

2001

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

MIS AND THE NISEI SOLDIER



MIS Intelligencer

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Registration Goes Over 700 Both Mis Dinners Top 500

Registration Rising for MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion

Reservations are flowing in from the East Coast, Midwest, Northwest, West Coast, Hawaii and Japan, according to Walter Tanaka, registration chairman for the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion, scheduled from Tues-

MAY 17, 1991 NICHIBEI
Course, Ft. Ord, Monterey is limited to 60, at \$20 for military/retired and \$60 for nonmilitary (half cart included).
Everyone: An informal mixer night on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at \$15 per person, with deficits covered by convention income.

Oct. 31 Dinner at Hyatt Regency Hotel Col. Sakakida Keynote Speaker at MIS Reunion

For the first time in person, the unheralded story of an outstanding nisei intelligence agent, Richard Sakakida, will be heard at the MIS 50th Reunion Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 31, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Monterey.

Nine months before Pearl Harbor, two bilingual nisei, Sakakida and Arthur Komori, were recruited in Hawaii by a nisei officer for duty with the Corps of Intelligence Police (CIP), later renamed as the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC).

Sakakida and Komori, now a retired lawyer in Hawaii, were hastily trained and sent to the Philippines, posing as crewmen. Then operating under guidance of CIP, based on an American military base, they registered in small Japanese-operated hotels.

Sakakida acted like a draft dodger, a plausible story since several thousand nisei were already in the U.S. Army before Pearl Harbor. Sakakida posed as a sales representative for Sears Roebuck while Komori found a job as an English teacher at the Japanese Cultural Hall. Each passed the information they col-

lected about the Japanese community to their handlers by pre-arranged methods.

After the Japanese invasion, the Filipino police arrested them as Japanese collaborators; but, they were rescued from prison by CIP before the Japanese reached Manila. They were sent to Corregidor to handle the linguistic work for General MacArthur's headquarters.

As surrender became imminent, with mounting losses from combat, malnutrition and disease, both men were ordered to leave Corregidor, but Sakakida offered his space to another nisei linguist. Komori reached Australia and wrote a guideline on interrogation of POWs. He next worked at ATIS under Col. Sydney Mashbir.

Captured on Corregidor with Gen. Wainwright, Sakakida was variously tortured for six months before imprisonment in Manila. He escaped execution, mainly because his mother had cancelled his dual citizenship before the war. The sequel as to what happened, to Richard Sakakida from 1943 to August 1945 will be unfolded on October 31 and should prove doubly interesting to everyone.

Introducing New Members

Roy Y. Aka,

Jack Matsuoka,

Tony Butcher

Hayato & Doris Kihara

Frank & Edith Tanaka

Asst Photog Wanted

Roy Uyehata, official photographer for Reunion, seeks an assistant. Ones interested can write or call Roy: 60151 Stokes Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014. Tel (408) 255-3473

Help for Hospitality Room

Hospitality Room Chairman Joe Kurata needs volunteers to help in the Hospitality Room. Please contact Joe at 377 Santa Ana Ave., SF. CA 94127 or call (415) 339-0374

Latest Registration

Registrations are now in the 700 level, with dinner reservations for MIS Dinners at both SF and Monterey going well over 500, so more space is being planned.

JULY 9, 1991 NICHIBEI

Untold Stories to Highlight MIS Reunion Workshop

By BARRY SAIKI

A full day panel program on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at the Miyako Hotel, with more than 20 MIS panelists discussing historical aspects of MI activities in both

other veterans who served in these campaigns.

After lunch, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., Henry Kuwabara, moderator, will lead the discussion on wartime activities in India,

50th Anniversary . July 18, 91 Nichibe Ceremonies, Gala Dinners in Monterey for MIS Reunion

The second portion of the four-day MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion from October 29 to November 1, will start on Oct. 31, with a leisurely motor drive from San Francisco to Monterey by bus or auto. Bus travelers will have "obento" lunches en route.

From 2 p.m., a brief program will be held at Nakamura Hall, at the Defense Language Institute (DLI), earlier known as the Army Language School, when MISLS was transferred in 1946 from Fort Snelling, Minn. to Presidio of Monterey.

Under chairmanship of Tom Sakamoto, a model of the first MIS Language School, the Crissy Field hanger at the Presidio of San Francisco, is to be presented to Colonel Fischer, current Commandant of DLI, by Gene Uratsu, member of the first class 50 years ago.

Brief remarks by Colonel Fischer and by Tom Kawaguchi, of the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), which created the model, will be followed by guided tours of three buildings, the Nakamura, the Hachiya and the Mizutari Halls, all named in memory of MIS KIAs.

The Nakamura Hall will have on display an exhibit of 40 pertinent photos selected from NJAHS files by Roy Takai, Gene Uratsu and Tom Sakamoto, to provide an atmosphere for veterans to recall wartime events.

The venue will change in the evening to the Hyatt Regency Hotel with no-host cocktails from 6 p.m. and dinner from 7 p.m. Peter Nakahara will emcee the program, tentatively scheduled as follows:

Peter Nakahara, Call to order; Monterey Peninsula Memorial Post 1629, Presentation of colors; Spady Koyama (Col. USA, Ret.), Pledge of Allegiance; Rev. Hei Takarabe, Invocation; Peter Nakahara, Introduction of guests.

Also: Harry K. Fukuhara, MIS Norcal pres. (Col. USA, Ret.), Greetings; Wally Amioka, MIS Hawaii representative, Response; Norman Mineta, U.S. Congress, Anniversary remarks; Walt Reghr, Introduction of speaker; Richard Sakakita (Col. USAF, Ret.), Guest speaker.

Also: Tom Sakamoto, Reunion steering committee chair (Col. USA, Ret.), Closing remarks; Rev. Michihiro Honda, Benediction; Memorial Post 1629, Retiring of colors; Tom Sasaki & Warren Eijima (LTC, USA, Ret.), Raffle announcements; and Goro Yamamoto, Entertainment.

The program for the second day, Nov. 1, marking the 50th Anniversary of DLI as well as the 50th year since the first Japanese language class was started by the U.S. Army in 1941 will be completely arranged and organized by the school.

After a free morning for a tour around Monterey, the DLI program will start from 2 p.m. at Nakamura Hall. Shig Kihara, a teacher of the first class will be the keynote speaker and will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony.

For the evening, DLI will send invitations to all MISLS reunion participants for a no-host cocktail and formal dinner. The speaker will be a prominent military person (general), who is or has been until recently on active duty.

Editor's Potpourri

With this edition, the MIS Intelligencer will come under new management, which hopes to continue to provide up-to-date and newsworthy information as was capably done by Shigeya Kihara.

When I was inducted as Vice President for Public Relations, I did not know that it meant that I was also the editor of the Intelligencer. Fortunately, Richard Hayashi, who lives in Stockton, was one of the early co-editors (w/Paul Ohtaki) and is regarded as a historian on MIS. He agreed to handle some of the research and mechanics, so something both old and new should come out of the joint effort.

ALL MEMBERS of MIS Norcal wish to thank Shig wholeheartedly for his many years of sustained editorship. Richard and I will decide how wholehearted we are after we have printed two or three issues.

Seriously, thank you, Shigeya, for editing the Intelligencer for many, many years, devoting much of your personal time. Please relax and take good care of your well-maintained "bonsai" and garden.

* * * * *

What the Intelligencer will become will mainly be decided by the readers themselves. Usually, an editor has the prerogative to publish what he wants to. This is a serious responsibility. Freedom can be dangerous. Thus, what he prints should be attributed to legitimate sources or verified by facts. Opinions can be expressed as personal views.

We are not expecting a novel or a Pulitzer masterpiece, but the best source of information is the first person himself. I would like to encourage ALL MEMBERS to send in episodes and anecdotes as they experienced them, to the best of their memories before they fade.

I am certain that every member has encountered and incident or an event that he remembers clearly. We want to obtain these impressions and feelings as you saw and felt them in a particular campaign or on a specific day. It could be something routine as how the bugs bothered you as you hunkered down in a foxhole in New Guinea or Luzon, oozing sweat by the pints. How thick were the mosquitoes and how often was the shower. What was the best chow as you moved to the rear or went on R&R. Or was it the seven straight passes you made one night.

Everyone has first impressions, whether it was on Attu, New Guinea, Saipan, Australia, New Caledonia, Delhi, Burma, China, Okinawa, Korea or Japan. Your own personal impression/feeling on that day was probably not exactly the same as others. What you felt is what we would like to learn from you.

We think that anyone can write down 200-300 words about the most memorable event he had. It takes only a page -- write several pages if you need that much. We will rewrite it if you want us to, while retaining your basic thoughts.

We intend to print as many as we can in each future issue and will offer prizes at the end of 1992 to those which are the most unusual, interesting, humorous and moving. If we can get 300 impressions, personal feelings from each of the recipients, it could become a booklet.

Barry Saiki

The President's Corner

"Konnichiwa" and Hello. This shows that I'm bilingual. Recently, I returned from Japan to retire after 48 years of service: 29 as Army personnel and 19 as Army civilian. A half year later, in April, I was elected (or drafted) as President. Being a retiree, I couldn't claim that I had no time.

When MIS Norcal was first organized in 1970, I recall that Tom Sakamoto was the first prexy. Most members then were in their early 50s. Now, 21 years and 15 presidents later, most of us are in the 70s. The club may be scraping the bottom of the barrel in selecting me -- yet I am greatly honored and sincerely hope to serve you well.

I am reequipping for this job: I now have a hearing aid, I also had cataract surgery and I'm getting new teeth. Luckily, I still don't need mental repairs as shown by my mahjong play.

The membership roster as July 1, 1991, provided by Roy Uyehata, a past president, gave total membership of 261 (199 in Norcal and 62 elsewhere) including So. Cal, Alaska, Canada, Japan, New York, Northwest, Rocky Mts states, Midwest and Hawaii. We have eight honorary and 30 associate members (widows of members). No surnames start with J, P, Q, V, X and Z. Chan is the only C while Ding and Robinson are the single D and R. Lee and Lury are the two Ls. By the year 2000, the women may outnumber the men since women tend to outlive men. By the logic of body count (of living), this means that we should increasingly ask wives and widows to become more active.

We also need to take a more broader approach in membership -- by reaching out beyond the Nisei and Sansei, to MIS men from DLI and other language schools, including non-Japanese. This is a subject for discussion at the board meeting on Oct. 5.

Of IMMEDIATE importance is your full participation in the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion in San Francisco and Monterey (Oct 29 to Nov 1), sponsored by our club. For more than a year, under Chairman Tom Sakamoto, the Steering Committee has been working to organize a successful Reunion. The Anniversary Booklet has gone to press and the convention will include two MIS dinners, a mixer, a golf tournament and a DLI ceremony and dinner. The editing and printing of the booklet were done by NJAHS's C.Uyeda.

In SF, the panel sessions will be coordinated by Hank Gosho and will be moderated by Phil Ishio and Ben Hazard (North, Central, South and Southwest Pacific), Henry Kuwabara (CBI) and Barry Saiki (Occupation), with Loni Ding as consultant.

The full schedule are printed on other pages of the Intelligencer, but parts of DLI events are not completely confirmed.

The entire DLI command is supporting the convention to include the grand finale dinner on Nov 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey. As this may be the "Last Gala Hurrah", get your registration and reservations in ASAP and encourage your friends and colleagues to attend. The Reunion is the main event this year and reunions will also be important in the years to come, so I earnestly and humbly request your support.

Keep fit and see you at the Reunion.

Harry K. Fukuhara

In Memoriam Harold Hisao Nakamura 1918-1991

By Gene Uratsu

After a prolonged illness, Harold H. Nakamura passed away on June 9 at the Kaiser Hospital in Oakland. He is survived by his wife Mary of Berkeley and elder brother Kenneth Yamamoto of New York.

Born in Los Angeles on July 13, 1918, he grew up in Sacramento and was drafted while a student at U.C. Berkeley in mid-1941. After Pearl Harbor, he was interviewed, tested for Japanese language proficiency and sent to Camp Savage, Minn in May 1942. In Nov 1942, he went to Alaska for the Attu and Kiska campaign; in early 1944, he was sent to ATIS, Indooroopilly, Australia, for later assignment to the 158th RCT, nicknamed as the "Bushmaster". He joined them on Dutch New Guinea, with Gene Uratsu, Bob Nakamura and Smiley Muranaka as team buddies. The 158th fought in some of the toughest battles in SW Pacific and

in two landings in the Philippines in 1945. He was awarded a Bronze Star for saving a GI's life. He was given a field commission to 2nd Lt just before the end of the war and took part in the Occupation of Japan. He left the Army in early 1946 to wed his fiancée Mary Sakiyama in NY.

After trying various vocations, he opened a successful radio and TV shop in Richmond until he retired in 1980. A charter member of MIS Norcal, he also was a golfer.

Gene Uratsu attended the funeral representing MIS Norcal to present a floral offering. In memory of Harold Nakamura, the MIS Norcal received a most generous donation of \$1,000 from his wife Mary and \$150.00 from his brother Ken. We all regret that he was unable to participate physically in the Reunion but he will be present, most assuredly, in spirit.

UNCOMMON AMERICAN PATRIOTS

Published in Mar 1991, by the Nisei Veterans Committee, of Seattle, Wash., is a booklet entitled "Uncommon American Patriots", written by Francis M. Fukuhara.

Completed after two years of diligent research, the introduction provides a concise outline of JA history from immigration through the change of events up to 1946.

Then, with photos and legends, the 60 soldiers of Washington State who died in service are depicted. Photos of two others could not be located, although they are memorialized on the Honor Roll in the Seattle Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall and etched onto a granite shaft in the Lakeview Cemetery of Capitol Hill. Francis accredits the NVC for moral and monetary support; and Frank S. Fujii, Joseph Nakatsu, Mack Shoji, Masao Watanabe, Henry Yorozu, Mrs. Yuri Nakata, David Fukuhara, Teresa Mori and Ki-ichiro Inouye

* * * * *

The Nisei Veterans Committee, Inc. thru Vice Cmdr Yoshito Iwamoto has also donated a most generous sum to be used for the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion.

MIS Norcal wishes to express our appreciation for this gift and sentiments.

Mineta Proposes Memorial Honoring JA Vets

IN WASHINGTON DC

WASHINGTON — Rep. Norman Mineta (D-San Jose) introduced legislation in the House on June 12 to authorize the construction of a memorial in Washington, D.C. honoring American veterans of Japanese ancestry.

Identical legislation was introduced the same day in the Senate by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii).

No federal funds will be required for the memorial, which would be built with private donations. The effort to establish the memorial has been spearheaded by the Go For Broke National Veterans Association, an organization of Japanese American veterans, current service members and their supporters.

"Americans of Japanese ancestry have served in the U.S. military in every conflict from the Spanish-American War to Operation Desert Storm," said Mineta. "This memorial will be a fitting tribute to the heroism of these brave and loyal Americans."

Joining Mineta as original co-sponsors of the House bill were Reps. Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii), Robert Matsui (D-Sacramento), Don Edwards (D-San Jose), George Miller (D-Pleasant Hill), Mel Levine (D-Los Angeles), Frank Horton (R-N.Y.), Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Ben Jones (D-Ga.).

Mineta told his House colleagues that "33,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry served in the U.S. armed forces during the Second World War. These men and women served in the Military Intelligence Service,

they served as medics and teachers, they served in the WACs and in the Army Air Corps.

"But by far their most celebrated contributions were in the Army, where the all-Nisei 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team became two of the most decorated units in American military history.

"The 100th Battalion, originally part of the Hawaii National Guard, left for the European theater in September of 1943. Fighting as part of the Allied campaign in Italy, the 1,400 men of the 100th suffered an extraordinary level of casualties.

"In just the first month and a half of fighting, 78 of their number were killed and 239 wounded or injured. During the war, the 100th ultimately earned 900 Purple Hearts and the nickname of 'The Purple Heart Battalion.'

"In June of 1944, the 100th merged with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was composed of Japanese American volunteers from Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

"The 442nd suffered 9,486 casualties during the seven major campaigns it carried out in the European theater. By war's end, the 442nd had earned 18,143 individual decorations, including one Congressional Medal of Honor, 47 Distinguished Service Crosses, 350 Silver Stars, 810 Bronze Stars and over 3,600 Purple Hearts.

"The unit was cited seven times by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman with the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation. The 442nd's exploits on the battlefield and their passionate devotion to our cause was a

testament to their motto: 'Go For Broke'...

"As these men and women were giving their all to defend this country, they carried with them the pain of knowing that many of their friends and families sat locked behind barbed-wire fences in the United States.

"But their story is ultimately one of abiding faith in this country and its ideals. They firmly believed that although their rights and the rights of their families had been violated, although they were viewed with suspicion and fear, that this country would ultimately act to remove the stain of disloyalty...

"Just as the sacrifices of the 100th and 442nd demonstrated the loyalty of Japanese Americans, the memory of their service was crucial to our efforts to achieve redress for those who were interned. It was in honor of these veterans that the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was designated H.R. 442 here in Congress.

"Their extraordinary service will always serve as a shining example of the dedication of Americans of Japanese ancestry to this country and to its most sacred ideals. That dedication has lived on through the intervening years by Japanese American veterans who served in Korea, in Vietnam, in Grenada, in Panama and, most recently, in Operation Desert Storm...

"The memorial... will not commemorate any particular war, unit or service. Its goal is to remind all Americans of the precious nature of liberty and the tremendous price that has been paid to preserve that liberty for future generations."

PAST NORCAL PREXY HONORED

Sacramento JA Community to Honor Tom Fujimoto

(Hokubei Mainichi - July 25, 1991)
SACRAMENTO — The Sacramento Nikkei community will honor Tom Fujimoto, who has retired from service with the State of California Department of Water Resources after 41 years of dedicated and distinguished service. The testimonial/roast will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at Hoi Sing Restaurant, 7007 South Land Park Drive, in South Sacramento.

Fujimoto has been active with the Sacramento JACL, Hokka Kumamoto Kenjin Kai, Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California, South Sacramento Shinwakai, Parkview Presby-

terian Church and NFW Nisei Post 8985.

In addition, he is a charter member of an ad hoc committee which has sponsored such programs as the Walerga Park Memorial Plaque dedication, Walerga Park cherry tree planting project, Tulelake-Linkville Cemetery project, New Helvetia Cemetery ceremony, annual Okei memorial cleanup in Gold Hill and the upcoming Sacramento Regional Japanese American Historical Exhibit in 1992.

Tickets for the dinner, which include dinner and gift, have been priced at \$20 each. All seating will be by reservations

and pre-sold tickets, announced event coordinator Toko Fujii.

Tickets are available from: Fujii, 441-7900 or 421-2112; Masako Fukuda, 441-7900; Mitsugu Matsuda, 447-9252; Henry Taketa, 428-2197; George Morita, 391-1785; Kuni Hironaka, 424-1648; Tom Okubo, 422-8749; Mike Sawamura, 441-2685; Royce Makishima, 444-8041; Ralph Sugimoto, 929-1006; Gene Itogawa, 421-9739; Shiro Tokuno, 925-0019; George Matsuoka, 920-3758; Priscilla Ouchida, 445-2407; Ellen Kubo, 652-6658; JACL Office, 447-0231; all 916 area code.

GO FOR BROKE NVC ELECTS NATIONAL OFFICERS

The second general meeting of the Go For Broke National Veterans Association, the national JA veterans group was held recently at the Mayflower Hotel in Seattle, Washington, with Pres. Wm Marutani presiding.

The election of the officers was the highlight with Marutani being reelected. A number of key positions were won by MIS veterans, showing that MIS men were coming into their own. Among those with MIS background named were Richard Oguro, Art Morimitsu, Key Kobayashi, Ben Obata, Peter Okada, Paul Bannai and Marutani.

The GFBNVA is a misnomer in that the organization is open to all veterans and nonveterans and the name was chosen at the suggestion of the late Mike Masaoka two years ago at the first general meeting. The main objective of the association is to erect a memorial honoring all Japanese American veterans in Washington D.C. A bill has been introduced in Congress by Senator Daniel Inouye and Representative Norman Mineta to erect the memorial on Federal-owned land with public funds.

(Nichibei - Jun 4, 1991)

Harry Fukuhara Receives Presidential Citation Award

Harry Fukuhara knows hard work and dedication goes a long way. The 71-year-old nisei was honored in January for his contributions to ensure national security of his country working as an intelligence officer in the U.S. military.

Fukuhara received the Presidential Citation Award, the highest award that can be given to a civilian federal employee. The award was presented at a ceremony at the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (USA INSCOM) headquarters in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.



Major General Charles F. Scanlon presents the Presidential Citation Award to Harry Fukuhara (center) as Mrs. Fukuhara looks on.

and Emperor Akihito for his contributions to the U.S.-Japan relations.

This friendly man spent many years working in Japan in the Army's Tokyo office. He was involved in many intelligence operations. Fukuhara said he had three brothers who were in the Japanese army.

"My job involved supporting the military efforts in the Far East and being a liaison between the U.S. and Japan," he said.

Fukuhara was born in Seattle, Washington but returned to Japan with his family before World War II began. He graduated from Sanyo Commercial School in Hiroshima and returned to the U.S. in 1938. Fukuhara received an Associate of Arts degree in 1941 from Glendale Junior College.

His army career began in 1942 when he received training at the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Camp Savage, Minnesota. Fukuhara was then assigned to the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Fukuhara is also a former internee who spent a short time in Gila River before he volunteered for duty in the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service.

Among his many military assignments, Fukuhara was the chief of the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade's Foreign Liaison Detachment. This began in July 1972 when Fukuhara returned to Japan as a Department of the Army civilian.

When asked about his military experiences, Fukuhara smiled as he recalled a special one. Fukuhara spent his high school days in Hiroshima and remembers a friend, Shigeru Matsuura, whom he met on the battlefield of New Guinea as a prisoner of war and an enemy soldier. The two men reunited 45 years after the war.

"It was a great honor to receive this award," said Fukuhara, who is now retired from the military and living in San Jose. "This is something very special to me. I thought I might get a letter of commendation for my work. I don't know anyone else who received this honor which is signed by the president."

Fukuhara's brilliant 48-year career was spent working as a soldier, civilian and statesman. He had previously received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon Award, from the Japanese Government

"It was really something seeing my friend who was captured by American forces," said Fukuhara, who was a sergeant in the U.S. Army at the time.

Fukuhara did not remember Matsuura at first sight. But, after recognizing his friend, he made sure Matsuura was taken to a safer war prisoner's camp in Australia. He also provided him with food, salt and cigarettes.

Among Fukuhara's many military decorations include the Bronze Star (with two Oak leaf clusters), the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

A difficult part of Fukuhara's life involved looking for his family in Hiroshima after the atomic bombing. His family's house was located two miles from the center of the city. Fukuhara did find his mother who had survived because she was in a bomb shelter. He also found an older brother.

"This was a very difficult time for me," he said.

When Fukuhara retired from the Army, he worked as a civilian employee with the Department of the Army. He did the same work as before — doing intelligence work. He represented the U.S. military in dealings with the Japanese government.

Fukuhara spends much of his free time now helping out with the reunion for the 50th anniversary of MIS. The reunion will be held for two days in San Francisco and two days in Monterey. The first Military Intelligence Service Language School was formed in 1941 in San Francisco at the Presidio.

"All of the time I spent in the military was an interesting experience," he said. "I felt proud and honored to receive the Presidential Citation."

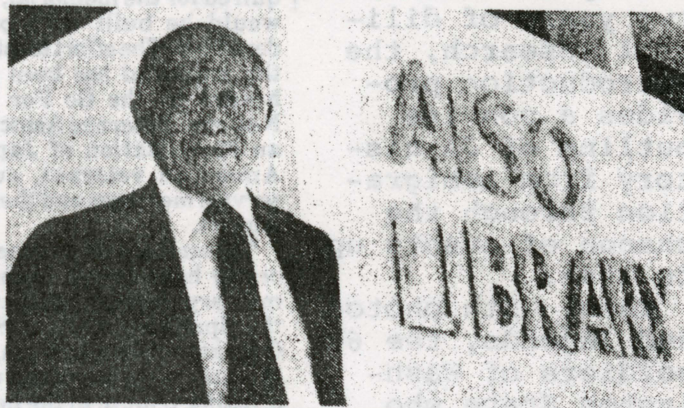
Shig Kihara Speaks at CCC JACL Day of Remembrance

By FRED K. OSHIMA

SALINAS — 'Neath a grey, overcast mid-winter coastal sky that ironically resembled the unforgettable dark, dramatic evacuation days of '42, noted chronicler of World War II nisei veteran scene, Shig Kihara staunchly addressed a Central California Coast audience by solemnly reminding the historic gathering that "February 19, 1991 is the 49th anniversary of President Franklin Delano

had the wisdom to get amends as an entitlement in an appropriation bill through the successful passing of H.R. 422 in 1988."

Kihara concluded, "That without the magnificent record of the celebrated 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the unheralded action of MIS soldiers and without the tremendous effort of the nikkei legislators in Washington along with the Japanese American Citizens League and



SHIGEYA KIHARA

Roosevelt's infamous Executive Order 9066 — Our Day of Remembrance of anger, loss, shame and humiliation."

A resident of nearby Monterey, Kihara added, "1991 is also the 50th anniversary of the Nisei Soldier, whose brilliant story speaks of uncommon loyalty, high honor, shining valor and a passionate love of country.

"This dichotomy of emotion, symbolizes the nisei experience in the turbulent history of our country during the 20th century," he said.

A pre-war Oakland native and a UC Berkeley graduate, Kihara, just prior to Pearl Harbor, was one of a small vanguard of trusted, patriotic nisei that quietly helped organize the eminently successful U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service Language School at San Francisco's Presidio, Minnesota's Camp Savage and Fort Snelling and the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

In essence, the speaker who also collaborated with author, Joseph Harrington in the writing of the colorful "Yankee Samurai" book, describing the secret role of nisei in America's Pacific victory, emphasized, "that in the long redress struggle of the 1980s, nisei veterans on Capitol Hill, Dan Inouye and the late Spark Matsunata, along with their contemporaries, Norman Mineta, Robert Matsui and Pat Saiki, spearheaded the legislative battle in the Hall of Congress.

"They were instrumental in the creation of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1980 that recommended a national apology and monetary compensation."

He said, "It was this determined congressional quintet that

their Legislative Education Committee, we would not be here today to observe this Day of

Remembrance; serene in the thought that we maintained our reverence and dignity in war and peace for half a century and that we were heavily involved in a constitutional issue that culminated in a victory for justice and honor."

This year's annual rite at the Day of Remembrance Monument in Salinas' California Rodeo Ground was sponsored by Watsonville JACL with the support of Gilroy, San Benito County, Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley chapters.

California Rodeo Ground, the perennial home of one of the west's premier rodeo and stock show, served as a tragic, temporary wartime assembly and detention center for some 3,500 innocent Japanese American residents in the Central California coast area.

This mass evacuation group, completely shorn off of due legal process and trial were subsequently herded unceremoniously to Poston Relocation Center in the brutal, barren Arizona desert and recklessly fenced in behind gun-point as undesirable suspects.

Dave Kadotani served as master of ceremonies and the program included the "pride" of Watsonville's nikkei community, the ever popular Senior Citizen Center's Choir and under the direction of Tamaye Hamagiwa, offered sterling renditions of "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful."

A reception directed by Ben Umeda, general chairman, followed at the Buddhist Temple of Salinas.

Registration Committee Chairman Walt Tanaka has reported sizable donations to Reunion by:

DAV Chapter 100 - Los Angeles
Go For Broke Nat'l Veterans Assn, Culver City
MIS Northwest Post - Seattle, WA
VFW Nisei Post 8985 - Sacramento, CA
MIS Veterans - Honolulu, HI
San Fernando VFW Post 4140 - Northridge, CA
S-20 - Nisei and Nisei Vets - Ontario, Canada
Nisei Veterans Committee, Inc - Seattle, WA

7/18/91) The Japanese American

WWII MIS ^{New Corp.} *vets* plan 50th reunion

By MIN HARA
The Military Intelligence Service (MIS) veterans will sponsor its 50th Anniversary Reunion in San Francisco and Monterey, California from October 29 through November 2, 1991. According to Tom Sakamoto, who chairs the steering committee of the Military Intelligence Association of northern California, it may be one of the last major gatherings of the 6000 *nisei* servicemen who played a secret and vital role in helping to win the war in the Pacific.

"Since half a century has passed, the veterans are beginning to 'just fade away,'" he said. "This would be a last chance for many of them to get together."

The Military Intelligence Association of Northern California is sponsoring the Reunion.

Among those registered is Karl Kaoru Kusakabe, secretary general of the Japan Alpine-Ski Soldiers Association, Nagoya, Japan. Born in Idaho, he was caught in Japan when war broke out and was conscripted into the Japanese Army. As a military

interpreter, intelligence man and war correspondent, he served at Attu and Kiska, Alaska. He was with the Japanese garrison that escaped secretly from Kiska.

During the Attu-Kiska campaign, when the 7th Infantry Division and several naval task forces repeatedly attacked the Japanese in an effort to retake the two islands, about 25 MIS men were with the American forces. Mr. Kusakabe is anxious to meet these MIS veterans so that he can compare notes. He has unusual stories to tell about his experiences and would like to share them.

Reunion registration will be at the Miyako Hotel on October 29 (Tues) and the Hyatt Regency in Monterey on October 31 (Thursday). Room reservations must be made directly with the hotels on an individual basis at once as a limited number of rooms have been blocked off. Reservations for the Miyako Hotel (Oct. 29-30) must be made through the Miyako Inn at 415-921-4000. Reservations for the Hyatt Hotel

THANK YOU, MIN!

(Oct. 31-Nov. 1) must be made by calling reservations at 408-372-1234.

Registration for the Reunion may be made by calling Tom Sakamoto at 408-292-5037, or by writing the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion at P.O. Box 2350, San Jose CA 95109-2350. On the East Coast, further information may be obtained by calling Min Hara at 212-220-1628 (New York City), or Min Endo at 609-953-1266 (Medford, New Jersey).

A commemorative booklet is in preparation. Entitled *MIS Nisei Soldier*, it contains 80 pages of narrative with action photos of the *nisei* soldiers, during the Pacific war and occupation of Japan, is in preparation.

Congressman Robert Matsui will be the main speaker at a dinner on the first night. Panel discussions will be held all or October 30. Richard Sakakida will be the main speaker at dinner in Monterey on October 31.

USA MI Corp Hall of Fame

Harry Fukuhara attended the induction ceremony for seven MI nominees on July 12 at Ft. Huachuca, where the USA MI Corps Hall of Fame is located. Founded four years ago, it already has 119 honorees to date: 37 generals, 35 colonels, 3 lt. colonels, 6 majors, 4 each company grade and warrant officers, 12 enlisted men and 18 civilians.

Among the seven selected for induction on the 4th Anniversary of the Hall of Fame was Col John F. Aiso, who directed the MISLS from 1941 to 1945 (PSF, Camp Savage, Ft Snelling). The schools trained 6000 Japanese language interrogators and Translators.

In 1945, Aiso was given a direct commission as major and was assigned to G-2 staff, Gen. MacArthur's Hqs to prepare for the Tokyo War Crimes trials. He left the service after the war but retained his reserve commission, and later retired as a colonel.

The Hall of Fame award for Col Aiso was received by his two brothers, Dan and Paul Aiso of Los Angeles. He was the fifth *Nisei* to be honored. The others are Arthur S. Komori, Richard M. Sakakida, Hisashi J. Masuda and Harry Fukuhara.

Also, the Strategic Debriefing Bldg at Ft. Huachuca, home of the US Army Intelligence Center, was renamed as the Mashbir Building, in honor of Col Sidney Mashbir, who commanded ATIS in the Pacific during World War II, with estimated strength of 2,000 military and civilian personnel. The unit interrogated more than 10,000 Japanese prisoners and exploited 350,000 documents for the Allied Forces.

Fukuhara, who served under both Aiso and Mashbir, said he was overwhelmed with nostalgia during the two ceremonies.

Ed. Note: Judging from the calibre of persons selected for this Hall of Fame, the dearth of *Nisei* can be expected. MIS work, particularly in combat, are difficult to evaluate, so nominations invariably go to those who chance to be in key spots at the right time. As in the past, many MISers who served with distinction will have to abide with only their sense of self satisfaction for duties and tasks well performed. The honors have been too few and may come too late for many who are deserving.-- such has been the *Nisei Soldier*.

Rocky Mts. MIS

Veterans Club

Al Kushihashi is the president of the Rocky Mountain MIS Veterans Club and comments that one of the toughest jobs is trying to be creative.

Their newsletter "Santo Gogai", edited by Kent Yoritomo, reported that the club is featuring speakers like John Woods and Col Paul Jones, who took part in intelligence missions during Operation Desert Storm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The newly elected board of MIS Norcal met sociably in San Jose on June 25. It could be called "kaoawase"

Other than chatting and eating, the two topics that may be considered business was the need for 100% support of 50th Anniversary Reunion and the need to recruit younger members from other MI related groups. Also, the idea of a more expanded role for women will also be discussed at the next Board meeting to be held on Oct 5 at a place to be announced later.

Why "NISEI SOLDIER"?

When the Steering Committee initially organized, the subject of an appropriate theme arose. Preliminary discussion led to the adoption of "MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion and the *Nisei Soldier*". The idea was to impress upon the public the fact that the MIS was largely composed of *Nisei* soldiers.

The early graduates of MIS worked under teams led by American or Allied officers and did not gain promotions or recognitions until much later in the war. Whether this was the result of political or other biases cannot be firmly proven but can only be surmised. Thus, the Committee members wanted to impress upon the public the dominant roles played by the *Nisei Soldiers* of MIS during World War II and the Occupation. Thus came *Nisei Soldier*.

A pertinent question was raised by MIS Northwest early this year as to whether we were not practicing reverse discrimination or not. Chairman Tom Sakamoto replied that he regretted that it could be misconstrued in that such was not the intent. In fact, MISers Joe Sykes, Ben Hazard and Judge Robert Thornton are to take active roles. To date, Bill Himel, Allen Meyer, Faubian Bowers, David Kaplan, Morris Smith and Alfred Geron have registered.

The Reunion will stress that 6,000 MIS *Nisei* soldiers, mostly unrecognized for their roles, participated during and after the war.

The success of the Occupation was immeasurably due to the reenlistments and deployment of MIS men. Many continued to serve throughout the Korean War and others, as officers, finished their military careers as staff officers in Army commands.

National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS)

The 6th Annual Fundraiser Picnic will be held on September 1 at the Shibata Mt. Eden Garden, located on Industrial Blvd off Highway 92, Mt Eden. One of the themes this year is to be the MIS 50th Reunion.

An exhibit displaying photos of MIS soldiers will be featured and a panel of MIS speakers will discuss MIS activities.

The fee is \$25.00 per person and will include lunch to be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The deadline is August 19 but try calling (415) 431-5007 (NJAHS) before August 23 saying you are an interested MIS person. Or call Harry Fukuhara in San Jose (408) 268-3658.

Dinner Meeting with SOCAL

En route back from their vbit to Ft Huachuca, Ariz., Harry and Terry Fukuhara were invited to a sumptuous dinner by key members of MIS Socal at the Eikoh Teriyaki Restaurant in Torrance.

The social function was arranged by George Kanegai. It brought together 25 persons, many of whom the Fukuharas had not met for many years. The result was the exchanges of much news.

Kanegai introduced Fukuhara as the incumbent president of MIS Norcal, who had come to provide firsthand information about the MIS Reunion and the induction ceremony for Col John Aiso to the MI Corps Hall of Fame.

In addition to the induction of Col Aiso into the Hall of Fame, one of the buildings were named in honor of Col Sidney Mashbir, who commanded ATIS in the Pacific during World War II. Mrs. Mashbir sat next to Fukuhara during the naming ceremony.

Fukuhara then provided the Socal members with a progress report on the Reunion. He pointed out that much time and effort were being expended by MIS Norcal to ensure the success of what may be the last major reunion. He mentioned that in addition to Socal, many were coming from Japan, Hawaii, Alaska, Esst Coast, Midwest, the Rocky Mountains and the Northwest to participate in the great "Hurrah".

Some of the Socal members were concerned about the lack of cooperation on various projects in the past, resulting in some bruised feelings. Fukuhara said that while differences of opinion have occurred in the past, such issues can be resolved through continued dialogue among members of Norcal and Socal who are bonded by many mutual friends. Better communications and calmer attitudes on both sides should lead to closer ties. Meanwhile, Fukuhara urged more participation by Socal in the coming Reunion.

Nisei Memorial Day

A Memorial Day Service, sponsored by Colden Gate Memorial Post No. 9879, MIS Norcal and JACL, was held at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno on May 27, 1991. Representing MIS Norcal were Roy Uyehata, Walter Tanaka and Harry Fukuhara, who also delivered an eulogy.

That same morning, the above three were joined by Bob Midzuno at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma to attend the Memorial Day Service sponsored by the Japanese Benevolent Society of California and the Japanese American Religious Federation. Bob Midzuno presented a wreath on behalf of Norcal.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991 MIS AND THE NISEI SOLDIER

October 29 (Tuesday)

Registration: Miyako Hotel	From 9 am to 6 pm
Hospitality Room: Miyako	Open 10 am to 5 pm
Reception: Miyako Hotel	No-host cocktails from 6 pm
	Dinner from 7 pm
Dinner Program	Master of Ceremony: Joe Sykes
Presentation of Colors	Golden Gate Nisei VFW Post
Pledge of Allegiance	Harry Tanabe
Invocation	Rev. M. Morizono
Opening Remarks	Tom Sakamoto, Col, AUS, Ret.
Introduction of Guests	Joe Sykes
Greetings by Norcal President	Harry Fukuhara, Col AUS, Ret
Recognition of MIS Presidents	Joe Sykes
Response by visiting MIS	George Kanegai, SOCAL
Anniversary Remarks	Judge Robert Thornton
Keynote Speaker	Congressman Robert Matsui
Benediction	Rev. L. Sasaki
Retiring of Colors	Golden Gate Nisei VFW Post
* * * * *	
Entertainment	Shiro Tokuno

October 30 (Wednesday)

Registration: Miyako Hotel	From 9 am to 12 noon
Hospitality Room: Miyako	Open from 8:30 am to 5 pm
PANEL PROGRAM: Miyako Hotel	Chief Coordinator Henry Gosho
MIS in WW II and Occupation	Guest coordinator Loni Ding
Panel 1: 9:30 to 12 noon	Moderators Phil Ishii & Ben Hazard
Pacific theatre	
Lunch Break	
Panel 2: 1:30 to 3 pm	Moderator Henry Kuwabara
China, Burma & India theatre	
Panel 3: 3 to 5 pm	Moderator Barry Saiki
Occupation of Japan & Korea	

Those who are not golfing or attending the panel program are free for shopping, sightseeing, optional tours or Ladies' bridge.
Golfers: Starting time from 11 am at Harding Golf Course

Informal Mixer: Japanese cultural and Community Center, 1840 Sutter St
Cocktail from 6 pm & Buffet from 6:45 pm Chairman Warren Eijima

Entertainment from 8 pm	MC Dick Kishimoto
Dancing from 9:30 to 11 pm	Music by George Yoshida

Japan TV Crew May Tape Reunion

Kaname Kawachi and Randi Barshack of Telecom Japan Inc, Tokyo, visited San Jose to interview Walt Tanaka and Tom Sakamoto about the MIS 50th Reunion on July 6. Telecom provides special programs to major Japanese networks. Due to public clamor for WW II information, they conducted the interviews to decide whether to send a TV camera crew in October.

Asahi Shimbun Special

Osamu Higuchi, staff writer for the Asahi Shimbun's Osaka Office, contacted Tom Sakamoto and Walt Tanaka to obtain more detailed information about the 50th MIS Reunion. He was assigned to write a special feature on the wartime experiences of MIS veterans. He will talk to vets in Washington, New York, Seattle & Los Angeles

Far East and East A Bit of the North

From further west of Hawaii, the Reunion is bringing Ted Shigeno, Bert Fujii, Harry O. Takagi, Satoshi Hata, Yoshikatsu Mayeda and George Nakamura. Karl K. Kasukabe of Nagoya is also attending to look for his US counterparts in the Attu-Kiska campaign.

From our US East, early registrants included Faubian Bowers, Min & Keiko Hara, Phil Ishio, Dick & Betty Mori, Francis & Sarah Sogi, Kiku Hirai, Paul & Kate Matsuki, Grant & Mildred Ichikawa, Bill Makino, Ben & Joan Obata, Terry & Carol Takahashi, Steve Wada, Warren & Betty Tsuneishi, John & Mary Yoshino, John & Lucy Yoshinaga.

Jack Nakamoto is to come from Ottawa, while Hisao & Sylvia Kobayashi will be in from Anchorage. Northwest, Midwest and So. California are other areas sending large delegations.

October 31 (Thursday)

SF Registrants: Travel by motorcoach or by own transportation to Monterey
(Bus passengers may order BENTO lunch in advance)

Registration: Hyatt Regency From 10 am to 1 pm - Monterey registrants
Hospitality Room: Hyatt Regency Same as above.

MIS Ceremony at Presidio 2 pm at Nakamura Hall, DLI, P.M.
Opening Remarks Tom Sakamoto
Welcome Remarks Comdt of DLI Col Fischer
Presentation to DLI Cndt (Model of Crissy Field Hangar) Gene Uratsu
Remarks by NJAHS representative Tom Kawaguchi
Refreshments: (catered by Margaret Omoto)
To be served outdoors and in Faculty Lounge upstairs

DLI Guided Tours: Tour to all DLI buildings named after MIS KIAs
NHK (Japanese) version of Color of Honor to be shown

Bus to and from Hyatt Regency and Bay Park Hotels will be provided

MIS Reunion Dinner: Hyatt Regency No-host cocktails, 6 pm; Dinner, 7 pm

Dinner Program Master of Ceremonies Peter Nakahara
Presentation of Colors Nisei VFW Honor Guard
Pledge of Allegiance Spady Koyama, Col, AUS, Ret
Invocation Rev. H. Takarabe
Introduction of Guests Peter Nakahara
Greetings from Norcal Pres. Harry Fukuhara
Response from other MIS Wally Amioka, Honolulu MIS
Anniversary Remarks Congressman Norman Mineta
(introduced by Gunji Moriuchi)

Keynote Speaker Introduction by Walt Regh
Richard Sakakida, LTC, AF, Ret
Tom Sakamoto, Chairman, Steering Committee

Closing Remarks
Benediction Rev. M. Honda
Retirement of Colors Nisei VFW Honor Guard
Raffle Drawing Tom Sasaki
Entertainment Goro Yamamoto
* * * * *

November 1 (Friday)

Free time in morning for relaxation, shopping, sightseeing.
Golfers: Fort Ord's Bayonet Course from 7 am starting time.

DLI Ceremony for 50th Anniversary Soldier's Field, Presidio of Monterey
sponsored by DLI & MIS From 2 pm
Wreath laying Harry Fukuhara
Opening Remarks VIP Guests (to be designated)
Main Speaker Shigeya Kihara

DLI 50th Anniversary Dinner: Hyatt Regency (coat and tie)
(invitations sent by DLI) From 6 pm
Program: (All arrangements by DLI)
Keynote Speaker (TBA by DLI)

November 2 (Saturday)

Chartered motorcoach to either San Francisco or San Francisco Airport.
Optional trips to Reno

MIS Veterans Honolulu

The MIS Veterans of Honolulu, Hawaii are coming with more than 70 participants to the MIS Reunion in SF & Monterey.

Besides Wally and Ellen Amioka, the list includes Terry & Celia Adaniya, Ray & Jane Harada, Warren Higa, Seian Kokama, Sam Isokane, Bill Umezu. Sohei & Margaret Yamate, Kan & Sakae Tagami, Richard Oguro, George & Helen Oka, Howard & Viola Furumoto, and too many to be listed this time.

Chicago Nisei Post 1183

Chicago-Nisei Post No. 1183 reported a change in command from James Hachiya to Stan Kurokawa, effective in July. The post is engaged in many activities to include the support of the Rohwer Relocation Center Cemetery, which was initiated by the late Sam Yada of Little Rock, Ark., now in the midst of a second fund drive. Other events include chicken sale, bingo, Issei appreciation Day and scholarship luncheon participation.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

MIS AND THE NISEI SOLDIER

MIS 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION STEERING COMMITTEE (Oct 29 to Nov 2 1991)

A. Steering Committee Members

Chairman: Tom Sakamoto
 Exec. Scty Skeets Oji
 Treasurer Warren Eijima/ Tom Machida
 Public Relations Barry Saiki

Nobuo Azebu	Tom Kawaguchi	Roy Takai
Harry Fukuhara	Joe Kurata	Walt Tanaka
Hank Gosho	Gunji Moriuchi	Shiro Tokuno
Richard Hayashi	Tom Sasaki	Gene Uratsu
Harry Iida	Marshall Sumida	Cliff Uyeda
Shigeya Kihara		Noby Yoshimura

B. Event/ Activity assignments:

Registration:	Walt Tanaka/co-Richard Hayashi
Hotels, Tours, Transportation	Noby Yoshimura/ co Gene Uratsu
Hospitality Room -Miyako Hotel	Joe Kurata/co Skeets Oji
	Hyatt Regency Goro Yamamoto/ Pete Yamazaki
Reception Dinner - Oct 29 Miyako	Gene Uratsu
Mixer - JACCCSF	Warren Eijima / co Uratsu, Kurata/ Fukuhara / Sakamoto
Panel Program -Ch. Coordinator	Henry Gosho
	Guest Coordinator Loni Ding
	Moderators: Phil Ishio, Ben Hazard (Pacific)
	Henry Kuwabara (CBI)
	Barry Saiki (Occupation)
	Accd, invi, etc. Sakamoto, Oji, Kawaguchi
Oct 31 2pm Nakamura Hall Program	Tom Sakamoto/ co Kihara
MIS Dinner Hyatt Regency	Harry Fukuhara
Golf - SF & Monterey	Gunji Moriuchi/co Nobuo Azebu
Nov 1 DLI/MIS PM ceremony	Shigeya Kihara
DLI Dinner	Kihara
Raffle	Tom Sasaki
Commemorative Booklet	Cliff Uyeda, Barry Saiki, Roy Takai
Memorial Photo book	Skeets Oji
MIS photographer	Roy Uyehata
Souvenir Sales	Oji, Takai & Furuiye
MIS 92 Calendar	Oji/Azebu

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

MIS AND THE NISEI SOLDIER



MIS Intelligencer

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