

mailed
12/30/00

TANKBUSTERS

December, 2000

By Chappie Kishaba and Henry Ikemoto

The end of the year 2000 is almost here and 2001 is just around the corner. I'm very grateful that I can enjoy each day and I trust that each of you can do the same.

We had our December meeting on the 14th with the following people:

Yoshio Hamada, Tsu Akutagawa, Frank Seto, Roy Nishio, Dave Kawagoye, Chappie Kishaba, and Henry Ikemoto. Kuni did not make it because his car was not out of the shop in time. I heard that someone "banged" into his shiney Toyota AVALON.

This was the first time I met Tsu. He has had a physical problem that slowed him down a lot. At our recent AT Social, **Fred Okawa** mentioned that Tsu was under the weather so couple of us sent him a "get-well" card. In response to the cards and phone calls, he joined us at Dave's house and we car-pooled.

I'm on the Southern California committee for the 2001 All Nikkei Nisei and Family Reunion in LA, scheduled for August 3-5, 2001. It'll be just before the Nisei Week and should be a good gathering. More information will be coming.

As I write this report around 9:00 AM, the sun is shining and, according to my little outdoor thermometer, the temperature is a pleasant 50 degrees F. Last week, for his Christmas present to his father, our neighbor gave him a week's visit in Southern California from Chicago. The father, who is a spry old Italian in his mid-eighties, told me he left a minus 50 F Chicago "breeze" and was "baking" in the California Christmas sunshine for a week. He wanted to get back home quickly so he could tell his "old" buddies, his "paisano" buddies, about the trip.

We have couple healthy octogenarians in our Chapter and they challenge us to keep us going!

On November 9, 10 and 11, 2000, my wife and I were part of a pretty large number of Californians who attended the ceremonies of the dedication of the National JA Monument in Washington, DC. We found that we roomed in the same hotel with **Hiroshi Kaku, son and boys, and Whitey and Amy Yamamoto.** Both fellas had their nice cameras and were taking many photos. Whitey said he contacted **Hankie Hirose** and went to see **TORO's gravesite at the Arlington Cemetery.** Then the **Yamamoto's** had lunch with **Hankie**, looking very good, and her family (Whitey mailed me a photo of the family).

As a side trip, Mildred and I drove to Ft Bragg, NC, to see and take a photo to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, *The Legend Continues.* **Albert Kizuka's** sister, gave the Chapter a group photo of the AT Company during training at Shelby. It was taken in 1943, and professionally framed. We decided to donate it to the Museum and that's what I delivered. The Museum is a magnificent structure. From the foyer, the large glass windows and doors open to a beautiful open yard. There are pavers just as the door enters that

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garden area. The Chapter treasury gave half of the \$1,200 to purchase a paver to honor the 517th. The Hawaii Chapter made the arrangements.

The wordings are:

**"DEDICATED TO MEN OF 517TH PRCT
OUR ESTEEMED COMRADES IN
"OPERATIONS DRAGOON"
15 AUG 1944 - SO FRANCE**

**BY ANTI-TANK CHAPTERS OF
442ND VETERANS CLUB HAWAII
AND
100th/442nd VETERANS ASSN LA
"GO FOR BROKE"**

The curator said if anyone had something he thinks may be of interest to the Museum, contact him at the Museum:

(910) 483-3003; FAX (910) 485-2024; E-mail: info@asomf.org

100 Bragg Blvd, Fayetteville, NC 28301 (or PO Box 89, Fayetteville, NC 28302)

Clark Archer, a member of the 517th, sent Christmas greetings to our AT Chapter with an invitation to attend their coming mini-reunion in Palm Springs, April or May, 2001. They are a lively group and last year, there were over 100 folks at their dinner. In past years, Frank Seto, Kuni Hisatomi, Seiji Oshiro and I have attended their reunion evening banquet. It's about a hour and half drive. A "rakkasan" trooper, Alex Serra and his wife, who live in Whittier, are very cordial to us.

We drove to Massachusetts and to Up-state NY. On the way, we visited with Captain and Mrs Ferris. He looks good in his 80's, but "slowing down", he said.

I'd better slow down, stop and mail this in to Momoko.

A VERY HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL !