caucasian student shout that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor. When I returned home, the inside was in shambles. My parents said that the F.B.I. had been there and had confiscated some things.

> MILITARY SERVICE <

1942 (THE 17TH YEAR OF SHOWA): On FEBRUARY 19, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066. ARMED WITH THIS EDICT, GENERAL DEWITT, CHIEF OF THE WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND, DECLARED THE PACIFIC COAST A MILITARY ZONE AND ORDERED THE REMOVAL OF ALL JAPANESE RESIDENTS. FROM MAY OF THAT YEAR, ALL JAPANESE WERE INTERNED IN TEMPORARY ASSEMBLY CENTERS FOR SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER TO TEN PERMANENT SITES WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. IN JANUARY 1943, THE GOVERNMENT UNFROZE THE BAN ON MILITARY SERVICE FOR THE NIKKEI. A LOYALTY OATH SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN THE THESE TEN RELOCATION CAMPS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR MILITARY SERVICE WERE ACCEPTED. THE 2686 VOLUNTEERS FROM HAWAII AND THE 1181 FROM THESE CAMPS WERE SENT TO CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI AND THUS WAS FORMED THE 442ND REGIMENT.

Interviewer: Despite the fact that Hawaii was the target of the Japanese attack, there was no evacuation or forced internment. The Hawaiian Japanese population was 150,000, about one-third of the total population, presenting an unusual situation. On the other hand, the mainland Nisei JACL worked successfully for the opening

up of military service to the Nisei, for it was seen that the only way to become accepted as Americans was to shed blood on the battlefield. At that time, the mainlanders had experienced discrimination and the Hawaiians who had lived a more freer life, differed in their attitude toward military service.

Takahashi: I loved flying so I volunteered for the air force but I was turned down, obviously because of my Japanese face. Clearly a blatant discrimination against Nikkei. So, I volunteered for the army and was accepted. While at the army camp in Bakersfield, California, I was reclassified as 4-C (enemy alien). My rifle was confiscated. During marches, the Caucasian soldiers carried rifles but we Nikkei soldiers marched empty handed. (laughter)

Seki: It was before the bombing of Pearl Harbor that my father told me that if war occurs between Japan and America, you are an American citizen, so do your best for America. With that he returned to Japan aboard the Tatsuta-Marun liner. A month later Pearl Harbor was bombed.

Takahashi: I also felt that as an American it was only natural that I should serve America. So, I enlisted without reservations and my folks gave me their blessing.

Tanaka: My folks always reminded me that America was my country.

Asato: While in relocation camp there was a loyalty survey. It asked us whether we would declare absolute loyalty to the U.S. I felt that my country was America, there was no other for me. So there was no problem declaring loyalty to America.

Interviewer: I understand that your basic training was very strenuous.

Tanaka: In my case, I was already in the army and on duty in Hawaii patrolling the coastline but later had basic training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

Seki: I underwent 3 weeks of training at Schofield Barracks then was shipped to the mainland, arriving at Oakland, California. From there we entrained for Camp Shelby, Mississippi. During that trip the window blinds were shuttered for our protection, supposedly. (laughter).

Asato: During those 13 weeks of basic training, the days were hot and humid and the nights cold.

Seki: The 25-mile forced marches in the hot sun with 70 pound full field packs on our backs were tough. There were some who fell by the wayside probably from deficiency of salt.

Interviewer: 25 miles is about the distance from Lil' Tokyo in Los Angeles to the Long Beach coastline. What happened to those who fell by the wayside?

Seki: We helped them of course. We carried their equipment and loaned them a shoulder.

Takahashi: Some of the veterans who were city-bred had never used a rifle, but those of us who were country-bred and often went hunting were familiar with rifles, so we showed others how to use them.

Seki: In night training, we would be dropped off at a point 25 miles away and had to find our way back to camp with the aid of a compass only. It was not only pitch-black but there were marshy areas and snakes were prevalent. In Hawaii, there are no snakes. When we arrived safely in camp, we felt that we were the elite of all American troops.

Interviewer: Upon completion of basic training, it was finally time to leave America and after one month on the sea, you arrive at the battle zone. Did you feel the fear of death?

Asato: I didn't feel any fear because I was in the company of friends, climbing and descending mountains while burdened with heavy field packs; there was no time to think of life or death. But the thought that it was unlikely that I'd return home alive did cross my mind.

Takahashi: We merely responded to the orders of our officers. In combat, it's a matter of kill or be killed; there's no time to ponder whether I will live or die.

Tanaka: At the time, I felt that it was only natural for a soldier to die in war. Before a battle, we agreed that those who survived would visit and place flowers on the graves of those who died.

> WAN PUKA PUKA BATTALION <

BEFORE THE WAR, THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII HAD A TERRITORIAL GUARD COMPRISED OF NISEIS. THIS WAS THE PARENT UNIT OF THE 100th BN. BORN DURING THE WAR. THE 100th HAD PRECEDED THE 442ND IN COMBAT AND DURING THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN HAD DEFEATED THE GERMANS AT CASSINO IN A FURIOUS BATTLE.

Interviewer: Amongst you four, Mr. Tanaka was the only one attached to the original 100th Bn. In June 1942, it was suddenly sent to Honolulu port. It was when the Japanese residents on the Pacific Coast were being evicted from their homes. The reason for the transfer to the port was that the Japanese fleet was nearing Midway, so there was fear of a rebellion by the Nisei soldiers and it was felt prudent to evacuate them. There were 1432 Nikkei soldiers commanded by Caucasian officers.

Tanaka: We left Honolulu at night. We were disarmed as soon as we boarded. We crossed the Pacific and landed at Oakland.

Interviewer: About that time the Nisei unit was officially designated the 100th Battalion. Wasn't it then that Mr. Tanaka's group called the 100th Bn "WAN PUKA PUKA" ?

Tanaka: That's right. None of us spoke standard English. Wan Puka Puka was adequate. "WAN" stands for ONE, "PUKA" in Hawaiian means a hole or zero. Thus, WAN PUKA PUKA means 100. Caucasians had difficulty saying it.

Takahashi: After a while, I got so that I could understand "pidgin English". We mainlanders were called "kotonk" which is said to be the sound of a falling coconut hitting the ground.

Seki: We Hawaiian Nisei call ourselves "buddha-heads".

Takahashi: What's that mean? Pig's head?

Seki: No! No! It means Buddha's head. At first we often fought the mainland boys. Sometimes, our words did not get through. It's hot in Hawaii so we take a shower daily, but we'd razz the state-side boys, "Hey kotonk! The reason why you're dirty is because you don't shower!" (all laugh)

Takahashi: The Hawaii boys began to associate with the kotonks when they learned that the families of kotonks were interned in camps.

Interviewer: The 100th Bn was a test case to determine the technical skills and the fighting spirit of the Nisei soldiers.

Tanaka: Exactly! Colonel Turner, the battalion commander, told us that the army brass was not only watching our training progress but also our life style.

Interviewer: The army, satisfied with the Hawaii Nikkei unit, decided to open the way for Nisei entry into the army. Thus was born the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 100th Bn., the genesis of all Nisei units, departed New York harbor on the night of August 21, 1943, sailed past the Statue of Liberty and headed for the Italian front, landing on the west coast of Salerno on September 21.

Tanaka: There was no truck transport so we walked. We walked

waist-deep in the river for miles with our full-field packs on our backs and our rifles held high to keep them dry. All the while, enemy artillery fire was continually directed at us day and night.

Interviewer: From Salerno the 100th withdrew slightly to the south then immediately advanced north but were deluged by a torrential downpour and the temperature dropped to near zero.

Shivering from the cold, you were literally encamped in the mud. On September 29, in your first engagement with the Germans, Sgt. Joe Takada became your first KIA (killed in action).

Tanaka: I wonder if there is such a thing as a premonition of death. In Joe's case, we were in the same unit and he said that he no longer had any use for his cigarette lighter so he gave it to me; then he went to the front and within 15 minutes he was hit by enemy fire and killed before my eyes.

Interviewer: Perhaps he had a foreboding of what was to come. The 100th Bn resumed its northward advance and arrived at the ancient town of Alife.

Tanaka: We were cold and tired from marching in the sleet. Alife was a tiny town surrounded by rocky cliffs. It was the first time I had seen a drawbridge.

Interviewer: It was in the following engagement that Mr. Tanaka was seriously wounded and sent to the hospital. The 100th Bn advanced northward while successively engaging in fierce battles to arrive at Mt. Cassino to challenge the mighty German defensive stronghold there. The battle for Cassino lasted 2 months and the Nisei units paid a dear price. When they landed at Salerno, they were 1300 strong but were down to 584 after 5 months of fierce combat. Reinforcements were to arrive from Camp Shelby.

> THE BATTLE FOR BRUYERES <

AFTER COMPLETING BASIC TRAINING, THE 442ND REGIMENT LEFT FOR THE EUROPEAN FRONT IN MAY, 1944. AT THIS TIME THE 100TH BATTALION WAS INTEGRATED INTO THE 442ND BUT RETAINED ITS IDENTITY AS THE 100TH. FOLLOWING ITS CAMPAIGN NORTH OF ROME IN OCTOBER OF THAT YEAR, IT HEADED FOR MOUNTAINOUS BRUYERES, A FRENCH PROVINCE NEAR THE GERMAN BORDER.

Interviewer: Mr. Takahashi and Mr. Seki were in that campaign were'nt you?

Takahashi: For me, it was my first experience in a "do or die" situation. In a nearby foxhole was a booted leg torn from a body and a German tank was visible in front of us. I tried to dig a

foxhole but the ground was so rocky that it was impossible. It was quite a problem.

Seki: The first night, we couldn't tell which direction we were headed. We asked the 2nd Lieutenant but he didn't know either. Immediately after that, he was hit and killed instantly. Crawling beneath the enemy artillery barrage, we reached the mountain peak but two were killed by the artillery fire. One was Florida-born and reared Nisei whose accent was very pronounced. He was a comical guy.

Takahashi: There was a Nisei guy from Oklahoma in my platoon and we'd often tease him by calling out to him, "Hey, Oki!"

Interviewer: It seems that because Bruyeres was in a very densely wooded area and the rainfall was heavy, military action was very difficult.

Takahashi: It was so cold! Water would seep into our foxholes and it was like soaking our feet in ice water. It felt as if the cold would kill us before the Germans could.

Seki: Being thirsty, I went to a river to get a drink and as I was getting a second drink, the dead body of a German soldier came floating by. It scared the wits out of me and I fled.

Asato: Did you get a stomach ache?

Seki: I was worried but everything turned out alright.

Takahashi: Amazingly, despite being holed up in that cold for days, I didn't catch cold or become ill. Probably because of the tenseness of a combat situation. Nowadays I catch cold often.

Asato: We were young and had a strong resistance to illness.

Interviewer: You were all fired up so that may have helped ward off illness. There was a main road in Bruyeres running east and west which connected with Germany. It was strategically important to the Allies that Bruyeres be recaptured from the Germans.

Seki: The artillery barrage of both sides could be seen in the night fog like ghosts in the sky.

Interviewer: Mr. Seki, you lost your right arm in the battle for Bruyeres, didn't you?

Seki: We were chasing the Germans. At night we stopped to rest. The Germans shot tracer bullets at a certain height then followed that with machine gun fire just below that height. That's when I got hit.

Interviewer: The 442nd succeeded in freeing Bruyeres, but the townspeople were startled to see Japanese faces weren't they?

Takahashi: When we first occupied the town, it seemed that they were surprised but they quickly recognized us as American soldiers. We helped in the restoration of the town. Caucasian soldiers were described as affecting the role of conquering heroes but we were described as being fine gentlemen.

Seki: We were kind to the townspeople. We Nisei soldiers did not molest the womenfolk so, we were popular with the girls. (laughter).

✓ Interviewer: There is always time for play. Is this the Nisei Yamato Damashi? (laughter). Just kidding. Seriously, the 442nd advanced eastward and occupied Biffontaine village. Here, they enjoyed their first rest in ten days.

Takahashi: At last we were able to enjoy a hot bath and put on clean underwear. Our mess crew prepared musubi (rice balls) and chicken teriyaki. After all, we Nisei must have rice. Food has much to do with uplifting a soldier's morale. There were many Kibei (Niseis who had been educated in Japan) amongst us and we are indebted to them.

Interviewer: An expected 4-day rest was suddenly terminated by orders to return to combat to rescue the Lost Texas Battalion.

> OPERATIONS TO RESCUE THE TEXAS BATTALION <

ALTHOUGH COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE 442nd REGIMENT, IT WAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS THE 442nd REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. DURING THE FRENCH CAMPAIGN IT WAS UNDER THE 36th DIVISION, COMMANDED BY MAJOR GENERAL DALQUIST. THE 1st BATTALION OF THE 141st REGIMENT (COMPRISED OF TEXANS) HAD BECOME ENCIRCLED BY THE GERMANS. THE 442ND, WHICH HAD JUST FINISHED THE BRUYERES AND BIFFONTAINE CAMPAIGNS, WAS ORDERED TO THE RESCUE AND SUCCEEDED IN DOING SO BUT AT A STAGGERING COST THAT DEFIES IMAGINATION.

Interviewer: The 442nd had had many fierce battles but the battle to rescue the Lost Texas Battalion was the fiercest was it not?

Takahashi: Surviving that battle could be called a miracle. When we got the orders for that operation, it sure got on our nerves.

Interviewer: What do you mean by that?

Takahashi: They claim that attempts to rescue them had failed but actually no attempts were made.

Interviewer: By 'they', you must mean the other two battalions of the Texas regiment. A look at military history does indeed indicate that the other two battalions of that 141st Regiment did not approach the lost battalion at all. In the first place, the Lost Battalion was isolated by the enemy because of division commander Dahlquist's faulty combat tactics. Even the commanding officers of Mr. Takahashi and his fellow men are said to have argued with the general over his strategy.

Takahashi: We would call the division commander a stupid general. During the rescue operations the German artillery fire was so

intense that we couldn't advance. So, the general comes to the front and orders artillery fire be directed at the knoll. But, that's where the encircled Lost Battalion was bravely holding out. What an idiot.

Interviewer: The isolated Texans numbering 211 were saved, but the Nisei forces suffered 800 casualties. That's a sad commentary isn't it.

Takahashi: No doubt, that's a sad irony. But we battled the Germans with determination to free those men. Of the 42 men in our 1st Platoon, only 3 men survived and only 5 men of the 2nd Platoon survived.

Interviewer: Leaving this battlefield drenched with the blood of young soldiers from both sides, the 442nd headed for Nice in southern France. At this juncture, Mr. Tanaka had been sent home for he had been wounded in the French campaign. Mr. Seki was hospitalized for the loss of his arm. Mr. Takahashi, unbelievably, was uninjured. About this time, Mr. Asato arrives from America as a replacement.

> GOTHIC LINE <

THE 442nd, HAVING WON FAME FOR ITS RESCUE OF THE OF THE LOST TEXAS BATTALION WAS DESPATCHED TO THE ITALIAN FRONT UNDER TOP SECRET COVERAGE. THERE THEY WOULD CHALLENGE THE GERMANS IN THEIR LAST REDOUBT: THE GOTHIC DEFENSE LINE IN THE FOLGORITH MOUNTAINS.

Interviewer: The Bruyeres engagement and the rescue of the Texas Battalion took place in densely wooded areas, but the Folgarith Mountain region was a treeless, rocky area. During the day, the Germans had an uninterrupted view of any activity below them, so any attack on them was limited to a swift night attack. The tactical operation was for the 2nd Bn. to circle to the north side of Fogerith Mountain (3,000 feet) and the 100th Bn. would close in from the south and the two forces would attack simultaneously. Mr. Asato was in G Company of the 2nd Bn. weren't you?

Asato: From the right (east) of Folgorith Mountain, we circled to the rear. It was a very steep slope and the sandy surface made it difficult walking, burdened as we were with our heavy field packs. Besides, it was at night, so it was hard to climb the slope without making any noise.

Takahashi: Our B Company (100th Bn) assembled at the foot of Mount Folgorith. Of course, it was at night so the enemy did not detect us.

Interviewer: In the early morning of April 5, with Mr. Asato's unit, the 2nd Bn. from the north side and Mr. Takahashi's unit, the 100th Bn. from the southern foot of the mountain launched

their surprise attack simultaneously. The attack by the 100th was initially an artillery barrage wasn't it?

Takahashi: Our infantry company was to attack as soon as our artillery barrage stopped but it seemed like the firing kept on for an hour. Actually, it was for only about ten minutes. Obstructing our forward advance were landmines and a never-ending stream of grenades thrown down the slope.

Interviewer: The Nisei soldiers opened up a big gap by executing a slashing "devil may care" attack didn't you? PFC Sadao Munemori's heroic action is just such an example.(see Note). Moreover, the fact that you captured such an impregnable stronghold in 32 minutes is a testimonial to how great your sacrifice was.

(Note): PFC Munemori crawled close to an enemy position, threw a grenade into it, then when he scurried back to his foxhole an enemy grenade hit his helmet and fell into his foxhole. At that instant, he leaped onto the grenade. The grenade exploded, blowing Munemori to bits but saved the lives of his two buddies.

Asato: What the 92nd Division could not accomplish in 5 months, we did in 32 minutes. We were only a regiment, they a division.

Takahashi: I once asked a black soldier of the 92nd Division: "Where were you guys?" He replied that they had tried to advance on that stronghold several times but that on the following morning discovered that they had lost ground instead--and he laughed. I laughed too.

Interviewer: In the April 5th engagement, the Germans lost 30 men killed and the Nisei 20 killed and 123 wounded.

Takahashi: Breaking the Gothic Line wasn't that tough.

Asato: As far as the Germans were concerned, the Gothic Line was their last hope. They kept fleeing farther and farther north.

Interviewer: This magnificent battle proved the strategy a success, ending the Italian campaign. However, the 442 has had fierce battles all over Italy but the enemy has always been the Germans--no Italians. (everyone laughs).

Seki: Italy had surrendered long ago. I never saw an Italian soldier. (laughter).

> RETURN ALIVE <

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE COMBINED TOTAL OF NISEI SOLDIERS IN THE 100TH BATTALION FORMED BEFORE THE WAR AND THE 442ND REGIMENT FORMED DURING THE WAR WAS ABOUT 6,000. FROM SEPTEMBER 1943 TO THE END OF THE WAR IN EUROPE IN MAY 1945, A PERIOD OF 20 MONTHS, THE

CASUALTY RATE OF THE NISEI SOLDIERS WAS APPROXIMATELY 50%. THAT IS SAID TO BE THE HIGHEST CASUALTY RATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. ARMY.

Interviewer: All of you, despite the deep physical and spiritual wounds that you have incurred, have returned home. That's over a half-century ago. Still, you'll probably never forget the ferocity of the battles you experienced in Europe.

Takahashi: Every time we attacked, there would be a buddy killed or seriously wounded. Even after returning home, I still think of those buddies who looked death in the face or were seriously or even slightly wounded. As for me, there seemed to be hundreds of times when I escaped being a casualty and countless times that I was missed being hit by an only inch or two. It's a miracle that I was not killed.

Seki: When I returned to Honolulu, ^aneighborhood lady said to me: "You were fortunate to come back. Hiroshi, of our neighborhood, was killed. What a pity!"

Asato: I was really lucky to return alive. Over 50 years has since passed. How lucky I am.

Tanaka: I would like the world to know the wickedness of war. I cannot bear to hear of wars such as the Gulf War which was an economic war, the Eastern European War which is a racist and religious war.

Takahashi: The Korean and Vietnam wars took a tremendous total of our young men. War is so stupid.

Interviewer: At the time, the Nisei left their parents in the internment camps, went to war to prove their Americanism, gambled their future on the battlefield by shedding blood in the process. After the war, the improved status of the Nikkei in the American mainstram is said to be attributable to the fact that the American public was moved by the Nisei soldiers incomparable war record.

With the sacrifice of the Nisei in mind, we the living must not only hand down the achievements of the preceding generation but also seek to impress upon the world the idiocy of wars to put a stop to this senseless killing.

Thank you for your cooperation.

(Translator's note: Translation of the two insets follows. These are chronologies of the 442nd Regiment appearing on page 25 and continued on page 27 of *The Japanese publication TV PAA, MAY 2000.*)

First Inset: 442nd Chronology

1941:

Dec 7: 7:55 (Hawaii time) Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. U.S. Army demotes Japanese American soldiers to 4-C classification (enemy alien) and confiscates their weapons, reassigns them to menial chores and discharges some.

1942:

Feb 19: President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 giving the army the authority to forcibly evacuate designated areas.

May 26: In prewar Hawaii, the Nisei in the Territorial Guard were the nucleus of the Nisei that became the 100th Bn.

Jun 5: With the Japanese fleet approaching Midway, to prevent any possible revolt, the Nisei soldiers and their Caucasian officers (totaling 1432 men) were shipped from Honolulu port to the mainland and their weapons confiscated. Later, they were sent to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin for training.

Nov : At the National JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, the JACL approves the lifting of the freeze on Nisei service in the military and sends its recommendation to President Roosevelt.

1943:

Jan : U.S. Government announces its approval of lifting the freeze on military service for the Nisei.

Feb : The 442nd Regimental Combat Team comprised of Nisei soldiers is formed in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Loyalty questionnaire is distributed in the 10 internment camps.

Apr : 2686 volunteers from Hawaii and 1181 from the internment camps arrive in Shelby.

May : 442nd begins basic training (until August 23) followed by maneuvers until March 1944.

Aug 21: 100th Bn (WAN PUKA PUKA) departs New York for Italy.

Sep 22: 100th Bn lands at Salerno and heads north.

2nd Inset : (continuation of chronology: from p-27 of TV-Fan)

1944:

Feb : Since landing at Salerno, the 100th Bn engages in 5 months of fierce fighting (especially the Cassino engagement). The casualties cut the battalion strength by 40% down to 521 men.

Mar : From Camp Shelby the first contingent of replacements (165 men) plus 10 officers arrive in Italy. A

- month later the 2nd contingent arrives, comprised of 210 men and 20 officers.
- ✓ May : The initial 442nd Regiment completes 10 months of training and heads for Italy.
- ✓ Jun : The 100th Bn is integrated into the 442nd.
- * Sep : The 442nd leaves the Italian front on the 27th and from Napoli port heads for Marseilles (France).
- ✓ Oct 13: The 442nd assembles at Epinol west of Bruyeres.
- ✓ Oct 14: The 2nd Bn attacks Merlin Plateau and the 100th the Beaumont Mt.
- ✓ Oct 18: Both are captured and Bruyeres is liberated.
- Oct 19: Offensive against Apison Mountain begins and it is captured on the 20th.
- ✓ Oct 22: The 442nd heads east from Bruyeres and occupies Biffontaine. Takes a rest at Belmont village.
- Oct 26: Ordered to report to the battle front to rescue the Texas Battalion isolated for 4 days.
- Oct 27: Offensive begun. This day's advance is 300 meters.
- ✓ Oct 28: Advance 500 meters.
- ✓ Oct 30: The Butte ridge is captured and the Texas Battalion rescued. The 442nd suffers 800 casualties.

1945:

- ✓ Mar : The 442nd receives top secret orders and leaves Marseilles port for Italy.
- ✓ Apr 3: The operation to capture the heavily fortified German Gothic Defense Line begins. The 100th Bn and the 3rd Bn head for their respective attack positions under night cover.
- ✓ Apr 4: The 3rd Bn leaves Asanno village at night and arrives at the north foot of Folgorito Mountain.
- ✓ Apr 5: In the early morn, the 3rd Bn springs a surprise attack on the Germans and simultaneously, the 100th Bn attacks the southern knoll, called Georgia Hill, of the Folgorito Mountain. Folgorito falls in a mere 32 minutes. But the casualty rate is horrific including the loss of PFC Sadao Munemori.
- ✓ Apr 21: 442nd begins its offensive on Nebione Mountain.
- Apr 22: It is in this battle that Dan Inouye loses his right arm to a hand grenade.
- May 2: The Italian Campaign ends.
- May 8: Germany surrenders.

* Anti-Tank Co - Italian Invasion of Southern France.

Aug 15 - 44 gliders drawn by 44 C47, later 2 airfields near Rome
glided into grape vineyard, Le Muy So France after the S.I.P.R.C.T.

Aug 16 - Relieved by 45th / 36th Division units.

** Dec 19 - 1st Platoon captured One-man German Submarine, shored in Bay of Menton.