

**Rocky Mountain MIS Veterans Club**



**Autobiographies**



# Forward

This series of autobiographies is dedicated to the memory of the MIS veterans who are no longer with us. While the exploits of the more highly publicized Nisei veterans such as those with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were hard earned, the services of the Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) have not received adequate recognition. The actions of the MIS veterans are not well documented or they were either inadvertently or purposely omitted by many military unit historians. These factors were compounded by the natural reticence of the Nisei, the classified nature of their activities and the fact that the MIS Nisei served individually or in small teams in countless military organizations, Navy, Marine, Air Corps and Army as well as with Australian, Indian and British units.

This volume began as a suggestion by the editor as a possible project to be undertaken by the newly formed Rocky Mountain MIS Veterans club. The intent was to have the veterans submit recollections of their MIS experiences to be shared by others as a means of exchanging thoughts and events of mutual interest. As the number of submissions increased, it became apparent that a collected volume might be prepared to serve as a memento to the MIS veterans and to their friends and relatives. This is a result of that beginning. Many of the veterans willingly submitted their biographies and the prized MIS photography. For others however, it proved to be a formidable task to elicit their recollections. Many had lost their records or memorabilia, for others the simple passage of time had dimmed their recollections. For those who were not confident of their writing abilities, oral interviews were conducted and converted to the written form.

The editor can claim no level of accuracies for the events recalled by the veterans. Where possible and where written records were available such as attendance at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS), dates and class numbers were verified and noted. Above all, it should be recognized that these are simply a collection of memories of the Nisei who served their country in the most trying of times and circumstances. Their specialized language skills were exploited by a nation sorely in need of those skills.

The scope of these biographies is limited to the members of the Rocky Mountain MIS Veterans Club or to deceased veterans who geographically would have been members. Because all of the information was contributed voluntarily, this series is not meant to be exhaustive or comprehensive in nature.

# Contents

The following series of personal recollections were assembled during a five-year collection effort by the editor. The intent was to collect personal recollections in a narrative form and many veterans used that form. There were others however that submitted in other formats, extremely brief or lengthy. Every attempt was made to convert as many as possible to the third person singular format however some entries were submitted in a different format and the editor had no recourse except to simply copy the entries as submitted. Requests were also made to have the individuals include as many humorous or interesting personal incidents as possible. Again, some individuals were generous with their contributions whereas others did not include any. The individual entires will vary widely in their style, length and contents.

All photographs included in this volume are copies of the originals submitted by the veterans. The quality of many leave much to be desired because of the condition of the originals. Some veterans had the results of professional military photographers whereas others simply kept anateur snapshots taken at random. The copies are included because they add much to the accounts submitted by the individuals.

## MIS Veterans

Ken K. Aiba	Ichiro Nishida
Joseph S. Akiyama	Hugh M. Nishimoto
Harley T. Fujimoto	John T. Noguchi
Nobuo Furuiye	John Oya
Shunji Hamano	Hayami Russ Sato
Susumi Hidaka	Stephan Sugano
Frank Higa	Takashi Tak Sunata
Sueo Ito	Jack S. Suzuki
Mitsugi Kasai	Sumiji 'Jim' Tamaki
Isao Kuge	Roy T. Terada
Albert Kushihashi	Masao Wakimura
Sueki 'Joe' Murahata	John R. Woods
Tatsuo Matsuda	Paul H. Yokota
Ikeru Matsumonji	Kent T. Yoritomo
Akira Nakamura	Yoshio George Yoshida

Ken K. Aiba



Ken Aiba was born in California May 1919. He was educated in the California schools and was inducted into the Army August 1941 at Fort MacArthur, CA. Ken had his basic training at Fort F.E. Warren, WY, completing training in February 1942. After basic, Ken was assigned to Camp Barkeley, TX where he performed various garrison duty with the 1841st ASU. He was assigned to the Post motor pool hauling military cargo to various military posts in south, west and central Texas. Once monthly, he drove the Post Finance payroll vehicle to pick up the payroll at the Abeline railroad station which was approximately 20 miles away.

From Camp Barkeley, Ken was sent to Camp Savage, MN where he was assigned to Class C-1 of the February 1944 term. Upon graduation from Camp Savage, 10 classmates remained at Camp Savage MISLS (Military Intelligence Service Language School) to become instructors and the remaining 6 were assigned to the Pacific Military Research Section (PACMIR) made up of personnel from the U.S., Canada and England. PACMIR was located in the Blue Ridge mountains of Maryland and known as Camp Richie. Ken was assigned initially to the Far East Order of Battle Desk, Ken later became a document scanner of captured Japanese army documents flown in from the Pacific. The documents scanned were evaluated, translated and disseminated to numerous Allied agencies through a board at the Pentagon.

In October 1945, approximately 75 members of PACMIR were dispatched to Tokyo and assigned to the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS) as members of the Washington Document Team. The 5-6 men teams were dispatched throughout Japan from Kyushu to Hokkaido. Ken was assigned operationally to Hqs. 6th Army at Kyoto, Japan and toured former Japanese military establishments in the Kansai area for collection of documents to be forwarded to PACMIR at Camp Richie, MD. Ken was later assigned to interrogate and process Japanese military and civilians returning from Manchuria through the Allied repatriation program. In April 1946, Ken reported to the 4th Replacement Depot at Camp Zama, Kanagawa. Ken to be processed for overseas discharge to accept a civil service position. Ken appeared before a civil service board at Yokohama Civilian Personnel Office and was accepted as an investigator for the 8th Army War Crime Trials being conducted by the 8th Army Judge Advocate Office. Following the completion of the Trials in 1949, Ken worked for the Judge Advocate Section of the Yokohama Command until 1952 when he returned to his wife's home in Cheyenne, WY.

From 1952 to 1955, Ken worked as an administrative assistant for the Wyoming Military District at Fort Warren administering to the Army Reserve affairs for the state.

In July 1955, Ken was offered and accepted a position with the Provost Marshall Office of the 1st Cavalry Division stationed in Tokyo, Japan. Ken's position was Chief, Registration Section, PMO.

In June 1958, Ken accepted a position with a classified intelligence agency and was assigned to the U.S Army Command Reconnaissance Activity, Pacific (USACRAPAC). Following a three month indoctrination course at Saitama Ken, Ken was assigned to Hoddaido. From

May to September 1960, Ken attended a course of instruction at the U.S. Army Intelligence School at Fort Holabird, MD. Upon completing this course, Ken returned to his former station and continued his classified intelligence duties until 1965 at which time he was assigned to the Army Intelligence School at Fort Holabird as an instructor in the Field Operational Intelligence Department. Upon completion of his two year tour as an instructor, Ken was enrolled in an Counterintelligence Transition course for 8 weeks. Following the completion of this course, Ken was assigned to the U.S. Army Intelligence organization in Japan working in clandestine collection activities.

In June 1975, Ken was transferred from Japan to Hqs. U.S. Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Meade, MD. Ken worked as a Far East Desk Officer with this organization until retirement in January 1979 following 39½ years of federal service.

In April 1983, Ken and his wife, Ruby moved from Gambrille, MD to Colorado Springs, CO where they hope that it is their last move after living in 19 homes since 1945.

### Incidents

Soon after Ken's arrival in Japan, he was driving from Kyoto to the port city of Maizuru to interrogate repatriates from Manchuria. Ken and his companions came upon a Japanese truck stopped in the middle of a two-lane highway with smoke billowing from its side. Ken's driver stopped about 50 yards from the truck and grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran to the truck to try to put out the fire. When the truck driver saw the Americans coming, he took off in the opposite direction, shouting that he had nothing of value and very little money! When the driver saw that the Americans were not running after him, he slowly returned to his truck and explained that he had halted to stoke the charcoal of his main burner, causing the mass of smoke to rise. The Americans had a short cigarette break with the driver, who was still perspiring from the thought of being killed by the Americans!

While on Guam enroute to Japan, Ken witnessed U.S. Marines using flame throwers to burn huge piles of currency captured from the Japanese Naval finance quarters. Ken was told that the maney was no longer of any value because the money was used as occupation currency by the Japanese forces prior to their surrender. The Marines good naturedly told Ken to take whatever he wanted for souvenirs. Like the others witnessing this event, Ken took two of each denomination-1, 5 and 10 Yen bills. Upon arrival in Japan, Ken learned much to his dismay, that the bills picked up in Guam was the existing currency in Japan at the exchange rate of \$1 per ¥15!

A Japanese former overseas businessman with whom Ken and his friends got acquainted while waiting for a train in Osaka, invited Ken and three others to his home. Utilizing scarce firewood, a Japanese style bath was prepared while waiting for dinner. Ken and the others, as guests, were asked to take baths, Japanese style. A T/3 McKinney from Texas was briefly explained how to use the bath.

While enjoying tea following his bath, McKiney raved about the wonders of his new experience. A Sgt. Ishida from Hawaii was next in line for a bath which he and seven others were not able to enjoy because McKiney had drained the hot water following his bath! The host graciously accepted apologies during dinner.

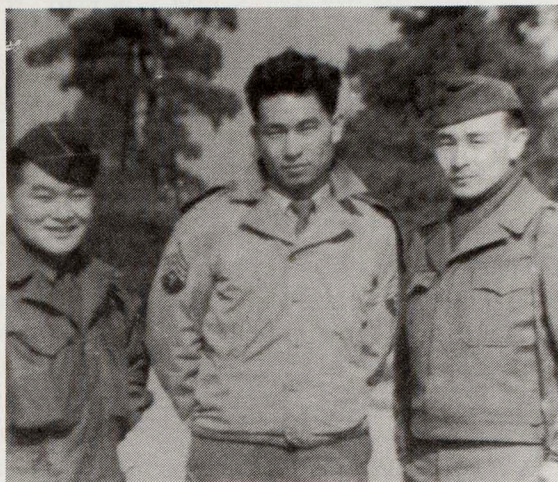
Ken found that trying to act helpful, especially towards the elders can be at times embarrassing. Ken attempted to help an elderly lady which he believed to over 65 years old who was struggling to get up from her bench seat at a railroad waiting room. The lady had a huge knapsack on her back and Ken graciously told her to take the load off her back and Ken would help carry it on the train. Imagine Ken's feelings in front of a crowd when she obliged but Ken could not lift the knapsack! Because of the food shortages after the war, people of the rural areas were forever transporting food into the cities, utilizing trains which were being taxed to their maximum capacity to say nothing of Ken's back!



Fort Warren, WY, winter 1941, Ken Aiba, Shig Nakao and Gabby Yamamoto in winter gear. At right, Ken Aiba on guard detail at Fort Warren. It must have been mighty cold for this California native!



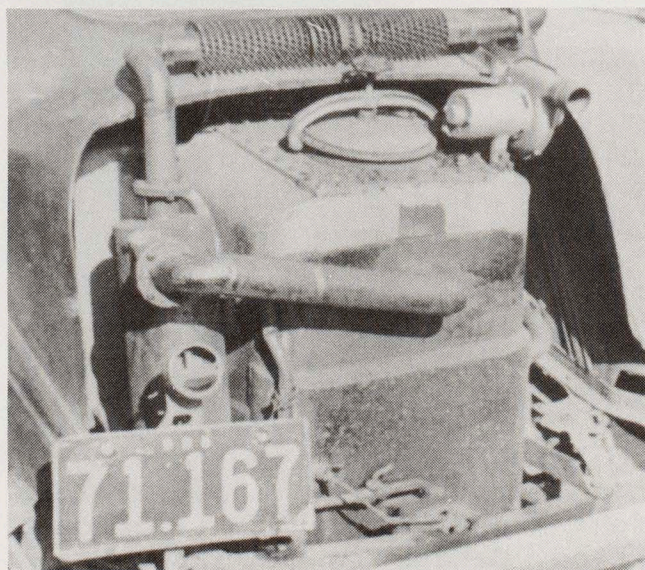
Photograph of Class C-1, 1944 at Camp Savage. Back row, left to right, Ken Aiba, M. Morihara, Clarence Mashita, Masami Yano, Takashi Imai, T. Yokogawa, Francis Motofuji and Katsumi Onishi. Front, Tatsujo Abe, H. Yano, K. Seino, Kay Kido, George T. Yamamura, Clarence Hamaishi, H. Miyamoto, M. Okusa and Maso Jimbo. Instructor in front not identified.



T/3 Ishida with Ken Aiba and friends, November 1945 in Kyoto. At right, Uriyu, Ito and Aiba in Kyoto 1945.

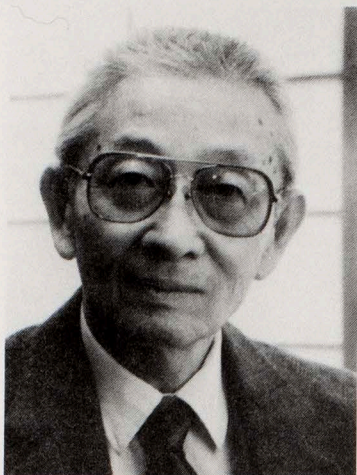


Above left, Ken Aiba with U.S Navy Collection Team. Kyoto, 1945. At right, Ken Aiba with Tad Kuranishi and members of a collection team in front of Osaka Castle.



Above left, Tokyo, 1945, results of a severe gasoline shortage, a charcoal fired vehicle. Above, Ken with members of the 6th Army Language Detachment in Kyoto, December 1945.

Joseph S. Akiyama



Joseph S. Akiyama, 'Joe' was born in Ione, CO, which is near Fort Lupton and Platteville, Co in May 1922. He attended Independence elementary school and graduated from Brighton High School in 1940. Joe later attended the University of Denver and earned a bachelors and masters degree in Liberal Arts. He also attended the University of Colorado for certification in teaching. Joe's Japanese education consisted of 6 summers from June to August at the Fort Lupton Japanese School.

Joe was inducted into the Army in June 1944 but was put on inactive duty until his entry into active service in August 1944 at Fort Logan, CO. From Fort Logan, Joe was sent to Camp Blanding, FL for basic training in September 1944. At Camp Blanding, Joe was assigned to Company "C", 208th Bn, 64th Regt. After about 8 weeks of basic training, Joe was interviewed for the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) and selected for language training. At Fort Snelling, Joe was first assigned to Class A-8 of the December 1944 term. He was later assigned to Class B-7. Joe even recalls the names of his classmates! In Class A-8 they were: Francis Y. Uranaka, George F. Hara, Mich Matoba, Toshio Kimoto, Hiroshi Imai, George Wada, Johnny Sakamoto, George Kamada, Kiyoshi Mizuhata, Tak Kamori, Bob Yamamoto, Akio Mitsuuchi, Stan Hagiya, George Yamasaki, Sam Funamura, Harry M. Yamamoto, Kaz Kashiwagi, Takao Morioka, Easie Yamaguchi and Tut Kadowaki. In Class B-7, Joe's classmates were: Richard Hayashi, Takashi I. Inouye, Yukio Hirose, Hideo Hayashi, Kenneth Uyeda, Hideo Sei, Jack Hirose, Sam Tamashiro, Kaz Yamaguchi, Kanew Fujiye, Frank Hara, Harry Taketa, Mason Funabiki, Kenny Tagami, Patrick Sano, Kiyoshi Tsuyuki, Isaac Endow, Tut Kadowaki, Thomas Yano and Tetsuo Ieiri.

After graduating MISLS in August 1945, Joe was first assigned to ATIS in Manila, Philippines. Joe's major duties in Manila were in preparation to move the ATIS headquarters to Tokyo. He helped monitor the Filipino crews loading the materiel which were trucked to the harbor and onto the ships. After about 10 days or so, Joe arrived in Tokyo at about the middle of November 1945. They were billeted in the NYK Building awaiting assignments to units in need of interpreters or translators.

Shortly thereafter, Joe was assigned to the 170th Language Detachment of the 25th Infantry Division in Nagoya. This detachment worked closely with the MP's, the Military Government Units, CIC, CID, City Officials and the news media. In February 1946, the entire 25th Division moved to Osaka, Japan where the detachment continued similar duties as in Nagoya. Joe observed that the needs and problems in Osaka were equally as grave as in Nagoya. Joe's highest military rank was Technician 3rd Grade.

Joe was discharged from the Army at Camp Beale, CA in August 1946. He took advantage of the G.I. Bill to complete undergraduate and graduates degrees at the University of Denver. He also completed teacher certification work at the University of Colorado while working with the U.S Postal Service. Joe retired recently after teaching for twenty years in the Cherry Creek School System.

Joe was married to Kinuye Kusunoki from Colusa, CA in October 1957. They did not have any children. Kinuye passed away in April 1986. Joe currently lives alone as a widower.

### Incidents

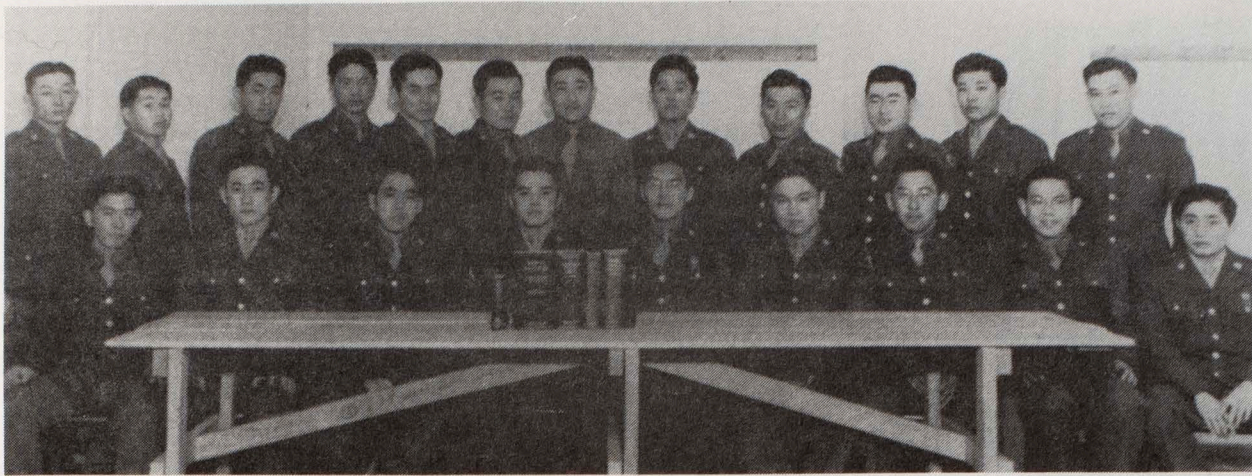
Joe recalls the extraordinarily long single-file lines in Manila while waiting under the hot sun and carrying canteens to see whether anyone would be lucky enough to get Coca Colas! Too often the lines were just too long to accomodate every thirsting soul!

While stationed in Manila at the Santa Ana race tracks, Joe recalls after frequent visits listening to the combat experiences of the Japanese prisoners of war and to hear the accounts from their side. In one incident, during a siege of hunger, the troops discovered a chunk of flesh coated with white mold which they washed and washed and cooked but could not remove the mold! The troops ate the flesh anyway barely surviving until they were captured by the Americans.

Joe poignantly recalls the experience of seeing the massive state of destruction in the larger cities from Tokyo to Nagasaki. The extent and severity of rationing and the lack of food and other essentials of life was evident everywhere. Even ordinary salt was strictly rationed. Under these conditions, Joe recalls that some officials from the newspapers did their best to serve a semblance of a sukiyaki dinner. Although the sparse ingredients were long forgotten, the graciousness and the will to please of the Japanese, Joe will long remember.



Joe Akiyama was first assigned to Class A-8 of the December 1944 Term. Back row, left to right, Joe Akiyama, Francis Y. Uranaka, George F. Hara, Mich Matoba, Toshio Kimoto, Hiroshi Inui, George Wada, Johnny Sakamoto, George Kameda, Kiyoshi Mizuhata, Tak Kamori, and Bob Yamamoto. Front row, Akio Mitsuuchi, Stan Hachiya, George Yamasaki, Sam Funamura, Harry M. Yamamoto, Kaz Kashiwagi, Tadao Morioka, Easie Yamaguchi and Tut Kadowaki not shown. (Editor's note: This listing differs considerably from the MISLS album list.)



Joe Akiyama was later assigned to Class B-7 of the December 1944 Term. Back row, left to right, Joseph Akiyama, Kaneo Fujiye, Frank Hara, Harry Taketa, Mason Funabiki, Kenny Tagami, Patrick Sano, Kiyoshi Tsuyuki, Isaac Endow, Tut Kadowaki, Thomas Yano and Tetsuo Ieiri. Front row, Richard Hayashi, Takashi I. Inouye, Yukio Hirose, Hideo Hayashi, Kenneth Uyeda, Hideo Sei, Jack Hirose, Sam Tamashiro and Kaz Yamaguchi.



Above, Spring 1945, Fort Snelling, left to right, Joeseeph Akiyama, Mitsuri Baba, Goro Asaki and George Asai. At right, Joe doing paper work at the 170th Language Detachment of the 25th Infantry Division at Osaka, Japan, spring of 1946.



At extreme left, Mas Aragaki, Joe's friend April 1946. At left, Masayuki Hashimoto, Capt. Stanton and Joe Akiyama, January 1946, in Nagoya. These were presumably members of the 170th Language Detachment, 25th Infantry Division.

Harley T. Fujimoto



Harley at  
Moppo, Korea

Harley Fujimoto was born in Loveland, CO. ✓ he attended elementary schools in Longmont, Pierce and Ault, CO. He graduated from Ault High School in 1941. His Japanese education consisted of 3 years summer school and 2 years of winter night school.

After graduating High School, Harley was inducted into the Army in June 1944 and reported for active duty at Fort Logan, CO. From Fort Logan, Harley was sent to Camp Blanding, FL for basic training. After completing basic training, Harley was selected to go to Fort Snelling, MN for Japanese language training at the MISLS. (Editor's note: Harley was assigned to Class C-3 of the December 1944 term.) Harley completed 32 weeks of language training and graduated in August 1945.

Harley was shipped out to the Pacific Theatre and landed in Manila, Philippines in August 1945. Harley was billeted in 16 men tents at the Santa Ana Race Tracks. Harley recalls that the conditions were horrible with the dirt floors which were muddy most of the time and the bugs and mosquitos were bad. The large rats were particularly bad and disturbed sleep as they jumped on the tent and mosquito nets over the cots.

Harley was then sent aboard the transport Apache in November 1945 to Tokyo and assigned to ATIS which was headquartered in the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Building which on one side overlooked Niju Bashi and into the Japanese Imperial Palace. On Christmas Eve, Harley was shipped to Korea with no definite destination. He was put on a train at Seoul, Korea on Christmas Day and after an all night ride arrived at Pusan (Fusan). At Pusan, Harley assisted in the evacuation of all civilians of Japanese ancestry to the mainland of Japan. The Japanese were no longer welcome in Korea because of the domination of Korea by the Japanese for many years prior to WWII.

Harley was shipped next to Mokpo (Moppo), Korea and assigned to the 20th Infantry Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Division. There, Harley assisted the Armed Forces and military government in translation and interrogation of charges against military and civilians. One of the highlights of this assignment was an armed raid by the military of the Korean police department leading to the arrest of the police chief and his entire staff for criminal activities. Harley was the only Nisei in the area until a Tom Omaschi joined Harley later for a brief period. The 20th Infantry Hqs. was moved to Kwanju in mid 1946 and named Camp Sykes.

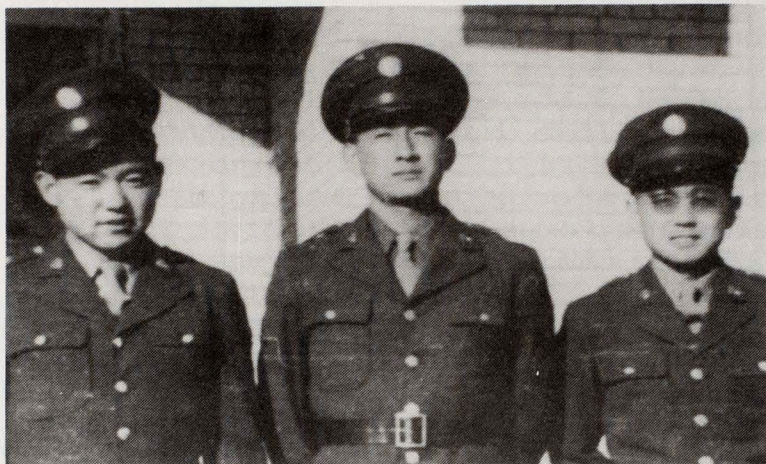
In August 1946, Harley received orders to go to Japan which included vacation time. After arriving in Tokyo, Harley used the next two months visiting relatives in Kumamoto and Fukuoka. During these trips to visit relatives, Harley recalls the frightful sight which burns in his memory of the destructive power to the atomic bomb, both in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which he personally observed even though it was 14 months later.

Harley was discharged from the Army at Camp Beale, CA Separation Center in November 1946. Back in Colorado, Harley left his farm in Ault and came to Denver seeking work but found jobs to be

very difficult because of lingering prejudices against peoples of Japanese ancestry.

Harley did all sorts of menial jobs just to survive until a Mr. Oscar Olson gave Harley the opportunity to work in his grocery store as a produce clerk in 1951. Harley joined the Retail Clerks Union, Local #7 in 1951 and has remained a member since. Harley worked for Mr. Olson's grocery store for five years and then was employed by King Soopers. He stayed with King Soopers for 8½ years, 8 as Produce Manager. Harley then began employment as an Organizer for Local #7 for 4 years. He returned as Produce Manager for Food Giant for two years. In 1971, Harley was reemployed by Local #7 as Organizer.

Harley has had numerous duties and assignments with the union. Among these, he was a Trustee for 3 years, a Vice President for 6 years, President for 6 years, Organizer for 6 years, Business Representative for 4 years, Organizing Director for 5 years and is currently Director Retail Food Division. Harley has attended a number of union and labor seminars and conferences and numerous training studies. His hobbies include gardening and lapidary.



At left, three stalwarts from Ault, CO. Carl Kinoshita, Harley Fujimoto and Taiji Hirayama. Below, members of Class C-3 of the December 1944 Term at Fort Snelling, MN (MISLS).



## Nobuo Furuiye



Nobuo Furuiye was born April 1918 at Lafayette, CO. he attended elementary schools in Boulder County and High Schools in Fort Collins, Denver East High and Denver Manual High, graduating from Manual in 1936. In March 1936, Nobuo went to Japan and attended Chugakko and graduated after 2½ years of study from the Kyushu Gakuin in Kamamoto City.

Nobuo returned to the United States in 1938 and worked in Northern California, Santa Clara County and Stockton area on Fruit orchards and vegetable farms for about a year. He returned to help on the farm in Lafayette and also worked for the old Nippon Mercantile, the Japanese store which was to become the Pacific Mercantile of today.

Nobuo was drafted in the fall of 1941 and was nearly inducted when his exemption for agriculture came through. After Pearl Harbor, Nobuo was among the first draftees from Boulder County. He entered the service in January 1942 at Fort Logan, CO. He was shipped to Camp Roberts, CA and assigned to Battery D, Howitzer Battalion. Nobuo was there for only about 30 days when all Nisei's were shipped inland in February 1942. He took basic infantry training at Camp Robinson, AK. After finishing basic, Nobuo was put into the Quartermaster Corps as a driver for the Quartermaster Corps Commander. Nobuo recalls that this was a plush job with no other duties! He was interviewed for the Japanese language school at Camp Savage in October 1942. He requested permission to stay at Camp Robinson but was ordered to go to Savage. Nobuo recalls that some Nisei's asked to go to Savage but never went! he arrived at Camp Savage on November 1942 around Thanksgiving. School started immediately after Thanksgiving. Nobuo remembers that the competitive spirit to surpass the fellow students was tremendous. He recalls that his desk partner, a Joe Ichikawa from Seattle, WA, would try to outdo each other. (Editors note: Nobuo was assigned to Section 4 of the December 1942 term at Camp Savage.)

Nobuo graduated Camp Savage in May 1943 and was sent to the Aleutians through Seattle, WA and Fort Richardson, Alaska. Nobuo recalls that the Kiska campaign in June 1943 was a wierd operation in that they were fighting an unseen enemy because of the dense fog. Nobuo was attached to the Canadian Grenadiers (Artillery) because they had no interpreters or translators. The Japanese enemy was there when Nobuo arrived off shore. He knew this because he could hear them on the intercepted radio messages. Somehow, however, the Japanese managed to desert Kiska during the night under a heavy fog. No one knew how or when they left. The American forces lost 17 men fighting each other. Nobuo found evidence of hurried evacuation when they checked their mess tables with partially eaten bowls of rice, other dishes only partially consumed and other signs of sudden departure. The Americans found large caches of food; hundreds of pounds of rice, kegs of shoyu (soy sauce), umeboshi (dried plums) and cases of canned goods. The Nisei urged the authorities to send the food back to the relocation camps in the States and Nobuo feels that they had done so from some of the reports that he later got.

Nobuo returned to the United States in January 1944 and was stationed at Fort Snelling, MN as a causal. He was promised no further overseas duty for at least one year, so he got married in February 1944. (Nobuo made the fatal GI mistake of believing the officers!) He was enroute to San Francisco in April 1944! He arrived in Hawaii in May 1944 and helped set up the JICPOA Annex Office in downtown Honolulu. Nobuo was with the initial contingent of 30 men, 3 team leaders and 27 men. Other Nisei's arrived later and at one time there were nearly 50 there. This was a fluctuating number as some would leave and others would arrive. Nobuo recalls that about 90% were attached to the Marine Corps and the others were attached to the Navy.

From the home base in Honolulu, Nobuo arrived in Tarawa after the invasion to observe and evaluate the evidence from documents and other items. Nobuo then returned to Honolulu and from there went to Saipan and Guam and arrived just as the conflict was ending. The language teams that were already there left and Nobuo's team took over to finish up. They then returned to Honolulu and translated dairies, charts, manuals and letters and others.

During the Iwo Jima campaign, Nobuo was assigned to the 5th Marine Division, 2nd Battalion. He left Honolulu the first week in February 1945 aboard a destroyer. The anticipated campaign was to last two weeks but in reality lasted 44 days. Naval bombardment and aerial bombing took place in February 16-19, 1945. D-Day was February 19, 1945. Combat ended on March 26, 1945 with mopping up action ending on March 31, 1945. Nobuo left Iwo Jima on March 27, 1945 aboard a transport vessel. He recalls that this was a very nice trip because the only people on board were about 10 translators, the vessel crew and about a dozen of other Naval personnel.

After about a month, Nobuo was sent to Guam as a monitor on a cannibalism trial of three Japanese soldiers. These were prisoners caught in the jungles of Guam. Nobuo commuted back and forth from Saipan and Guam on official duties. The war ended while he was on duty in the Mariannas.

Nobuo was sent to the Marcus Islands as an interpreter for the surrender of the Japanese garrison stationed there. The Marcus was used as a refueling station by the Japanese. Nobuo returned to Guam after five days of negotiations at Marcus.

Nobuo was sent to Japan aboard a Navy PBY in September 1945 to Yokosuka. Nobuo had never flown on a PBY before but found it to be the nosiest, coldest and slowest flying machine he had ever been on! From Yokosuka he flew to Sasebo which was to the headquarters. He was then assigned to a unit known as the NAV-TEC-JAP, Naval Technical Mission to Japan. The unit took inventory of arms and weapons of war in Kyushu, mainly Miyasake and Kumamoto. Nobuo was able to visit his relatives in Kumamoto. There he met a couple of old classmates and his old Judo instructor from the Japanese school.

Nobuo had ample points to return to the States, so he put in for a discharge. He left Sasebo October 1945 for Honolulu, on to the Oakland Naval Base and then a troop train to Denver. He was discharged in December 1945.

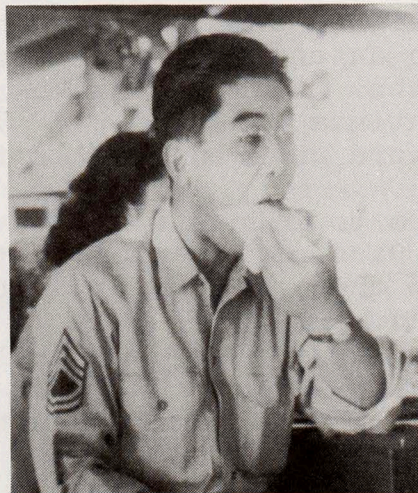
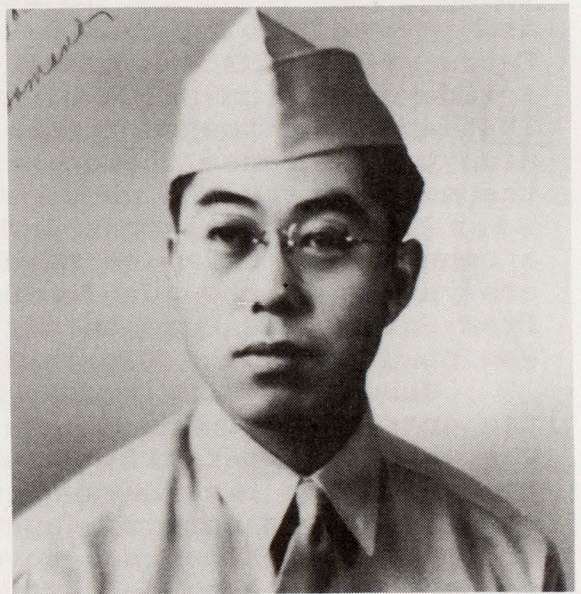
Nobuo was recalled during the Korean conflict but was spared overseas duty because of a case of ulcers. He ended up teaching at the Persidio of Monterey for 14 months, September 1950 to November 1951.



Nobuo Furuiye served with the Canadians in the Aleutians in the summer of 1943. At left, an abandoned 13mm machine gun left by the retreating Japanese forces. The Japanese also left a large quantity of food which the Nisei's ate and also had some sent to the various relocation centers. The Aleutian campaign was a strange one compounded by the dense fog and relative inexperience of

both the Americans and the Canadian Grenadiers with which Nobuo served. From the Aleutians, Nobuo returned to Fort Snelling, MN where he was promised no more overseas duty, so he got married. He was soon enroute to Honolulu as the first contingent for the Joint Intelligence Central Pacific Ocean Area (JICPOA) Annex.

At right, a formal portrait of Nobuo from that era. The Nisei's at JICPOA were a strange group. They were all Army personnel under the command of the Navy. They worked and lived in Honolulu but were not welcome at the Navy headquarters who maintained the biased view that no Japanese Americans were fit to serve the Navy or the Marines. The Nisei translated captured Japanese documents and performed other intelligence duties until they were needed for other military operations. Then they could be dispatched to any unit or area in need of their Japanese language skills. Shunji Hamano was assigned to JICPOA for a short while. Nobuo Furuiye island-all around the Pacific from JICPOA.



At extreme left, Nobuo translating documents at JICPOA. He was apparently checking the facts on the telephone. At left, Nobuo enjoying a hot dog at the first anniversary picnic for the JICPOA Annex. Among the places that Nobuo was assigned to include Tarawa, Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima and the Marcus Islands.



Nobuo with the Marines during the Iwo Jima campaign. Nobuo was with the 5th Marine Division, 2nd Battalion February through March 1945. From Iwo Jima, Nobuo left on a Navy transport back to Honolulu. Then Nobuo was sent to Guam to monitor a trial of Japanese prisoners of war who were accused of cannibalism.

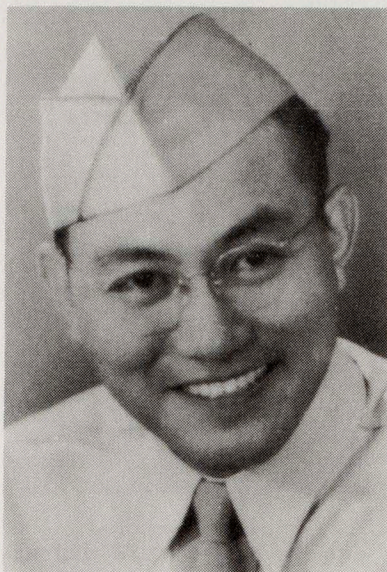


Nobuo with Navy personnel to serve as an interpreter for the surrender of the Marcus Islands. The Japanese used these islands as a refueling station for their navy. Nobuo returned to Guam after five days of negotiations at the Marcus Islands.



Japanese prisoners of war digging a hole for an American flag after the surrender of the Marcus Islands. From these islands, Nobuo was sent by PBY to Yokosuka and then on to Sasebo and there assigned to the Naval Technical Mission to Japan (NAV-TEC-JAP).

## Shunji Hamano



Shunji Hamano was born in Los Angeles, CA in June 1913. He completed his high school education in Los Angeles. Shunji went to Japan to receive his Japanese education spending 8 years in Katashima Cho, Mie Ken, Japan. He completed Koto Shogakko or junior high school in Japan.

Shunji was drafted into the Army in June 1941 and reported for basic training at Camp Roberts, CA. He was then sent to Fort MacArthur, CA the Infantry Replacement Training Center and assigned to Company B. He recalls that when he first reported it was too hot to train and so the troops stayed in their barracks for about a week. Shunji completed his 13 weeks training in World War I uniforms. He was first assigned to CO B, 159th Inf. Rgt., 40th Division at Fort San Luis Obispo and then transferred to the 7th Division at Fort Ord, CA in December 1941.

At the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, Shunji and the other Nisei were stripped of their weapons at Hunterton Airfield. He remembers that there was a P-38 aircraft at the airfield but the Nisei's were told that they could not look at the aircraft. After a few days, Shunji was given orders and sent to the Presidio of Monterey and told to look for a Mr. Aiso. There he first learned about the intelligence language school.

From the Presidio, Shunji got orders to go to Gilroy and was assigned to the 30th Engineer Bn., which turned out to be a labor battalion where he learned many things such as using dynamite. There were about 80 Nisei's there and many were being discharged and Shunji thought that he would be among the first because he was already 29 years old. However, he did not receive his discharge.

He was then sent to Camp Grant, IL, Quartermaster Corps and the other Nisei's were sent to Fort Custer, MS for MP training. Shunji then got orders with several other Nisei's to go to Fort Snelling, MN. At the train station in Minneapolis, a Cpl. Ota called Fort Snelling for instructions and finally a truck arrived and took the Nisei's to Camp Savage. There they helped build the classrooms. From an original roster of about 360, only 160 remained because of intelligence background checks. (Editor's note: Shunji was assigned to Class A-1 of the June 1942 Term at Camp Savage.) At that time, Shunji's father was interned at Poston, AZ and his brother was at Manzanar, CA.

After graduating Savage in December 1942, Shunji headed up a team which was first assigned to the Air Corps in the Central Pacific. The 13th Air Force however said that they had no use for the team so they went to New Caledonia which was under Admiral Halsey, the South Pacific Fleet where captured documents began to come in from Guadalcanal. Shunji was then assigned to an investigation team (Later named the Technical Air Intelligence, TAI), which had photographers, aeronautical engineers and officers. Their job was to investigate enemy aircraft, usually shot down and some under water, to determine what type of engine and other facts. As all of the parts were labeled and the nomenclature was in Japan-

ese and there were no technical dictionaries, Shunji had a difficult time at first. Shunji island hopped from Munda to Guam to Kwajalein. he was in on the Guam operation on D-Day. In December 1944, Shunji went to Honolulu, HI and there met Nobuo Furuiye.

At Hawaii, Shunji, a Team Leader and Staff Sergeant had over 100 points and 85 were needed for a discharge. When replacements came, he thought surely he would be discharged but a new officer came in and insisted that Shunji go with him. So they went by seaplane to Guadalcanal and then by transport ship to Okinawa. He was there on D-Day and went in with about the 25th wave. He remembers the rough seas with 10-15 feet waves. Duties at Okinawa were relatively easy. he stayed in Okinawa until about June 1945 and then returned to Hawaii waiting for a discharge. After the end of the war, Shunji got orders to go to Sasebo but went to see his commanding officer and then got orders to go to the states. So after island-hopping all over the Pacific, Shunji never went to Japan.

Returning to the United States, Shunji was discharged at Bolling Airfield near Washington, D.C. in November 1945. He then went to Yale University as a Japanese instructor for a trial period.

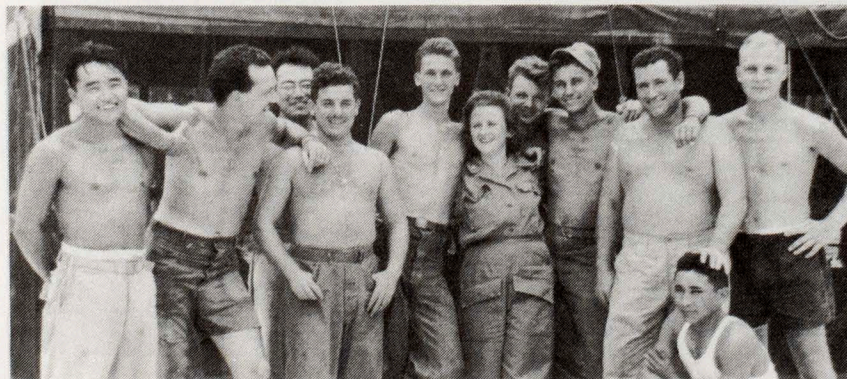
Shunji came to Denver, CO and got married in January 1947. He has worked at many jobs, working for a time at a nursery in La Junta, CO.

#### Incidents

Stationed at Fort Ord, CA December 1941, Shunji remembers going on a weekend pass to Monterey. The other Nisei's went to Los Angeles, CA. After Pearl Harbor, Shunji returned immediately to Fort Ord. The others however took several days, the last one taking 5 days. It seems the other Nisei's couldn't but tickets for a bus or a train and had to hitchhike. Also, they were put in jail in every city.

While in Los Angeles before the war, a liquor license was issued in Shunji's name because issei's couldn't get these licenses. Shunji had applied for a renewal of this license and that was how Mr. Also had gotten Shunji's name.

One of Shunji's classmates at Camp Savage was a George Gushiken. George was the top of his class and the class held a big party for him when he left Savage in October 1942. Later, Shunji found out that George was washed out of Savage because of a background check and also that he was killed in action as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.



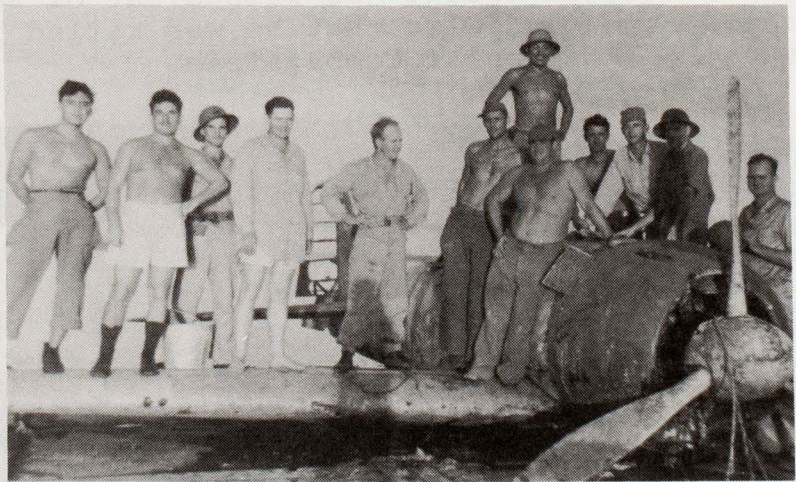
Shunji, third from the left, with members of the Technical Air Intelligence (TAI) team at New Caledonia.

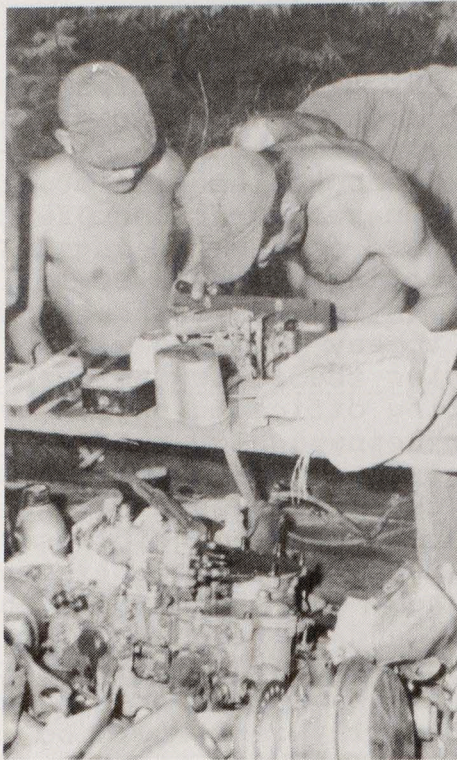


Shunji Hamano looking very soldierly in his World War I uniform during basic training at Fort MacArthur, CA. After completing basic training, Shunji was assigned to various infantry units but at the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, Shunji's weapons were taken away and then he was shuttled from the engineers to the Quartermaster Corps and finally to Camp Savage for Japanese language training. Below, members of Class A-1 of the June 1942 Term at Savage. Camp Savage was once a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp and then a homeless men's camp when taken over by the Army. The students had to first clean the area for living and study and then form schools for the learning of the Japanese language with emphasis on military terms. Graduating Savage in December 1942, Shunji lead an technical intelligence team to the Central Pacific. Rebuffed by the 13th Air Force who said that they had no use for the teams, the team went to New Caledonia which was under Admiral Halsey.



Shunji with members of the TAI on top of a Japanese Zero fighter which was retrieved from the sea. Data gained from these aircraft greatly influenced the design of U.S. aircraft which were later used in the war. Shunji had to learn technical aeronautical engineering terms as well as their equivalent in Japanese.





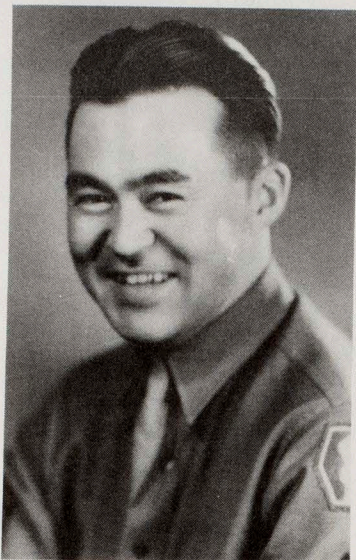
At left, members of the TAI disassemble a downed Japanese aircraft to attempt to identify the type of engine, and other parts. There being no existing technical dictionaries, members of the TAI had to improvise both the technical aeronautical terms and their translations. Above, Shunji sitting in a "Baka Bomb", another type of suicidal weapon used by the

Japanese during the later stages of the war when it was apparent that they were losing the war effort. The "Baka Bomb" is nothing more than a flying explosive with no landing gears such that after the aircraft is airborne, there was no turning back. The "Kami kaze" was another bype of suicidal weapon used. This mentality of the Japanese Imperial troops complicated the capture of the men but after their capture, often aided by the MIS, the Japanese considered themselves as dead and often talked freely when questioned by the MIS'ers. The humane treatment of the prisoners of war by the United States and the efforts of the MIS personnel did much to shorten the war and ease the transition of a wartime Japan to a world power in peace.

Shunji with other members of the Technical Air Intelligence (TAI) team. This diverse group usually included photographers, engineers and technicians as welll as Japanese language experts such as Shunji. Shunji's assignment is another example of the wide-ranging types of duties assigned to the MIS.



Susumi Hidaka



How vividly I can recall December 7, 1941 as my brother and I came into the house after doing chores on our parent's farm. The radio was blaring the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and I was in a state of shock listening to the radio, and being of Japanese extraction, (we wondered) what the future held for us. Being it was a Sunday there was a meeting of the JYPCF (Japanese Young Peoples Christian Fellowship) that evening and needless to say the tone was very somber. The first thing the following day I went to the Army recruiting office to enlist but the recruiting officer being a high school classmate of mine, sympathized with me and suggested that the future of the Nisei would be uncertain and (that I) wait until safe conditions were certain. Received word of okay for enlistment and on February 3, 1942 another Nisei and I went to Fort Logan, Colorado to enlist. As hundreds of enlistees and draftees were sent to training centers in bulk, I and the other Nisei were on special orders to report to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. My first thought was, is Camp Robinson a special camp where all Nisei would be kept until their disposition would be certain. The bulk of Nisei in service at one time or another has passed through Camp Robinson. It was not a segregated camp and a average of 15 Nisei's were assigned to each training company. The following is a chronology of my 4 years of service.

February 1942 - July 1943 - Camp Robinson, Arkansas.

Received basic training in 8 weeks. After training was retained by company to be Company Clerk. After 6 months as Company Clerk was promoted to Company Supply Sergeant. Held this position until June 1944.

July 1943 - June 1944 - Camp Tyler, Texas.

Received special orders to be contingent of cadre to open new BIRTC (Branch Immaterial Replacement Training Center) at Camp Tyler, Texas. Held position as Company Supply Sergeant at Camp Tyler.

June 1944 - August 1944 - Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Received special orders to transfer to Camp Shelby, MS. Was assigned to "D" Company as Platoon Sergeant (Heavy Weapons - 50 calibre machine gun or 80 mm mortar. (This) was the first time I had ever seen these weapons and our platoon was assigned the 80mm mortar. This meant hours of study of the weapon in order to instruct the new recruits from the 10 relocation camps and a contingent from Hawaii. As we were finishing the training an order came through for a number of recruits and myself to transfer to Camp Savage, Minnesota for schooling in Japanese and military intelligence as translators and interpreters.

August 1944 - July 1945 - Camp Savage/Snelling, MN.

REported to Camp Savage and the camp was in the process of moving to Fort Snelling, MN. Assisted in the move of Camp Savage and was assigned as Noncom in charge of Company 'H'. Being very limited in Japanese I was assigned to a lower grade and graduated in July 1945. Class was given a 15-day furlough before overseas assignment and during this furlough period I was married at the Fort Snelling chapel. Although my knowledge of Japanese was very limited even after graduating from the class, I was voted outstanding soldier of the class of Company 'H'.

July 1945 - October 1945 - Fort Monmouth, NJ.

After returning from furlough to Fort Snelling and overseas assignment, 24 graduates and I were assigned to further studies in signal intelligence at Fort Monmouth, NJ. As we were finishing training at Fort Monmouth, the was terminated after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Our training completed, we were ordered back to Fort Snelling.

October 1945 - January 1946.

Since the war had terminated most of the team members were assigned duty in Japan. Since I had enough points for discharge, I was sent to Fort Ord, CA until my discharge came through. I returned to Fort Logan, CO for final discharge.

I was approached while in Fort Snelling and fort Ord to accept 2 years further assignment in Military Intelligence with a commission. I have had second thoughts about this offer. Would I have been better off with further military service? Food for thought.



Class D-18 of the September 1944 Term. Standing left to right, Kiyoto Yoshimura, Roy Ichikawa, Tadayoshi Omoto, Bob Inai, Johnny Okamoto, Hiroshi goto, Ben Seiki, Kenneth goka, Mas Okuhara and Saburo Saito. Seated: Eddie Fusaki, Tadao Kusumori, George Sugimori, Tad Tsumura, Susumi Hidaka, Frank Katayama and George Okita.

## Frank Higa



Frank Higa was born in Sanger, CA in April 1924. He attended elementary school and was graduated from Delano High School in Delano, CA. Frank's Japanese language education consisted of weekend classes in Japanese for about 10 years.

Frank was drafted into the armed services at Denver, CO and inducted at Fort Logan, CO in January 1945. He was then placed on inactive status until April 1945 and was then called for active duty and sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO and on to Camp Livingston, LA for basic training.

After basic training, Frank was sent to Fort Meade, MD expecting to go to Europe but after a few interviews he found himself on a train heading for Fort Snelling, MN. He spent a couple of days at the 'Turkey Farm' and was then sent to CO "F" for the next 22 weeks for Japanese language training. (Editor's note: Frank was assigned to Class D-25 on the September 1945 term.)

After completing language training at Fort Snelling, Frank was sent to Fort Lewis, WA for inoculations and orientations in preparation for departure to Japan for occupational duties. After about 12 days on the ship, Frank arrived in Yokohama and was sent to the 4th Repl. Depot at Zama, Japan. After a week there, Frank was assigned permanently to the 1190th Engineer Base Depot at Shin Tsurumi, which is a few miles north of Yokohama. This depot, approximately 25 miles square, was used for storing different military items as well as materials for dependent housing. The section Frank was assigned to was called Cargo Movement. All items coming in by ship, rail or barge were stored in this depot. The item coming in by ship and barge was wheat so Frank didn't have much to do with that, but materials coming in by rail would have to be identified and sent to different areas for unloading and storage. Frank would get the bills of lading from the box cars, translate them into English and sent them to different areas for unloading. Frank would have to go 25 miles to a large rail center every morning and afternoon to do this work. This work was with the cooperation of the U. S. Rail Transportation Organization (RTO) and the Japanese Railway System (JRS).

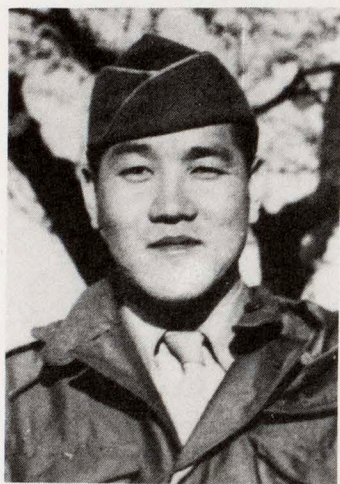
The personnel in Cargo Movement consisted of one officer, one Tech Sergeant and three other GI's, of which Frank was one. His work was like a civilian's job - report at 8:00 A.M., lunch from noon to 1:00 P.M. and off at 5:00 P.M. Evening after chow was his own time. Frank had no other duties except Battalion CQ, which came up about one every 3 months for one night. Two weeks after being assigned to Cargo Movement, the officer was sent home for discharge. The jeep assigned to that officer was now assigned to the Tech Sergeant, who was now in charge of the section. Aside from the four GI's who were left to do the work, there were also a Japanese officer worker and his secretary who worked for the JRS. These Japanese would let Frank know where to go for the weekend for visiting and sightseeing.

Frank got a big break when the Tech Sergeant was rotated back to the States for discharge about 10 days after the officer left. Frank fell heir to the jeep and it was assigned to him. The jeep was to be used in the section for work, but Frank had first rights to check the jeep out for recreation for the weekends, which he did regularly. Although he was restricted to the gas in the jeep plus two five gallon cans, Frank was able to see various parts of Japan, which made for him a very interesting and enjoyable stay for the next 6 months. Since there were no replacements for the officer or the sergeant, Frank was put in charge of the section. He was promoted to T/4, which was the highest rank he achieved. More paperwork was added to his work as he had to report directly to the Depot Commander.

Fran left Japan in mid October 1946 for discharge. Because of an accident which happened on board ship, it took Frank 26 days to get back to the states. Frank was discharged at Camp Beale, CA near Sacramento on November 1946.

Frank was married in October 1950, he and his wife Mary had one son, since deceased. Frank works as a mower mechanic for the City and County of Denver.

#### Sueo Ito



Sueo Ito was born in Kurtistown, HI in May 1919. He attended elementary school in Kurtistown and also attended the Hilo Intermediate School and graduated from Hilo High School in 1937. (He attended the 50th year reunion at the Hilo High School in 1987.)

Sueo's Japanese education consisted of one hour of Japanese after regular school and two hours on Saturdays. Sueo attended a total of 12 years of Japanese education and he estimates that he had the equivalent of a Japanese middle school education. Sueo also attended the University of Hawaii and graduated in 1943 with a degree in vocational agriculture.

Sueo was in Hawaii at the time of Pearl Harbor and heard on the radio about the bombing but believed that this was an 'Orson Wells' type of 'Invasion from Mars' and went trolling off of the Molokai coast. Fortunately, he didn't get shot at but learned that a fisherman in Honolulu was shot returning from fishing. Sueo went partying until he was told to put out the bouy lights. He taught vocational agriculture until he was drafted in July 1944.

Sueo was inducted at Fort Shafter, HI and took jungle training at Camp Helerman for three months until he was selected for MISLS and told to report to Fort Snelling, MN. Sueo went through Seattle, WA to Fort McClellan, AL to complete his basic training.

Sueo was assigned to Class B-2 of the December 1944 term. Sueo was at Fort Snelling during VE Day, he remembers knocking over a bunk celebrating that event! After completing his language training at Fort Snelling, Sueo left San Pedro bound for Manila via Eniwetok. He remembers the beautiful beaches which were later destroyed by a hydrogen bomb. The war in the pacific ended before Sueo reached the Philippines. Sueo was stationed at the Santa Ana race tracks

where he remembers the large rats and lizards. He said that the rats were on the mosquito nets at night. After initially being with the ATIS group, Sueo was assigned to the Judge Advocate's Office of AFPAC where he was to work in the War Crimes Trial of General Yamashita, the Tiger of Manila and the conqueror of Singapore. Although this was quite an honor to be selected for this trial, Sueo had no legal training nor familiarity with technical Japanese terms so he and his colleagues spent a lot of time with the dictionaries. The Yamashita trial was also very interesting in that there were 25 languages and dialects used. Among the Filipinos, people who may have been only 10 miles separated couldn't communicate because of the use of different dialects. General Yamashita was convicted and executed on the basis of command responsibility although an informal poll among the reporters covering the trial was unanimous in a not-guilty verdict. Sueo then worked on the General Homma trial. General Homma was in command during the Bataan Death March. General Homma was also convicted and executed.

From the Philippines, Sueo was fortunate to be sent to Japan where he was first assigned to the NYK Building (ATIS). He was then assigned to the Judge Advocate Office of the 8th Army HDQS in Yokohama. There Sueo worked as an interpreter for various trials concerning POW's and their mistreatment by the Japanese. In these trials, Sueo noted that the difference in customs of the Japanese and the Americans resulted in misinterpretations. For example, acupuncture and moxibustion (yaito) were considered standard medical treatment by the Japanese but deemed mistreatment by the Americans. Also, the Japanese were charged with withholding food from the POW's although they were given the same food as the Japanese troops. In July 1946, Sueo was discharged from the Army at Zama (4th Repl. Depot) and then applied for a civil service job and stayed in Japan as a civilian.

Among the many interesting trials that Sueo worked on as an interpreter, the following stand out in his mind:

1. The court martial of a Colonel Edward J. Murray. Colonel Murray was assigned as a custodian to the Bank of Japan where he was the only American to have unsearched access to the bank vaults. Col. Murray was accused of smuggling 527 stones and sending them to the United States. He was caught with 4 stones totaling about 15 carats. The largest stone missing was a yellow diamond of about 18 carats. The Japanese jewelers had a record of all stones larger than 5 carats. Col. Murray was found guilty, sentenced to 10 years of hard labor and given a dishonorable discharge. At that time, Col. Murray had 32 years of military service.

2. Kyushu Teidai (Kyushu Imperial University) Vivisection Case. In one charge in this trial, the doctors were accused of experimenting using seawater as a substitute for blood serum on captured American flyers. During this trial, one of the Japanese witnesses spoke like a samurai, but luckily Sueo's assistant was a graduate of a commercial university in Japan and understood the witness. This witness was an instructor in surgery and had taught a Dr. Tashiro of Los Angeles. After the war, Dr. Tashiro and this witness began corresponding with each other.

3. Saachrin Smuggling Case. In this case, Japanese sailors were accused of smuggling 3 tons of saacharin from Shanghai hidden in the ballast tank of a ship. The Judge Advocates office learned about this smuggling when the black market price of saacharin dropped suddenly as word about the arrival of 3 tons leaked out.

Because of the severe shortage of sugar in postwar Japan, saacharin was a prime sugar substitute and a valuable commodity on the black market. In this case, Sueo had to learn about the construction of ships and the details of the black market.

4. Shibuya Riot Case. At Keishi Cho, Tokyo metropolitan police stations, rebellious Formosans caused a riot at Shibuya. At this time, the term Chukoko for China and Kankoku for Korea came into common usage.

5. Nigata Tekkyo Jo - Nigata Iron Works. In this case, company officials were tried for mistreatment of American POW's. While interpreting for this case, Sueo had to warn witnesses to only answer the question being asked and not to volunteer information because this could open up an entirely new line of questioning. The Japanese witnesses were not familiar with U.S. legal customs and would volunteer information if not forewarned.

While working as a civilian, Sueo lived in a military compound where meals were 25¢ each! One day, Sueo sneaked off from work and played golf at the Hodogaya Golf Club. There he made his one and only hole-in-one but he couldn't claim a prize because he had sneaked off from work!

Sueo returned to the United States in 1950 and entered the Kansas City School of Dentistry graduating in 1954. He came to Denver and has been practicing dentistry since. Sueo has many hobbies and interests including, golf, fishing and skiing.



Class B-3 of the December 1944 term. This photograph was taken on February 1945. Standing, left to right, J. Oka, G. Muramatsu, next two unidentified, F. Sanbongi, R. Nagata, unidentified, S. Horiuchi and unidentified. Front row, unidentified, (?) Shibata, N. Endow, S. Matsunaga, Sueo Ito, Y. Ogita, T. Ichinokuchi, A. Okasaki and J. Shimokawa.



Left to right, Sakakibara, Yamashita's personal interpreter, Gen. Yamashita, Chief American Defense Counsel, LG Muto, Yamashita's Chief of Staff and General Utsunomiya presumably on Yamashita's staff.



One of the more interesting cases that Sueo Ito worked on. At left, Colonel Edward F. Murray, a career Army officer with 32 years of service. He was accused and found guilty of smuggling hundreds of diamonds from the Bank of Japan where he was the only American custodian who had unsupervised access to the vaults. Above, center and right, Sueo Ito at work interpreting during the trial. Colonel Murray was sentenced to 10 years hard labor and given a dishonorable discharge.



At left, members of the Yamashita Trial interpreters who were lucky enough to be transferred to Tokyo after the trial. Standing, left to right, Steve H. Ohira, Tad Yajima, Yorioka and Masao Ochi. Front, Charles Hatashita, Sueo Ito and Goro Oishi. They were assigned to the Judge Advocate office of the 8th Army Hdqs. Sueo was discharged in Japan and worked for a while as a civilian.

At right, Sueo Ito having a good time at Komachien, Omori, Japan. Apparently Sueo and his party were having such a good time and making so much noise that revelers from other rooms came to see what was going on and then decided to stay and join in the merriment! Sueo is standing in the back. No wonder Sueo decided to stay for a while longer in Japan! Sueo did work on some very interesting military and civilian cases during his MIS career.



Mitsugi M. Kasai

Mitsugi was born January 1918 at Milford, UT but grew up in Idaho where he farmed until his enlistment for the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps (C(C) in June 1946. This was three weeks after his brother was discharged from the U.S Army MIS. Mitsugi was not feeling comfortable of not having served in the armed forces together with many of his Nisei friends who had served honorably. As it turned out, military service became his career.

Mitsugi enlisted in the U.S. Army CIC in June 1946. He completed his basic training at Fort Lewis, WA. He was then sent to the MISLS graduating April 1947 as a T/3. Mitsugi was then sent to the Counter Intelligence Center, Fort Holabird, MD as an instructor in elementary Japanese language and as a trainee in counter intelligence. He attained the rank of master sergeant in October 1947. From June 1948 to June 1950, Mitsugi was assigned as a Special Agent at the Tokyo, Tanagawa District, 441st CIC Detachment, GHQ, FEC. He manned the Labor Desk and liaison in Santama District of metropolitan Tokyo. He was honorably discharged in June 1950.

On September 1950, Mitsugi reenlisted in grade as a Master Sergeant and remained with the CIC. From September 1950 to April 1951, Mitsugi served as a Special Agent, 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. He received a commission as a warrant officer junior grade (WOJG) with the hope of going to Korea and obtain a commission as a lieutenant. From May 1951 to April 1952, Mitsugi pursued a course of instruction in Chinese. A Major Dale Buis, a classmate and friend was the first officer killed in Vietnam.

From May 1952 to October 1952, Mitsugi served as a Special Agent, Niigata Field Office, Region IV, 441st CIC Detachment. October 1952 to October 1953, he served as a Special Agent, 704th CIC Detachment, Korean Communications Zone with duty station on Cheju Island to monitor activities of Chinese Communist PW's at two United Nations Command PW Camps. The issue of PW repatriation prolonged the Korean Conflict. Mitsugi was the only Nisei MISer to have handled Chinese PW's.

From October 1953 to February 1956, Mitsugi served as Special Agent, Headquarter Region IV, 441st CIC Detachment with assignment at the Labor Desk. This assignment was in Tokyo. From February 1956 to February 1959, he served as Special Agent, Region I, U.S. Army Operations Group, Chicago, IL. He conducted physical security surveys and security inspections of U.S. Army military installations and facilities in the Chicago area and other areas of Illinois and Iowa. He also conducted many personnel security investigations on individuals being considered for a position of trust and responsibility with the U.S Government.

From March 1959 to April 1960, Mitsugi served as a Special Agent, 308th CIC Detachment, Eighth U.S. Army, with assignments in Inchon and Seoul, Korea. He performed sensitive duties and was awarded an Army Commendation Citation. From May 1960 to June 1961, Mitsugi served as Special Agent, 526th CIC Detachment, Ryuku Islands, Okinawa. He was stationed at Naha and Nago maintaining liaison with police intelligence units.

From July 1961 to December 1963, Mitsugi served as Special Agent-in-Charge, Monterey Office, Region I, 115th Intelligence Corps Detachment. He conducted personnel security investigations and performed sensitive duties. The Army Language School was redesignated Defense Language School, West Coast Branch. From January 1964 to January 1965, he served as Special Agent, 704th Intelligence Corps Detachment, U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam. One of his primary duties was to collect information on U.S. military personnel in Viet Cong captivity so that attempts could be made to recover them. He performed other sensitive duties and was one of three operations officers for the detachment. He was awarded his first oak leaf cluster to his Army Commendation Medal.

From January 1965 to June 1967, Mitsugi served as Special Agent, 526th Intelligence Corps Detachment, U.S. Army Ryuku Islands. He performed sensitive duties and supervised 10-15 Nisei agents in the conduct of their intelligence investigations. From July 1967 to October 1969, Mitsugi served as Special Agent, Region IV, 115th Military Intelligence Group, with duty station at Fort Douglas, UT. During this tour, Mitsugi became Agent-in-Charge of the Salt Lake Field Office. He conducted personnel security investigations and defense information security inspections. He was one of three agents from the 6th Army Area and joined others from five Army areas to participate in the Department of Defense directed counterintelligence survey of the Alternate Joint Communications Center, Fort Ritchie, MD in 1967. Mitsugi was the only Nisei. He was awarded his second oak leaf cluster to his Army Commendation Medal.

From October 1969 to March 1973, Mitsugi was Special Agent-in-Charge of Koza Field Office, Detachment R, 500th Military Intelligence Group, U.S. Army Ryuku Islands. After Okinawa was reverted to Japan in 1972, he became the Chief, Liaison Section.

Among the many awards received by Mitsugi were a Certificate of Achievement for participation in the removal of toxic chemical weapons from Okinawa to the Johnston Island. He also received a third oak leaf cluster to the commendation medal and a Meritorious Service Medal for overall performance during his tour in Okinawa. Mitsugi also received many awards from the Okinawa government.

Mitsugi retired in April 1973 with 27 years of service of which 25 years were spent with the U.S. military intelligence.

## Isao Kuge



Isao Kuge was born in Stockton, CA. He completed his elementary education in Turlock and Stevinson, CA and graduated from the Hilmar Union High School in California. After Pearl Harbor, Isao and his family were evacuated to the Merced Assembly Center in California and then moved to the Amache Relocation Center in Granada, CO.

Isao was inducted into the Army in November 1944 at Fort Leavenworth, KS and was then sent for basic infantry training to Camp Blanding, FL. He completed basic training in March 1945. From Camp Blanding, Isao was sent to Fort Meade, MD for advanced infantry training which he completed in July 1945. Isao then had temporary assignments at Camp Richie, MD in July 1945 and Camp Bullis, TX in September 1945. Isao was then sent to the Presidio of Monterey, CA for one month of Japanese language training.

Isao's first overseas assignment was with the 77th Military Government Team (77MGT), Maebashi, Gumma Ken, Japan. This assignment lasted for one year from November 1945 to November 1946. After being discharged from the Army in Japan, Isao accepted a civilian assignment with the same unit (77MGT) for another year from November 1946 to November 1947.

Returning to the United States, Isao entered the University of Denver and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1951. Isao's first job after graduation was with the U.S. Geological Survey, Topographic Division where he worked as a cartographer from July 1951 to May 1956. He then transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, CO and worked there from June 1956 until December 1980. He retired from civil service in January 1981. (Editor's note: Isao tragically passed away March 10, 1989.)

### Incidents

Isao was one of the few Nisei GI's sent to Japan as an interpreter with no formal training in Japanese. He never attended Nihongo Gakko when he was growing up and the Army gave him a very casual introduction to Japanese for one hour a day for two weeks at the Presidio of Monterey, CA. So, Isao found it a very embarrassing and frustrating experience during the first few months. He had to carry a dictionary and have a native Japanese interpreter to help out. Technical interpretations for various professional officers such as lawyers, doctors, education specialists and engineers made his job doubly difficult.

One of Isao's more interesting assignments was his two months in Karizawa, Nagano Ken to assist in the evacuation of German nationals back to Germany. The Germans spoke Japanese but no English!

As a civilian employee of the 77MGT, Isao visited all plants that were manufacturing war materiel to inventory machinery and equipments for reparation to countries formerly occupied by Japan. While visiting these plants, Isao met many of the 'sacho

san', they were the 'big shots' and they were the ones that invited Isao to all the geisha parties.

The terrible suffering of the people, the massive destruction of the cities, the natural beauty of the country and the festive geisha parties remained vividly in Isao's mind but the things that he cherished the most were the thoughts of the pleasant times he had visiting the many Japanese families. The friendly hospitality of the Japanese families made him feel at home and made his stay in Japan a memorable experience.

Isao visited Japan with his family in 1971 and again in 1981, and he wanted to return again. Isao felt that there was so much more to see and do and in particular the delicious and beautifully prepared food that he wanted to sample again.



Nisei recruits being sworn in for MIS duties from a relocation center. These nisei faced ostracism from some internees who felt that nisei's should not volunteer while they were incarcerated. Many nisei did volunteer however.



Isao Kuge, right with fellow GI's Padillo, Watson and Maringer of the 77th MGT. November 1945, Ota shi, Gumma ken, Japan. Isao was still on active duty at this time.



Yukiya Hirose, Isao Kuge, Alfred Kato and friends on a pass from military duties with the 77th MGT. Isao later accepted a civilian position with the 77th MGT and stayed for another year.

## Albert Kushihashi



The French call it 'joie de vivre'. Perhaps Albert Kushihashi's Japanese ancestors might not know how to translate it, but in any language, Kushihashi's zest for life is evident.

"I feel being positive is the most important thing I've done with my life," says Kushihashi a 72 year old veteran of World War II. "I hate to see a person walking down the street with his head hanging low. I lift my head high, remind myself that this is a pretty good life and a hell of a world. Look up, I say."

Albert was born in Omaha, NE on November 1916. His parents, Gentaro and Tsuta Kushihashi, had immigrated to the United States from Fukuoka, Japan. They made their way to the farmlands of Nebraska. First it was the dry land farming of the plains. How well Albert remembers the Dust Bowl era of American history, the days of the Great Depression and life in the cyclone country. He saw a recent movie in which a cyclone served as a focal point. It brought back vivid recollections of his childhood. He recalls John Steinbeck's classic novel, "The Grapes of Wrath." This was the thread by which Kushihashi's boyhood was woven and those days will remain always in his memory.

It was the ownership of 90 calf-producing cows that saw the Kushihashi family - Albert, his mother and father and one brother - through the depression. Eventually they moved to the area around North Platte where irrigation farming was possible and more profitable. Albert attended two one-room schools near Litchfield, NE. He walked the two mile distance between his home and school twice each day to get his earliest education. He learned Japanese at home and particularly from his father, who taught the language to the Japanese community around North Platte.

As is normal for teenagers, Albert had his heroes. They were all pilots. It was while still a youth that he developed one of the great loves of his life - that of flying. In order to be able to pay for flying lessons, Albert would gather dried cow and horse bones and sell them at \$8.00 a ton. He took flying lessons at the Clinch Flying School, Lee Bird Field, North Platte. He took his first lesson at about 1930, four years before he graduated from Platte Valley Rural School and High School. In 1937, what was then called the Civil Aeronautics Authority issued Commercial and Flight Instructor Certificate #74252 to Albert Kushihashi.

Suddenly the world was at war. Though World War II was an extremely trying time for many Americans of Japanese Ancestry, Albert does not carry many unpleasant memories. He served his country loyally and well in the United States military. He was inducted into the Army in 1944 at Fort Snelling, MN, where he also underwent Japanese language training.

Albert received his basic training at Fort McClelland, AL. When the war ended in the European Theatre, Albert was sent to Fort Benning, GA where his expertise in Japanese was used to train officers returning from the European theatre. Albert and members

of his team dressed Japanese uniforms and performed close order drill in the Japanese language. Alberts talents were further utilized because of his familiarity with Japanese small arms and 30 calibre rifles. Following this assignment, Albert was sent to Fort MacArthur, CA. During that assignment, he saw his first Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena followed by an exciting football game between the University of Alabama and the University of Southern California. Albert's California assignments included Fort Ord, in the beautiful countryside around Monterey. He was also stationed at Fort Lewis, WA, another spot which Albert considered beautiful when it didn't rain.

Albert was next assigned to Korea, where his principal task was reconnaissance missions. Again, his Japanese served him well. Japanese had been the mandated language during the occupation of Korea by the Japanese. Albert was assigned to Headquarters CO, 3rd Battalion, 17th Inf., 7th Division, Chongu. His MOS was Intelligence NCO #631. Albert became a hero to the Korean children, who often knew Japanese better than he did. They followed him about like the Pied Piper. When they saw him coming, they would call out, "Kushihashi San," which means Mr. Kushihashi. The children knew Albert loved them. Albert remembers the many marks the Japanese left on Korea, from the railroad stations to school houses. He sensed that North and South Korea would one day clash.

Albert was called back to the United States quite suddenly because his father was gravely ill. He took his father to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota but it was too late. The senior Kushihashi died of cancer in 1946. A great and loving bond between father and son was ended but, to this day, it has never been forgotten by the son.

Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Albert returned to North Platte and life as a farmer. Once more he returned to the airplanes. In 1950, Albert flew in the Henry Ohye Trophy Race from Los Angeles Central Airport to Chicago, IL. He won the race which was open to Nisei pilots from all over the country. He bought an Army surplus Fairchild PT-26 for \$500. In 1952, he participated in the Nebraska Annual Search and Rescue Mission coordinated with the 44th Air Rescue Unit from Denver's Lowry Air Force Base. He was a squadron commander with the North Platte CAP.

In 1957, Albert gave up his farm, moved to Los Angeles and sold insurance for a while. He won the "Man of the Year" award for his record. Then Albert became a cross country trucker, hauling dry freight and winning numerous friends and praises for his work.

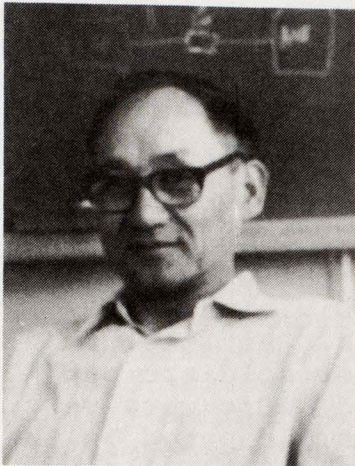
A jovial man, full of zest, Albert always did a good job at whatever he tackled. He had friends wherever he traveled. All this came to a sudden halt when, in 1973, Albert underwent open heart surgery. He had triple by-pass surgery and was given the last rites of his church. He was not expected to live. But Albert proved too tough for the grim reaper on that go around. He was not about to give up. Following his surgery, he enrolled at the Community College of Denver. He studied geriatrics and became interested in aiding the elderly. A new life, a new way of giving and helping, opened up for Albert. He felt he had been given a new life for a purpose and that it was time to give something back of the many good fortunes he had been given.

Albert learned of the work of the Senior Support Service and began to put in many hours weekly at their facility in downtown Denver. When that facility closed, Albert began to aid the elderly in The Olin on Denver's Capital Hill. He serves lunch there daily to his many friends.

Albert's work is all volunteer and he puts in seven days a week, handling his task with enthusiasm and cheerfulness. His colorful vocabulary makes him a real character to those who know him. Albert is highly regarded, loved and respected for his unceasing care of those less fortunate than him.

Albert married Joey Kiyoko Yanagida in 1949. They were divorced and had no children. He married Grace Takaki in 1955 and they had two children; a daughter, Deborah Ann, now 33, and a son, Eric Dean, now 31. Albert and Grace divorced and he lives now with his mother who recently celebrated her 92nd birthday.

#### Sueki 'Joe' Murahata



Sueki 'Joe' Murahata was born in Gresham, OR and attended elementary school in Troutdale, OR. He graduated from Gresham Union High School in Gresham, OR. Joe's Japanese education consisted of classes at the Cedar Nihongo Gakko and 5 months in Kumamoto Ken, Japan.

Joe was inducted into the service at Fort Lewis, WA in January 1942. He completed basic training for medics at Camp Grant, IL in April 1942 and was first assigned to the Station Hospital as an X-ray technician at Camp Grant until December 1942. Joe was then selected and sent to the MISLS at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, MN where he was assigned to the Headquarters CO. Joe spend three years at the Headquarters CO.

where his primary duties were at the radio listening station where he monitored Radio Japan. Joe also had a temporary assignment to Camp Crowder, MO from July to December 1944. He was separated from the Army at Camp McCoy, WS in January 1946. He was later recalled for the Air Force Reserve and served at the Rome Radar Calibration station in Rome, NY from May 1951 to August 1952.

In civilian life, Joe attended the University of Denver and graduated with a degree BSEE in 1950. Joe was employed at the Colorado State Patrol Communication from October 1950 to January 1955 and then with the U.S Department of Commerce from January 1955 to January 1979. He retired in 1979.

#### Incidents

Joe felt that his stay at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling was difficult because so many of his friends that he grew up with in the Portland, OR area went through MISLS and then left for overseas assignments whereas Joe was with the Headquarters CO. Joe said that he felt like a slacker.

Joe's small unit copied as much of the Domei News (Romaji) as possible and some kana code. These were translated and evaluated by the staff for it's intelligence value. Joe's greatest regret was that he couldn't take advantage of his Japanese schooling.

## Tatsuo Matsuda



Tatsuo Matsuda was born in Watsonville, CA in January 1918. His parents came from Hiroshima Ken at about 1915, however his grandfather had been to the United States prior to his parent's immigration. When Tats was 4 years old, his mother became ill and was forced to return to Japan. Tats and his sister accompanied their mother back to Japan where she soon passed away. Tats lived in Hiroshima with his grandparents where he received 11 years of education consisting of 6 years of grammar school and 5 years of junior and senior high school. He also attended at the college level for about a year and a half in Kyoto. After about 14 years growing up in Japan, Tats decided to come back to the United States and keep his citizenship. He returned in October 1937. This was about the time that Japan was feeling a war sentiment such as the Manchuria incident. Tats lived in Chualar, CA with his father and uncle's family. His uncle strongly advised Tats to go to school and so he went from the 8th grade in a hurry and received his high school diploma from the Gonzales High School in 1941.

No sooner that he was graduated from high school, Tas was drafted into the Army in July 1941. He received 13 weeks of basic training at Camp Walter, TX and further infantry training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. While at Fort Leonard Wood, Tats learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor. There were about 5 other Nisei's in the 4th Platoon, 'K' CO, 63rd Infantry Rgt., 6th Division. They were all quite shocked and wondered why the attack. At first they feared mistreatment and prejudice from their fellow soldiers but contrary to their expectations, the Company CO and NCO's were very kind and protective toward the Nisei. They all participated in the manouever in the Kentucky - Tennessee area in early 1942. Sometime after the manouever, the 6th Division from Fort Leonard Wood was ordered to move out to the West Coast leaving all the Nisei behind. Around that time, an officer from Camp Savage came to interview the Nisei for recruiting to MISLS. The officer's name was a Capt. Dickey who later became a Colonel and assistant commandant to Col. Rasmussen at MISLS. The Captain asked various questions concerning the Nisei's loyalty to the United States and whether the Nisei liked hard military duties. He even asked Tats if he was loyal to Hirohito or Roosevelt! Soon after the interview, Tats was ordered to report to Camp Savage where about 20 men from Fort Francis Warren, WY were placed in 'Barracks 13', their sleeping quarters. After a long day of examinations, Tats was placed in Section 1 which consisted of Kibei's and university graduates. From December 1942 to June 1943, they studied very diligently. They graduated in June 1943 but more studies followed until October of that year. Just before the Nisei came to Camp Savage, they learned of the mass evacuation of Japanese Americans. It sounded very chaotic and confusing. Tat's father and his younger brother's family voluntarily

evacuated to Omaha, NE, where one of the families had relatives. Later Tats learned that his other uncle was interned along with other Japanese dignitaries from the Salinas area. His family fled to Rocky Ford, CO with some friends. The whole incident was very shocking to Tats.

On Columbus Day, October 12, 1943, three teams of linguists, ten to a team, were shipped to New Caledonia Island. The team leaders were S/Sgts Tahira, Yamamoto and Toyota. Tats' team leader was S/Sgt Tahira from Hawaii and under him were Seian Hokama, Mitsuo Wakayama, Tatsuo Matsuda, Roy Fujii, Shigo Inamasu and four others that tats cannot recall. The officer in charge was a Lt. William Fisher.

After arriving at New Caledonia the three teams were broken up to form various 6-men teams joined by the first Camp Savage group who had seen campaigns elsewhere. The 6-men teams were attached to the XIV Corps Headquarters, Americal Division, 37th Division and various other units. The Americal and 37th Divisions were under the command of the XIV Corps which later occupied Torokina Beach on Bougainville Island where earlier the Marines had won a beachhead. Tats was with the XIV Corps Headquarters with a Sgt Hiroshi Matsuda, (no relation), Sgt Roy Uyhata (once president of the Northern California MIS), Sgt Masami Tahira, Mitsuo Wakayama, Roy Fujii and Tats. Lt. Fisher who was born in Japan and spoke very fluent Japanese was the CO. Later he was promoted to Major. Somehow, Lt. Fisher took Tats with him from the time they left the United States to overseas, New Caledonia, Bougainville and the Philippine Islands. They flew from New Caledonia to Guadalcanal and then proceeded to Bougainville by a small LST. While waiting on Guadalcanal the Nisei helped load ships with supplies.

Tats remembers vividly that they stayed on Bougainville exactly 365 days from December 12, 1943 to December 12, 1944. Then they boarded military transport ships to participate in the Lingayen Gulf landing operation which Began January 8, 1945. Tats' duties as a linguist were to interrogate prisoners and scan captured Japanese documents and to translate them into English. They also published leaflets and dropped them towards the Japanese fighting men.

Tats says that he cannot forget one incident during the first stages of the Bougainville Campaign. This doesn't concern the war itself but they were looking for fresh water to bathe. The river was too far away and someone suggested that they dig a well and six men pitched in and kept digging and digging. Finally they found water, nice clean fresh water. Roy Uyhata obtained 5 gasoline cans and stacked them 5 high with both ends cut out. In the G-2 section they had an Australian Naval Officer who brought a 2½ hp engine and pipes to install over the stacked cans. That was the beginning of their shower installation and the envy of others.

Another incident which Tats will never forget is the fact that from the interrogation of 4 prisoners they obtained the detailed attack plans on the XIV Corps perimeter which was about 36 square miles at Torokina Beach. These 4 prisoners were captured from the battered 6th Japanese Division from Kumamoto Japan. That division was well known as the bravest of all of the Japanese army. They actually surrendered to the U.S. unit at the front line. Prisoners were hard to come by then because they were trained not to give up. They were told that they would be mistreated if captured. But they

were hungry and fatigued and had no will to fight on. After the Americans offered them to take a shower, clean khaki clothes and food and cigarettes, they were altogether different people from being stubborn and uncooperative. They volunteered to answer every question asked. The Japanese remnants, according to them, disassembled all of their big guns into small parts and carried them on their shoulders from the east coast to the higher hills beyond the perimeter. They knew exactly on what time, what day and where to shell the U.S. positions. Captured documents also revealed just how many rounds of ammunition should be fired. Their communications were very limited and almost ineffective. Tats can't recall exactly but the firing happened on February 4th or March 4, 1944. After the MIS compiled all the known facts gathered from prisoners and the translation of Japanese documents, the XIV Commander, BG Oscar Griswald ordered to prepare against their attack. As they expected, the Japanese began firing upon the U.S. troops but they fired back with an almost unbelievable ratio of ammunition compared with the Japanese's limited rounds. Therefore their attacks were meaningless and ineffective and did not last very long. After the attack was over, many more prisoners were taken. Even though the attack ended in defeat, one of their rounds fell on the XIV HQ killing or injuring several soldiers. Tats had their tent and foxhole about 200 yards away from the kitchen area. Tats remembers hitting his foxhole head first. After that incident things on Bougainville were considerably quieted down with just occasional air raids. The Japanese flew at night from Rabaul which was a Japanese stronghold in the South Pacific. The Nisei worked and played volleyball for exercise and even went swimming at Torokina Beach occasionally until their departure to the Philippine Islands on December 1944. Tats got a citation for a Bronze Star but didn't receive the medal until he was discharged in 1945 at Fort Logan, CO. Tats remembers that Bob Hope and Jack Benny came to entertain the troops at Bougainville. Before leaving Bougainville for the Philippine Islands, the language section was enlarged to 20 men teams. The team was called the 165th Language Detachment which consisted of the original 6 men and 14 others.

The Philippine Island campaigns were rather fast moving. They landed in Lingayen Gulf in January 1945 and moved quickly to Manila and Parig on the outskirts of Manila. They kept moving northward to Cabanauan, San Carlos, Bayambang, Panique, Tarlac, San Fernando, Santa, Maria, Quezon City, San Jose and Gapan. These towns and cities were on their route. Tats was at Pampanga when the war came to an end.

ON September 1945, the 1st Cavalry Division entered Tokyo. Tats was sent further north to Sendai. As the occupational forces, the Nisei's duties were very important. They were the ambassadors to all of the Japanese peoples. The Nisei's supervised Japanese laborers at Shiogame piers unloading U.S. supplies. Once Tats accompanied a Colonel from the medics and visited the Tokoku University Hospital to exchange views and the Japanese cooperated very well and sought their help. Tats met one of the self defense force leaders and he talked of how they trained women and children to fight with bamboo spears to the last. The man said with tears that it was fruitless and in vain and believed that Japan would lose the war sooner or later.

Tats said that time was passing very rapidly and his time to return to the United States was nearing. Around October 1945, Tats was shipped back to Portland, OR and then to Fort Logan, CO. He was separated on November 1945 some 4 years, 4 months and 9 days - a long hitch from induction to discharge.

Tats had many relatives including his sister, step-mother, cousins, uncle and aunt near Hiroshima when the atomic bomb exploded. None were hurt. Tats regrets that his brother-in-law was killed in naval action off Luzon Island prior to his landing at Lingayen Gulf.

Tats has been married for over 40 years. (Editor's note: Tats' wife Alyce is the sister of Roy Fujii who was on the original language team with Tats.) They have a son and daughter, both married with two children each. Tats discontinued farm operation in 1980 and worked for the town of Pierce for three years. He is presently retired as is his wife Alyce. Alyce worked at the University of Northern Colorado for almost 20 years.



Residents of Barracks '13' at Camp Savage, one the first groups at Savage. Back row, left to right, B. Honda, B. Ohama, C. Morimatsu, S. Sasaki, T. Ohta, Tatsuo Matsuda and P. Nakahara. Middle row, Mitoma, E. Yamamoto, L. Yasukawa, J. Takehana, H. Horita and T. Miura. Front row, H. Kikuta, unidentified, J. Fukushima, J. Miyao and T. Koshi.



Members of Section 1 of the December 1942 term at Camp Savage. Back row, left to right: E. Kawahara, A. Misaki, T. Matsuda, G. Hirabayashi, W. Nishimura, S. Onodera, Yamada (instructor), F. Hachiya (KIA), T. Yoshihashi, Manabu Soranaka, E. Ishikawa and S. Hiraide. In front, H. Kugizaki, R. Okada, G. Koshi,

T. Kitamura, K. Harano, C. Kaku, K. Yamane and J. Oda. (Editor's note: Tatsuo Matsuda's list checks exactly with the MISLS album although Hachiya's initial is listed as a 'T' in the album.)

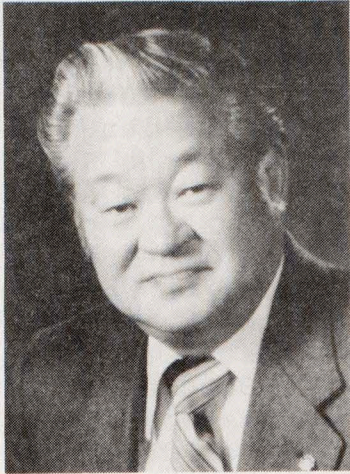
Sgt. Tatsuo Matsuda, left, and Roy Uye-hata (campaign hat) questioning a prisoner of war. Tats writes that with humane treatment, the Japanese POW's talked freely about what they knew of military plans, unit identities and condition of supplies and war materiel. This is probably on the island of Bougainville.



Lt. William Fisher, left and Tatsuo Matsuda questioning prisoners of war on Bougainville. Lt. Fisher was born in Japan and spoke fluent Japanese. Tats says that Lt. Fisher (later Major Fisher) took Tats from the United States to New Caledonia, Bougainville and on to the Philippines.



## Ikera Matsumonji



Ikera Matsumonji was born in Minturn, CO but grew up in the Fort Lupton and Brighton, CO areas and attended the Fort Lupton Nihongo Gakko for about 6 years. In 1939, Ikera's family moved to Los Angeles, CA and he continued his Japanese education at the Daini Gakuen in West Los Angeles until the beginning of the war in 1941. Ikera's family moved voluntarily back to Colorado in March 1942 and was spared the agony of being interned at Santa Monica and Manzanar, CA. They moved first to Fort Lupton but later moved to Littleton, CO where Ikera graduated from the Englewood High School in 1944. Ikera later moved to Denver.

Ikera was drafted in April 1946 and was sent to a SAAC Field in San Antonio, TX for Air Force basic training. Upon completion of basic training, he was sent to CIC Training School at Camp Holabird, MD. He completed this training in December 1946 and was assigned to the 441st CIC Detachment in Tokyo. From Tokyo, he was sent to the CIC Area 37 headquartered in Sapporo and subsequently sent to the Wakanai CIC Subdetachment where he spent 30 months overseas duty.

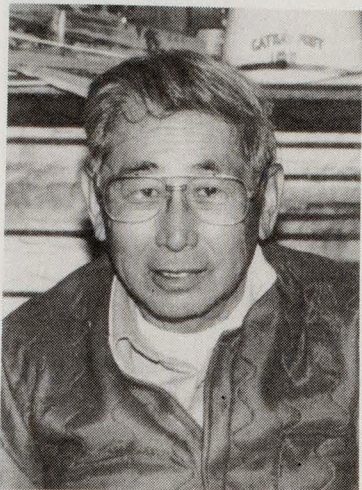
In May 1949, Ikera was returned to the United States and completed his enlistment with the CIC District Office in Detroit and was discharged at the Fifth Army Headquarters in Chicago, March 1950. Upon returning to Denver, Ikera went to work with the U.S. Postal Service while attending art school. He remained with the Postal Service until June 1985 at which time he retired with approximately 39 years of government service.

Ikera's wife, Pauline also retired in August 1985 and so they are both enjoying the life of leisure going camping and fishing and just traveling. Ikera and Pauline hope to make a trip to Hawaii and also to Japan sometime in the near future.



The Wakanai CIC Subdetachment where Ikera spend 30 months.  
Ikera is at lower right.

## Akira Nakamura



Akira Nakamura was born May 1919 at Parlier, CA. He attended elementary school throughout California and graduated from Torrance High School in 1938. Akira's Japanese language schooling consisted of a few years at the Redondo Nihongo Gakko where his teacher was a Mr. Gijiro Takeno.

Akira was drafted into the Army in July 1941. He was inducted at San Pedro, CA where he filled out a request form for the branch of service. A few days later, he was sent to Camp Grant, IL for basic training. In October 1941, Akira was sent somewhere in Arkansas where he received a brief training in ambulance driving under realistic combat conditions. All sizes of caliber weapons were used and noises simulating combat conditions with men falling, litter bearers doing their jobs. Akira said that it was like watching a war movie. In November 1941, he was transferred to Fort Lewis, WA as a qualified ambulance driver. However, there must have been an Army snafu because there was an oversupply of ambulance drivers at Fort Lewis. Therefore, Akira was temporarily assigned to KP duty. While dutifully devoting utmost attention to his newly assigned KP duties, Akira heard the shocking morning news about the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Immediately following the news about Pearl Harbor, Akira was relieved from KP duty as were all the Nisei soldiers. They were reassigned and assembled into an isolated area and given a barrack for living quarters. Soon after, all Nisei soldiers were marched to the front of the Fort Lewis base headquarters escorted by MP's. The Fort Lewis commanding officer looked upon the Nisei as though they were POW's and announced, "If any of you soldiers should make a suspicious or false move or activity while in my command, you are ordered to be shot on sight." After that, the Nisei's daily chore was as a yard bird in blue denims to pick up cigarette butts and other items with an armed MP watching over them.

About a week after Pearl Harbor, Akira was sent with about ten others to Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco for further medical training. The training consisted mainly of highly specialized techniques of being a ward boy, how to manipulate a bed pan! Late in December 1941, several loads of Pearl Harbor military casualties arrived at Letterman for further medical treatment. During this time, Akira had an encounter with General John DeWitt, the commanding general of the Western Command. He was there during the hospital's general inspection and to greet the Pearl Harbor casualties. While the inspection was in progress, Akira happened to be caring for a patient who was using a bed pan and he had the curtain closed. The curtain was suddenly flung open and General DeWitt was standing there with a Lieutenant and a Sergeant. He shouted, "Why wasn't the curtain open for inspection?" Akira was flabbergasted and couldn't utter a word.

After 3 months of training, Akira was sent back to Fort Lewis only to be transferred to Fort Hayes, OH. He was classified as a laboratory medical technician. His duties included serology and Wasserman tests. Also, part of Akira's duties was to assist the

doctors with pre-shipment physicals for men, like short-arm inspection, looking for crabs with a flashlight and assisting in giving physicals for the women (WAC). Akira says that there are many interesting and humorous incidents relating to that experience.

In February 1944, the Army asked Akira to consider transferring to the all Japanese unit 442nd RCT or to try out for the MIS. He chose the MIS hoping to delay his overseas assignment. After successfully passing an entrance examination in elementary Japanese consisting of oral and written tests, he was sent to Camp Savage, MN. Upon arrival at Savage, Akira took another placement test in which he did very poorly and he was classified for the 1st grade. Akira said that he was very satisfied and comfortable at that grade. Colonel John Aiso evaluated one of Akira's Friday examinations and called him in for consultation. Akira was reprimanded for his lazy effort and poor attitude. On the next examination, Akira was advanced to the 3rd grade.

In April, Akira was again evaluated by Colonel Aiso. Akira received a warning that if he did not show improvement very soon, he would be sent to join the 442nd in Mississippi! Since Akira wanted to prove that he was not malingering, he studied very hard every night, worried and burned the midnight oil. Soon after, he was advanced to the 4th grade where he remained.

In mid-summer 1944, Camp Savage was closed and they were all transferred to Fort Snelling, MN. On September 1944, at the Fort Snelling chapel, Akira got married. A Lt. Pete Yamazaki gave the bride Chieko Yoshikawa away. Akira's best man was Sgt Jimmy Gozawa.

In December 1944, after 9 months of gruesome studying and training, Akira finally graduated. A team consisting of 10 men were formed. Akira's team consisted of Lt. John Flagler and Lt. Lawrence Boggs as officers, Sgt Warren Sakuma as team leader. Others were Stanley Ito, Frank Mizuno, Tom Matsumoto, Tomotsu Nagao, Rober Oda, Harry Okano, Shigeru Sato, Osame Yamamoto and Akira. The team left Fort Snelling just before Christmas for an unknown overseas destination. The port of embarkation was Fort Lewis, WA. In January 1945, the orders for the destination of the Kaiser troop ship was changed to Honolulu, HI. At Schofield Barracks, the team was instructed to prepare for the Okinawa campaign. The team was designated the 303rd Language Detachment, assigned to the 10th Army. IN March 1945, the team departed Hawaii for the Philippine Islands. After a simulated landing maneuvers off of the islands they headed for the Ryuku Islands.

On April 1, 1945, April Fool's Day coincidentally being Easter Sunday, it was D-Day for the Okinawa invasion. The 303rd Language Detachment was aboard the flag-ship of the 10th Army fleet. Before debarking the ship, the team had a chance to observe many exciting and skillful displays of dog fighting and aerial maneuvers. They watched the enemy torpedo planes skimming the ocean only to explode before reaching the target. The team saw their own ship being sprayed by the Kamikaze guns.

Akira was one of earliest interrogators to be selected for an assignment to interrogate a kamikaze pilot who was reported to have been captured. By the time Akira arrived, the pilot was dead still sitting in his demolished plane. The only thing Akira could do was to search the dead pilot for any vital military documents that he might have carried with him. Akira noticed that someone had quickly arranged the pilot's clothing before Akira got there.

Akira found a "sen-nin-bari" (a belt with 1000 stitches for good luck and long life) on the dead pilot. Akira's mother had sent him one before he went overseas, but he quickly changed his mind in that belief and removed his! After the kamikaze assignment, Akira was left alone for a day or two and drifted from one unit to another. The rest of his unit debarked and Akira joined them at the 24th Corps area. Being classified as an interrogator, Akira was soon dispatched to the front line, either to a platoon or a company that may have captured either a civilian or a soldier.

There were reports that a few Japanese soldiers have mingled in with the civilians and were hiding in the caves. One morning after searching his way to locate the cave, Akira was stopped by a U.S. Lieutenant and his squad. The lieutenant intensely questioned Akira's military status and was finally convinced that he was with the MIS. The lieutenant then asked Akira to help him because he was about to use a flame thrower into the cave. Akira recalls that this was one of the scariest moments of his life. He was told that there were people in the cave. He slowly crawled in a prone position in the dark cave for about 10 feet when he felt a small warm leg. With some resistance Akira dragged the leg back out. It was from a small girl about 7 or 8 years old who was trembling and was very scared. When Akira spoke nihongo in a very soft gentle voice with a smile, the girl slowly began to respond. After a few time consuming questions, Akira was convinced that there were no soldiers in the cave. Only 10 or 12 family members and close friends were hiding there. Akira was able to use the girl to entice the rest of the people out of the cave. While escorting this group back to the rear echelon, a girl in her early 20's jumped out from the rank to collect large flat gobo leaves to use as a medicinal patch on a oozing abscess on her breast.

During the time of Akira's front line assignment, he heard about two MIS Nisei personnel with another language detachment who were killed in action. During this time, Akira met with a George Inagaki who had many front line experiences and advised Akira to dig in deep, lay flat and to be alert at all times. Because of this advise, Akira felt he was one of the lucky ones to come home alive.

In May, Akira was briefly attached to the 3rd Marine Amphibious Signal Corp and was shot at by some of his own men. The bullet grazed and caused a dent on the right side of Akira's helmet. The only damage was to his helmet, a slight headache, ringing of his ears and wounded pride. After that, a Signal Corps officer assigned a 6 foot, young, husky Marine as a constant bodyguard. Akira knew then how the President of the United States might of felt because of all his body guards! No privacy! Sleep time, chow-time or latrine time the body guard accompanied Akira everywhere he went. One time, Akira had to dive in the mud during a heavy May rainy season called "same-dare" or "gogatsu-no-ame". During the evening meal hour, Akira was stepping and hopping from stone to stone back to his tent when he heard the sound of an enemy projectile loosing its velocity and falling. To avoid being hit by shell fragments, Akira dove in the mud. The Marine body guard dove the same way only with his body prone over Akira's.

Soon afterward, Akira was dispatched to another front echelon infantry unit that was rumored to have captured an enemy soldier and they needed an interpreter. The rumor turned out to be false, a 20 year old Okinawan civilian girl had been captured. By the time Akira saw her she was hysterical and it took Akira a while to calm her down. Instead of retreating with the Japanese soldiers, she decided to surrender and approached the Americans waving a white cloth. While captured she was raped and after being transferred to another unit was raped again. After gaining confidence in Akira, she begged to stay with the American unit where she volunteered to cook, launder and do other chores. This request was denied because it was against American regulations to use civilians within the front lines. She was transferred to a civilian compound located in a safer rear echelon. Several weeks later, Akira was assigned to a civilian compound to question some civilians concerning information about cave locations and military documents. During this time, Akira heard someone calling "Nakamura-san". Akira did not recognize her immediately but she was the same girl that he had questioned at the front lines. She was cleaned up, looked prettier and much calmer and she thanked Akira for his help.

In June 1945, a scheme was devised to expedite the gathering of military information. This scheme consisted of placing an electronic listening devices in an enclosure so that they could listen to prisoner's conversation. A typical old Japanese style hut with a thatched roof was used as the enclosure. In another nearby shed, Akira and Sgt Harry Okano were initially assigned to listen in on the conversation of two prisoners and turn in daily reports. At first the prisoners were very reserved and curious as to why they were confined in the hut. As the days wore on the conversation became more relaxed and they began to speak about topics of personal matters, home situations but very little discussion about military subjects. Several different prisoners were used but Akira learned later that this experiment was not very productive and was discontinued.

Also in June 1945, Akira had an opportunity to witness and to photograph a wedding ceremony between a captured Japanese prisoner, a Major Umezawa and a Korean comfort girl. The reason that General Buckner granted permission for the wedding was because the major had been so cooperative in supplying military intelligence.

In July 1945, Akira was returning from another portion of the island when they located an abandoned enemy supply dump. Being curious, Akira found a box of Japanese army uniforms and gathered a complete set of private first class uniform and an Arisaka rifle complete with a bayonet attached. Back at the detachment's home base, Akira decided to wear the Japanese uniform and clown around with the MIS group. This turned out to be a near fatal mistake because an urgent message arrived to investigate enemy military documents which was reported to have been located. Lt. Boggs randomly selected Sgt Stanley Ito, Tom Matsumoto and Akira to board a jeep to this unknown destination. On foot, they came to a rocky embankment leading to a cave where there was a small cloud of smoke emitting from a small hole near the embankment. Akira separated from the group to check out the source of the smoke and came upon three American soldiers and a lieutenant scouting the area. Akira called out to get their attention and three rifles swung toward him. Akira suddenly realized that he was still wearing the Japanese uniform! Frantically, Akira yelled, "don't shoot"! The lieutenant

Akira who he was and why was he wearing a Japanese uniform. The lieutenant continued to question Akira and asked him to translate what was written on a cylindrical object that he was holding. From the distance, Akria recognized the object as an incendiary bomb and answered back Sho-i-dan. At that moment, Lt Boggs became worried and came looking for Akira. The lieutenant told Lt. Boggs that moments before they had shot and killed a naked Japanese person suspected of being a soldier who had waken from a nap and tried to escape.

A Japanese army nurse, Sueko Nishikado, 21 years old, decided to cross the fron line and surrender. As she walked through a tall cane field, an American soldier spotted the cane swaying and gave a voice command to halt but there was no response. When the cane began swaying again the soldier opened fire with his BAR. At the aid station where Akira happened to be, the nurse was brought in with several bullet wounds from shoulder to hip and still alive. Miraculously, she survived.

In August, Akira was assigned to hunt documents and to search the caves near the cliff of Mabuni area. When he glanced toward the sea, he saw a Japanese soldier searching for food. Akira challanged him with a voice command which sounded like "ooiii"! The soldier ran like a scared rabbit and Akira, who only had a carbine shot at him wanting only to wound him so he could capture him as a prisoner. Akira saw the bullets hitting the sand very close to the soldier's heels and the soldier suddenly tripped, Akira thought over a rock and then disappeared. When Akira checked the area there were drops of blood on the sand. Later, Akira was sent to a POW compound for interrogation. At this time, Akira asked for the prisoners residency in Japan and they responded very quickly. The list which was separated by prefecture and village was easy to research. Akira recognized his parent's prefecture and village, which was Kumamoto-ken, Uto-gun, Shiranohi village. Akira asked to meet a soldier from this area and he turned out to be a Sgt. N Tsushida. It turned out that this soldier was a cousin to Akira's family friend. Akira saw that this soldier was limping and so he asked him what happened. The soldier said that he was shot by an American soldier near Mabuni cliff! Akira never admitted to him that he was the American who had shot at the soldier!

Upon Akira's departure from Okinawa, the POW's in the compound presented him with a souvenir. The pow's had drawn and painted pictures of Okinawa and provided Akira with a collection.

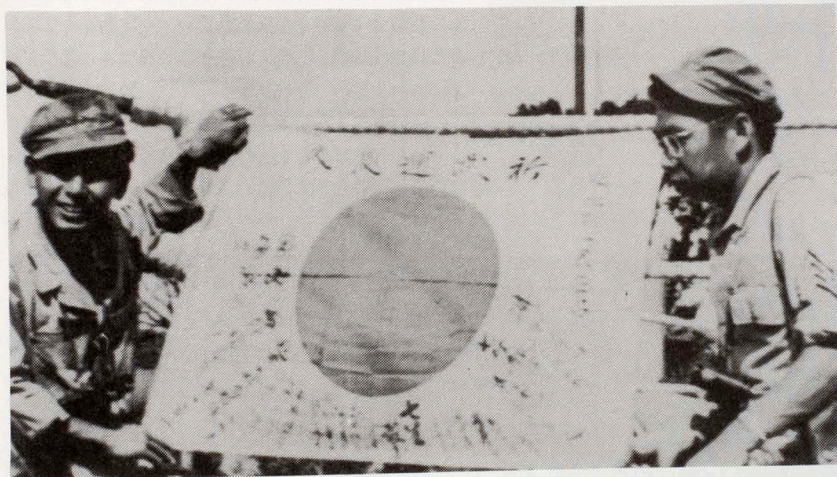
On August 6, 1945, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The 303rd language detachment had heard rumors that Hiroshima was targetted for bombing but they did not know that it was the atomic bomb. A few days later, a cablegram arrived for Akira from Minneapolis that a baby girl, Karen Mieko was born to Chieko on the same day as the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. With the aid of POW Sgt Tsushida, Akira located a old demolished distillery. They found a clay urn filled with well aged sweet potatoe whiskey. They loaded the urn onto a jeep and Akira invited several MIS units to help Akira celebrate the birth of his daughter.

On September 7, 1945 there was a signing of a peace treaty for the Ryuku Islands. The signing was held on the island of Okinawa. Akira witnessed this ceremony and has photographs of the event.

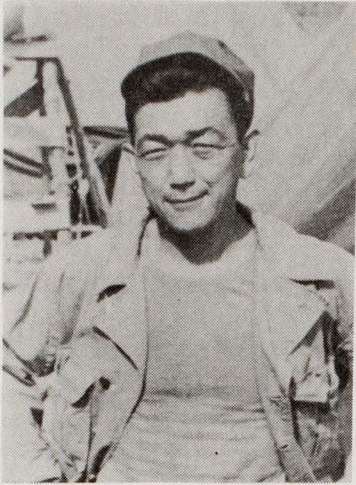
In October 1945, Akira was sent to Miyako-jima for a mop-up assignment. He was ready to leave when a severe weather warning was issued. Answering a desperate rescue broadcast by the Miyako radio dispatcher, an Army pilot heard the message and landed to pick up Akira. Upon his return to Okinawa, the wind velocity was so severe that Akira saw a corrugated roof metal flying through the air like a large blade and sliced through a running soldier! Sgt Oda and Akira tried to fasten the tent pegs with a sledge hammer but that was a losing cause. Akira finally suggested that they escape into an Okinawan family tomb which were concrete structures scattered throughout the islands. They ran to the nearest tomb, removed the heavy stone door and crept inside. Once inside, they replaced the door to stop the wind noise. After lighting a candle, they could see that the tomb was neat and clean inside. There were shelves arranged like stairs with 3 steps along the length of the tomb. On these steps were placed urns filled with the many generations of the bones of the families. They placed blankets on the clean floors and slept peacefully with the bones!

In October 1945, Akira was asked to escort the first shipload of POW's to Japan. He had the choice of escorting the POW's or accepting a discharge. Because Akira already had earned 125 points and was told that it could take up to a year longer for a discharge if he escorted the POW's to Japan, he elected to accept a discharge.

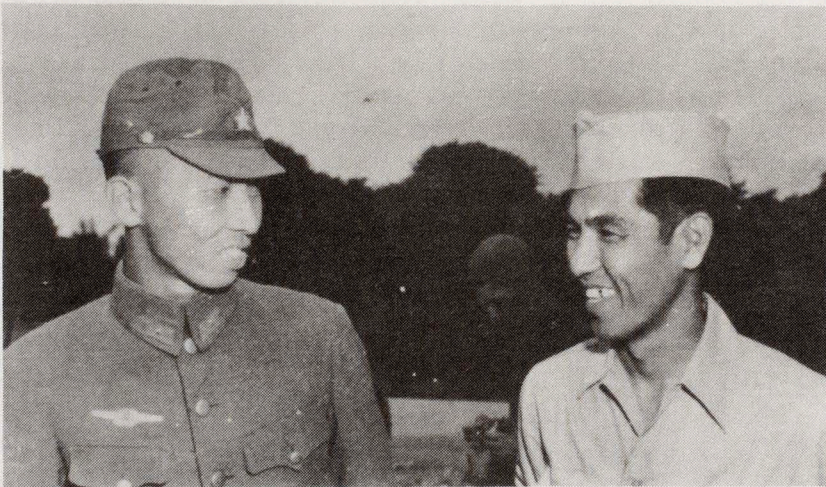
In December 1945, Akira sailed for Seattle, WA. From Seattle enroute to Camp McCoy, WS, Akira developed an infection in his hand and had to be hospitalized in Minneapolis. In January 1946, Akira received his honorable discharge and mustering out pay. He joined his wife and daughter in Minneapolis and headed for Denver, CO to join his parents who had just been released from the Gila River, AZ internment camp.



Above, Akira Nakamura and Harry Okano on Okinawa, September 1945 with a captured Japanese battleflag. At above right, Akira dressed in a Japanese private's uniform complete with a new Arisaka rifle and bayonet. This stunt nearly cost Akira his life when he dashed off to investigate captured enemy documents but forgot that he was still wearing the Japanese uniform. He was confronted by American soldiers who began questioning Akira. It took the intercession of Akira's commanding officer to rescue him from these American soldiers!



Above left, Sgt. Warren 'Pop' Sakuma, a team leader of the 303rd Language Detachment, assigned to the 10th Army. This unit was in on the Okinawa campaign. Above right, more members of the 303rd Language Detachment on clean up detail. From left to right, Tom Matsumoto, Warren Sakuma, Robert Oda and Akira Nakamura.

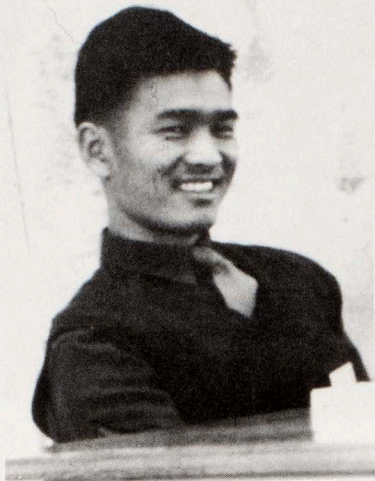


At left, Robert Oda with the pilot of the Japanese airplane that brought a negotiating team for the surrender of the Ryukus Islands. Robert Oda was the chief interpreter for General Joe Stilwell for these surrender ceremonies. The Ryukus Islands were under the command of Japanese LG. Toshiro Nomi. Representatives from the Japanese navy and army took part in the Negotiations.

At right, MG Toshiro Taga representing LG Toshiro Nomi with his Japanese interpreter and an American interpreter at the negotiations for the surrender of the Ryukus Islands. The 303rd Language Detachment played a key role in these negotiations and the subsequent surrender of the Japanese forces.



## Ichiro Nishida



Ichiro Nishida was born in Wiley City, WA and at age three, he and his family were enroute to Japan for a visit when his mother unexpectedly passed away onboard ship. His father had no choice but to leave Ichiro and his younger brother Kaoru with their grandparents in Japan. They received their first education in Japan. Ichiro returned to the United States and went to high school in Wapato, WA. He was working for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit when he was drafted and inducted into the Army in June 1941. He was first stationed at Fort Lewis, WA with the Rainbow Division.

In the fall of 1941, the MIS was organized and situated at the Presidio of San Francisco. Ichiro was asked to be a member of the first group and was assigned to the Presidio in October 1941. The class was completed in the spring of 1942 and the selected members were sent to Camp Savage, MN. It had originally been an Old Men's Home and Ichiro remembered that it took a lot of cleaning to make the place habitable.

The first group at Camp Savage had among it civilian members; Aiso, Oshida, Tekawa, Tanimoto and Itami. In the military were Nishida, Uratsu, Sakamoto, Tanizawa, Nishita, Tagami, Chagami, Matsumura, Masuda, Kaneko and others. Ichiro's younger brother, Kaoru, was a member of the first graduating class at Savage and was sent to the New Guinea area.

In May 1942, all Japanese and Japanese Americans were evacuated from the West Coast and interned in relocation centers. In the fall of 1942, Ichiro, G. Ichikawa and R. Hirano were sent to all internment centers and other centers of Japanese population to recruit for the MISLS.

In February 1943, Terry was able to obtain a release to relocate and she joined Ichiro in Minneapolis and they were married at the Fort Snelling Chapel in March 1943. G. Uratsu was the best man and Stella Kishi was Matron of Honor.

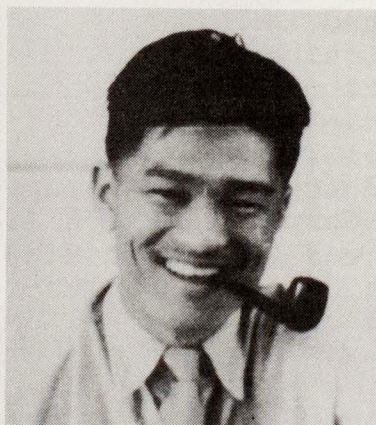
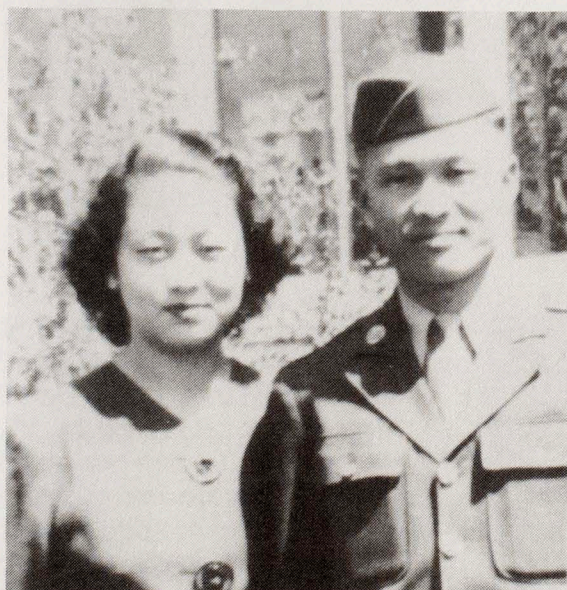
In May 1944, the Savage organization had outgrown the small area at Camp Savage and a decision was made to transfer MISLS to Fort Snelling, MN. Very shortly after the move, Ichiro transferred to PACMIRS at Camp Richie, MD a highly secret and restricted installation with headquarters at the Pentagon. Their son, Jim was born in Waynesboro, PA in February 1945.

When the war with Japan ended, Ichiro was slated to go to Japan but decided to end his military service and was discharged in November 1945 and accepted a civil service position at Wright-Patterson Air Field.

Ichiro had a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Chicago Technical Institute but his first love was the land and he was engaged in farming at Two Buttes, CO where he suffered a massive coronary and passed away in January 1964.

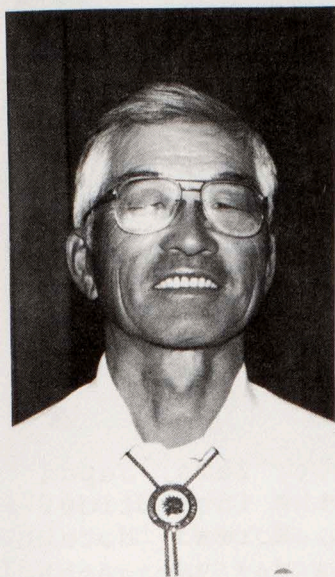


Historic photograph of the first MISLS group at Camp Savage, MN. Of those who can be identified are: Back row, left to right, David Watanabe, James Tanizawa, Gene Uratsu, Ronald Chagimi, unidentified, Munehata, Oshida, Akira Itami, Ichiro Nishida, Tom Sakamoto, Jimmy Matsumura, Ryoichi Shinoda, Arthur Kaneko and Johnny Kawaichi. Middle row, first three unidentified, Yamada(?), Tsubahira, Tom Fujimoto, unidentified, Kai Rasmussen, John Aiso, unidentified, unidentified, Dick McCennon(?), Kumamoto and unidentified. Front row, Joe Masuda, Ken Tagami, Morio Nishita and unidentified. Many of these in the military stayed on to become instructors including Ichiro Nishida.



At left, Ichiro Nishida with his wife, Terumi (Terry) at Camp Savage 1943. Above, Ichiro Nishida at Savage 1942 and 1943. Being educated in Japan, Ichiro was one of the first to be recruited for the newly formed MISLS at the Presidio of Monterey, CA. The first group eventually moved in 1942 to Camp Savage, MN partially because Minnesota was considered to be more hospitable to the Japanese Americans.

Hugh M. Nishimoto

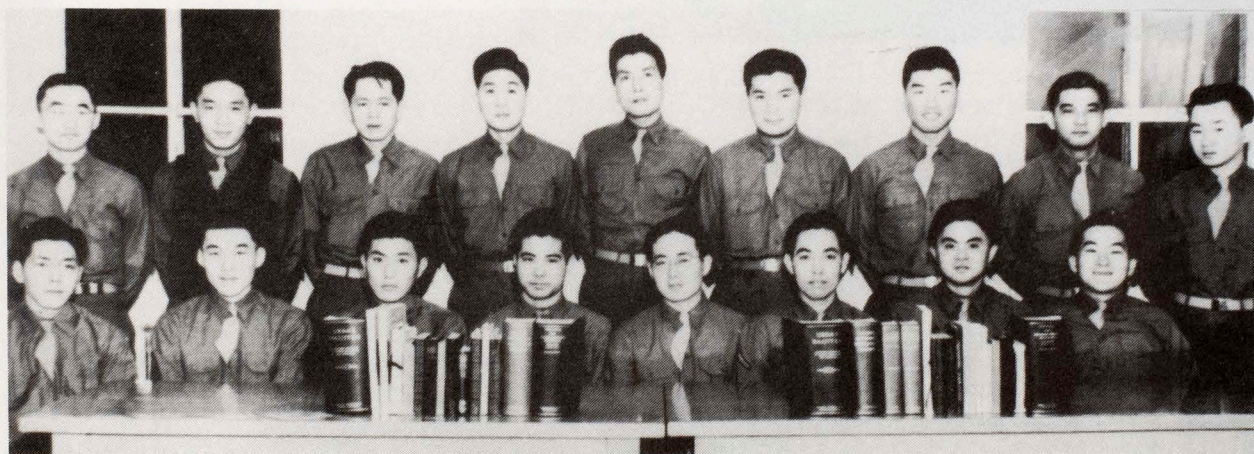


Hugh M. Nishimoto was born in Fort Lupton, CO. He received his elementary education at the Wheeler Grammer School, a one-room school house. He graduated from Platteville High School in 1941. Hugh's Japanese education consisted of 8 years summer school at Fort Lupton and he also spent 2 years in Tokyo at the Nichibei Home.

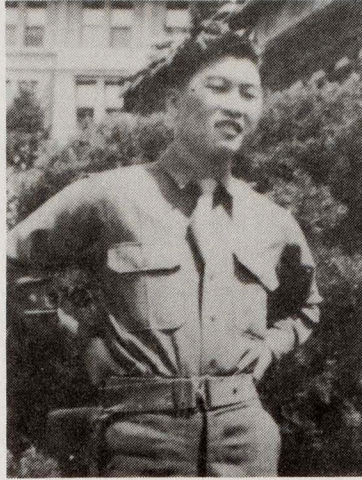
Hugh was inducted into the Army in August 1944 at Fort Logan, CO and received 6 weeks basic training at Camp Blanding, FL. In November 1944, Hugh was transferred to Fort Snelling, MN where was assigned to Company F under a Lt. Kosaka. (Editor's note: Hugh was assigned to Class B-1 of the December 1944 term.)

After studying the Japanese language for 6 months at Fort Snelling, Hugh was shipped out in July 1945 bound for Manila in the Philippines but the ship had to stop in Hawaii for repairs and took 30 days to reach Manila. After 2 months in the Philippines, Hugh was sent to the 4th Replacement Depot at Zama, Japan and then on to Tokyo where he was assigned to the NYK Building. From Tokyo, Hugh was transferred to Seoul, Korea and assigned to the 25th CID of the XXIV Corps. After a relatively uneventful military career, Hugh was discharged in November 1946 at Camp Beale, CA.

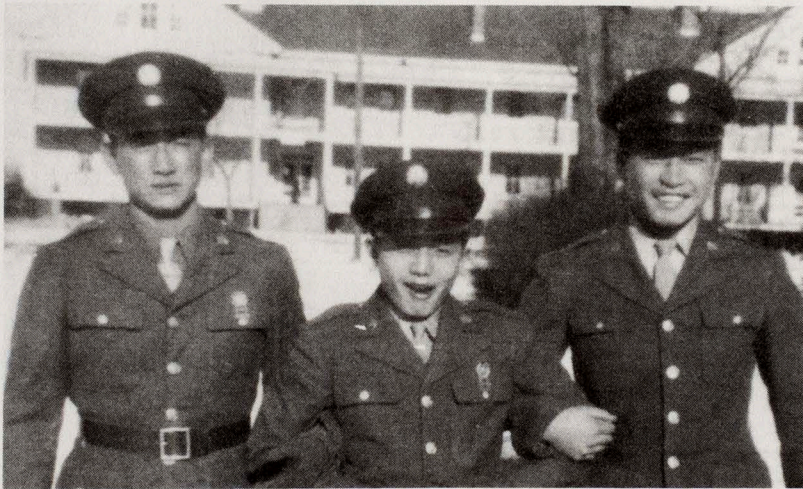
In civilian life, Hugh spent 2 years in Chicago as a student and apprentice in automobile mechanics. In 1948, Hugh moved back to Colorado and worked as an automobile mechanic until 1952. In 1953, he married his wife Alice and then worked at the North Denver Automotive until 1965. From 1965 to 1983, Hugh operated a service station in Westminster. He retired in June 1983. Avid golfers, Hugh and Alice play golf at every opportunity throughout the year.



Members of Class B-1 of the December 1944 Term at Fort Snelling. Back row, left to right, Frank Imani, N. Kami, M. Baba, Ken Kuwabara, S. Ochi, Y. Nakayama, Hugh Nishimoto, K. Akamine and Izumi (?). Front row, T. Hosokawa, Y. Watanabe, M. Yamada, H. Ishida, J. Harada, T. Fujitami, M. Morita and R. Nakano. (Note: Izumi is listed as H. Miyagishima in the MISLS album.)



At left, Hugh Nishimoto at the 4th Replacement Depot, Zama, Japan during a field inspection. We assume Hugh passed the inspection! Center, Hugh at the 25th CID Headquarters in Seoul, Korea. Note the sidearm! Right, Company F, Fort Snelling, back Kaz Yamaguchi, Joe Akiyama, front, Harley Fujimoto and Hugh Nishimoto.

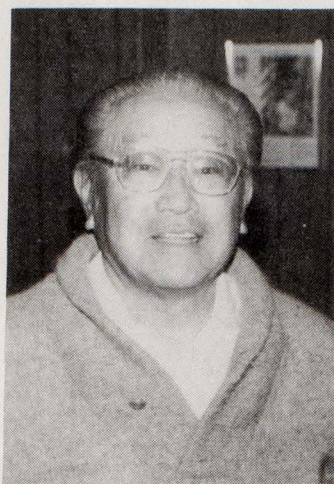


At left, Harley Fujimoto, Ault, CO, Kazuo Yamaguchi, New York and Hugh Nishimoto, Fort Lupton, CO. This photograph was taken at Fort Snelling, MN and is from the collection of Joe Akiyama. These incidents indicate how the paths of the various MIS veterans often passed through the common experience of language.

At right, Ted Matsu-shima, Tom Mishima and Hugh Nishimoto in Seoul, Korea. This photograph was taken by the proprietor of a camera shop in front of his shop. Presumably all are members of the 25th CID Headquarters.



## John Tomatsu Noguchi



John Noguchi was born in Salinas, CA in December 1917. He completed his elementary and high school education in Salinas. He also completed Salinas Junior College and attended San Francisco State College (now the University of San Francisco) for four years, completing his studies in 1942.

John's education in Japanese consisted of daily classes after regular school, 4:00 to 5:30 pm for a period of about 10 years. The classes were taught by Buddhist priests.

John and his family were evacuated during World War II to Camp NO. 2 in Poston, AZ. He volunteered for the Army from the camp and was inducted June 1944 at Fort Logan, CO. He was taking basic training at Camp Blanding, FL (208th Bn, CO A) when he was called into the commander's office and told that he was to report to Fort Snelling, MN for Japanese language training. John stresses that he did not volunteer for the language training. AT Fort Snelling, John was assigned to Class A-7 of the December 1944 Term. He lived in the 'Turkey Farm' and took language training for 9 months. John was also married at the chapel at Fort Snelling.

After completing his language training, John was granted a two-week furlough and then was shipped out of San Pedro, CA. He recalls passing the Catalina Islands and the circuitous route through the Aleutians, the Marshall Islands and then on to Manila in the Philippines. He landed in Manila just after the end of the war with Japan. He was assigned to the Allied Translators and Interrogators Section (ATIS) in Manila. In Manila, John was stationed at the Santa Ana race tracks and slept there in tents and cots. He remembers the large mosquitos and lizards at the compound.

In Manila, John was assigned odd jobs of interrogations. Meanwhile groups of Nisei's were being shipped out by ship and plane. John was finally sent by ship to Yokohama with a full field pack. Landing in Yokohama, John recalls being surrounded by mobs of Japanese civilians looking at the American troops coming in. John heard Japanese conversations assuming that the Nisei's were Chinese soldiers. John and his group were sent by 6x6 trucks to Tokyo to the NYK building where they opened up the ATIS in Tokyo. The American troops who first occupied the building were unfamiliar with the Japanese style toilets and John remembers the mess they made! Being overcome by curiosity, John and a friend, Bob Oki from Seattle, ventured out into the streets of Tokyo to look around. John recalls the strange feeling of being surrounded by crowds of Japanese. Finally, two men approached John and asked for American cigarettes.

From ATIS, John and a group of about 25 Nisei's were transferred out to Kyushu. He recalls a stop in Hiroshima and remembers being able to see across the city to the ocean because all of the buildings were smashed. In Kyushu, John was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division in Sasebo with an investigation team. After a period in Sasebo, John and another Nisei was transferred by Navy ship to China by way of Inchon, Korea. John entered China near the mouth of the Yellow River by a city named Changzhou. There he boarded a Chinese troop train and traveled some 60 miles inland.

Enroute he saw many mounds in the fields and wondered what they were. He later found out that these mounds were burial sites because the Chinese did not bury their dead underground. At Shizuhuang, John was assigned to the 1st Marine Division and reported to a Commander Hipple. John asked Commander Hipple why he was sent to China because he didn't speak Chinese but the Commander didn't know either. John finally found out why he was sent to China. There were orders for John and another Nisei to escort a full battalion of Japanese prisoners back to Sasebo. Enroute back to Sasebo, the Navy wanted the prisoners to perform certain ships duties such as cleaning and chipping paint. So John told the commanding Japanese officer, a Colonel what the Navy wanted, the Colonel told the Captains who told the Lieutenant who told the noncommissioned officers who told the troops, just like in any military unit, John thought.

Returning to Sasebo, John was reassigned to the 2nd Marine Division where their primary duties were to locate and dispose of munitions. When the 92nd Military Government Team (Army) took over from the Marines, John was reassigned to the Army. John took advantage of an offer of a furlough to any Nisei who had relatives in Japan and in 1946 went to his mother's home in Okayama. He was cautioned not to eat any of the Japanese food because the people were starving so he took his rations with him. He noted that the women in particular were scared of the American troops and usually ran into their homes and shut the door.

In 1946, John was eligible for discharge and went from Sasebo to Tokyo and then by ship to Seattle. He was discharged at Camp Stollman and then returned to Denver. The highest military rank that John held was Staff Sergeant.

In civilian life, John worked for the Modern Music Company and was planning to return to California when the company asked him to stay on for a few days because qualified help was hard to find. The few days turned into 38 years. Being a stock company, John purchased shares in the company and finally took over the juke box end of the business. John retired in 1981.

#### Incidents

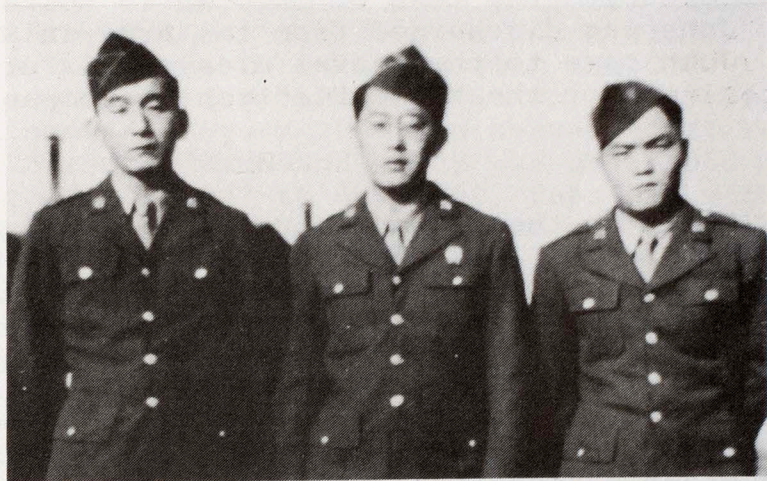
In Manila, John recalls sleeping on cots in tents at the race tracks. One night in complete darkness, a buddy calls to John and said that something is crawling on him. Upon lighting a candle, John spots a large lizard on his buddy and hit it with a rifle butt. They later learned that the lizards are numerous and harmless.

In China, John was able to borrow some money from his commander and because one American dollar was worth 10,000 yaun, he was able to buy almost anything. A crock of the finest Russian vodka was about 50¢ and John enjoyed himself every night and was escorted by the SP's back to his cot.

While escorting the Japanese battalion back to Sasebo, John recalls that a person in a Japanese corporal's uniform called out his name and John recognized him as a Ben Takahashi who went to Junior College and San Francisco State with John. Ben's father, a successful lettuce grower had returned to Japan and because Ben had dual citizenship he was drafted into the Japanese army and spent three years in China. John later learned that Ben had started an import/export business and during a trip to Tokyo, John looked him up and had dinner with him.



Class A-7, December 1944 Term, February 1945, standing, left to right, MSgt Yoshio Nakazawa, Jack Nisogi, Banji Hamasaka, Hugh T. Muranaka, Kiyo Iwafuchi(?), John Noguchi, Masami James Kawamura, Warren Isa, Iwao Yamaguchi and Jimmie Shiode. Seated, Hideo Akagi, Sam Mori, Tony Arashiro, Shig Yamaki, Toshio Tofu Fujimoto(?), Richard Jeniye, Masahi Bessho, Kaiji Chikamura and Hachiro Masunaga. (Editor's note: The MISLS album lists a M. Yoshino who is not shown)

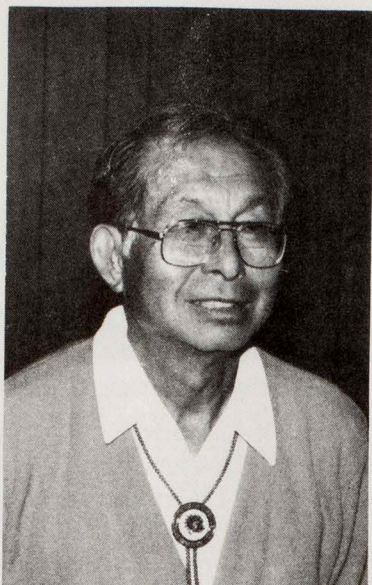


At left, John Noguchi hitting the books at Fort Snelling. Right, unidentified, John Noguchi and 'Jeep' Nakano at Fort Snelling.



John with some 'big' shots at Sasebo where he worked with the 2nd Marine Division disposing of munitions. At right, John with some more 'big' shots in a more peaceful setting. John is standing, second from the left surrounded by friends.

## John Oya



John Oya was born in Salt Lake City, UT in January 1921. However, he grew up and received his education in Los Angeles, CA. After Pearl Harbor, he and his family were moved to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center. John was inducted into the Army in May 1944 at Fort Logan, CO and sent to Fort McClellan, AL for his basic training. After basic training, John was selected and sent to Fort Snelling, MN for Japanese language training. He was assigned to Company G.

After graduating from MISLS in Fort Snelling, John was assigned overseas to Manila and the Cebu Islands in the Philippines. There he was assigned to the 77th Infantry Division, 312th Intelligence Detachment as an interrogator. After the end of the war in the Pacific, the 77th Division occupied Hokkaido, Japan. John was then assigned to the 307th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion which occupied the town of Muroran in Hokkaido.

John was discharged from the Army in May 1946 at Fort Douglas, UT. John came to the Denver area and is presently employed as a controller for the Ragon Electronics Company.

## Incident

While on the island of Cebu, John's duties were primarily to interrogate the Japanese prisoners of war. In one incident, John was interrogating a Pvt. Muranaka. The prisoner handed John a sealed envelope addressed to his family residing in Hokkaido in the town of Muroran. The war was still in progress at that time and John had no idea that he might be able to visit Muroran at some time. Ironically, John's outfit did occupy Hokkaido and he was assigned to a regiment that occupied Muroran! John was busy with other duties so he turned the letter over to the local Chief of Police of Muroran who told John that the letter had been delivered to the Muranaka family who had not heard from their father and husband for over three years. John said that his only regret was that he did not deliver the letter personally because he did not hear from the Muranaka family.



John Oya's class at MISLS. John is second from the left, back row.

## Hayami Russ Sato



Hayami Russ Sato was born in Pahoia, HI. He attended Pahoia Elementary School and he also had 8 years of Japanese language training at the Pahoia Nihongo Gakko. From June 1934 to December 1943, Russ worked for the Olaa Sugar Company in Hawaii.

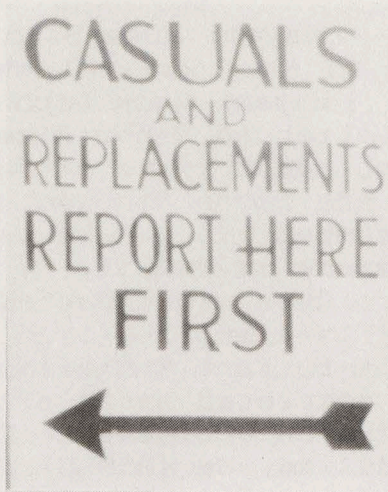
Russ was inducted into the Army in January 1944 at Schofield Barracks, HI and was sent to Fort McClellan, AL for basic training. He completed basic training in February 1945 and then was sent to Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, MN (MISLS) for Japanese language training from February to June 1945.

After completing Japanese language training, Russ was first assigned to ATIS in Manila, Philippines from June to July 1945. In August 1945, Russ was assigned to the 511th Parachute Infantry, 11th Airborne Division and stayed with this unit from the Philippines to Okinawa and then on to Japan. From October 1945 to April 1946, Russ was assigned to the Army Counterintelligence Corps (CIC). He worked in the Iwate and Akita prefectures while with the CIC. In April 1946, Russ was separated from the Army at Fort Shafter, HI. However, Russ reenlisted in August 1946 and served until February 1947 with the 11th Airborne Division which was stationed at Sapporo in Hokkaido. From March 1947 to May 1950, Russ was with the 441st CIC in Hokkaido, Japan. In May 1950, Russ was separated again at Fort Shafter, HI.

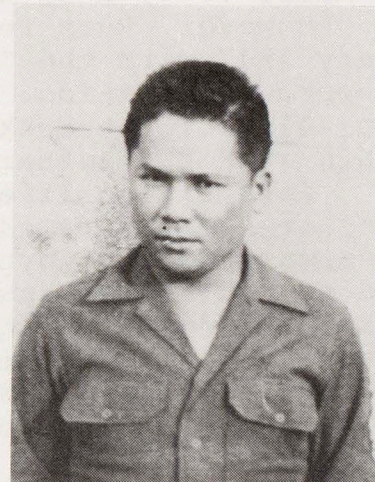
In civilian life, Russ worked with the Oahu Construction Company in Hawaii from June 1950 to December 1951. In January 1952, Russ was employed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and served in Washington, D.C. and the Far East until November 1970. Leaving federal service, Russ worked with the Green Thumb Inc., a landscaping company in Honolulu from December 1970 to May 1984. He retired in May 1984 and currently lives in Lakewood, CO.

### Incidents

Russ says that he will never forget the last week in August 1945 for as long as he lives. On August 25th Russ flew from Okinawa to the Atsugi Naval Air Station in Japan as a member of the advance party of the 11th Airborne Division. Russ says that he was quite apprehensive not knowing what to expect from the recent enemy. Fortunately, the U.S. personnel encountered no resistance from the Japanese although there were about a hundred or more Japanese Naval personnel standing at attention with their backs to the Americans. Russ recalls that he was overcome with emotion as he realized that he was standing on the land of his ancestors and the birthplace of his parents. On August 26th, the 11th Airborne entered Yokohama and Russ saw that the B-29 bombers had reduced that city to ashes. On August 28th, Russ visited Tokyo and saw that that city had suffered the same fate. Russ adds that he had the good fortune of serving in Japan after the war and watched the nation rise from the ashes to a strong economic and democratic nation.



At left, Osami Yamamoto and Hayami 'Russ' Sato at Camp Savage, February 1944. It's a good thing the Army had coats long enough for Russ! Above, Russ Sato at Fort Shafter, HI, April 1946 just prior to his first separation from the Army.



Above, 11th Airborne Division Rest Camp, Sapporo, Hokkaido, November 1946, Russ with some waitresses. Above right, Russ at the 11th Airborne Division Hdq., October 1946. At right, Russ Sato checks the sign at the 11th Airborne Division Rest Camp, November 1946. This was Russ's second tour in the Army.



## Steve Sugano



Steve was born in the United States but was sent to Japan from age 5 to 10. He went through the 3rd grade in Japan and continued his Japanese education here in the United States by attending Nihongo Gakko for a few years during the summer months. Steve enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941 and was in Jefferson Barracks when the war broke out. He was then subjected to the now familiar treatment of mistrust of all Japanese Americans and was shipped from station to station. He was eased out of the Air Corps and then went to Camp Savage in early 1944. (Editor's note: Steve was assigned to Class D-5 of the February 1944 term at Camp Savage.) After graduating Camp Savage in November 1944, Steve was assigned to an experimental Signal Intelligence unit in Fort Monmouth, NJ. He was

being shipped to the Far East at the time of Hiroshima and then he spent some time at Okinawa. Steve was then sent to Keijo, Korea to assist in the process of changing the leadership from Japanese to Korean. On an informal basis, Steve helped Japanese families being sent back to Japan from Korea. Steve left Seoul (Keijo) on New Years Day and was discharged from Fort Logan, CO in January 1946.

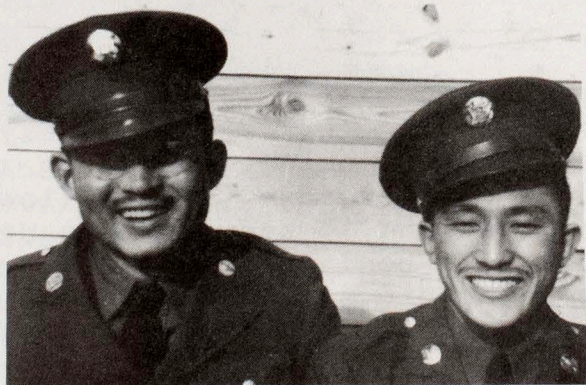
### Incidents

A Japanese family (mother and daughter) was being badgered by an off-duty MP who demanded that they give him a sword. The Japanese told the MP that they had none because the swords had been confiscated before but the MP did not believe them and threatened to return that night. Steve waited for him and the MP did return. Steve argued with the MP and finally convinced him to return. This was quite a feat because the MP was armed and Steve was not!

Steve Sugano accompanied his Major to the bank to get the payroll. The Major had forgotten his brief case in the car but merely asked Steve to watch over the brief case. Steve observed a young fellow who passed the car and looked at the brief case. The fellow went passed the car but turned and came back and looked at the case again. He left but returned again, this time behind the car and grabbed the brief case. Steve and the Major caught the fellow and brought him back to the bank. Their thoughts were to release him but the bank officials insisted that the fellow be taken to the police. The fellow begged to be released but Steve and the Major had no choice but to take him to the police station. At the station, Steve and the Major suggested that the police be lenient with the youth who had just been released by the Japanese Army from a Korean labor battalion and he had no money or food.

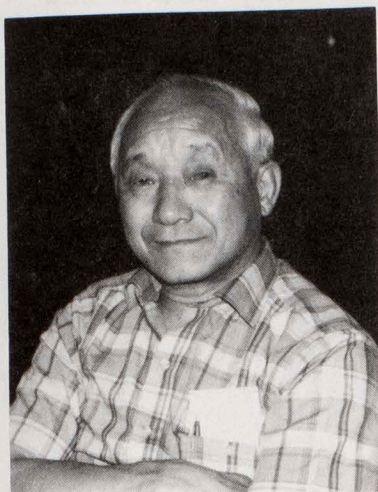


Members of the experimental 3795th Signal Intelligence Detachment Fort Monmouth, NJ, May 1945. Nearly half of the members are Japanese Americans. Their names and home towns are listed as: Hank Obata, Chicago, IL, George Shima, Chicago, IL, Robert Seki, Honolulu, HI, Harry Nakabayashi, Honolulu, HI, 'Pee Wee' I. Tsuda, San Pedro, CA, Akira Yatabe, Minneapolis, MN, Mits(?) Tanaka, Santa Ana, CA, Paul Fukushima, Odgen, UT, Ted Yamaoka, Holland, MI, Joe Umemoto (unlisted), Sueo Hirashima, Santa Barbara, CA, Joe Sasaki Naalehu Kau, HI, Joe Uyeno, Fort Lupton, CO, Frank Sagara, Mount Clemens, MI, Mits Yoneji, Lihue, Kawai, HI, Hiro Nakashima, Seattle, WA, Sateshi Tsuchica, Auburn, WA, Duke(?) Takeuchi, Sacramento, CA, Fujio Terakami, Heart Mountain, WY, Yukio Shigai, San Juan Mountain, CA, Stephen Sugano (unlisted), Richard Oshiro, Mountain View, HI and Bill Nakayama, Minneapolis, MN.



At left, Steve Sugano with Johnny Mokomatsu of Hood River, OR in their earlier recruit days. Steve does not indicate where this photograph was taken.

Takashi 'Tak' Sunata



Takashi 'Tak' Sunata was born in Glenrock, WY in 1922. Tak's dad worked for the railroad in Wyoming. At the age of one, Tak and his family moved to the Brighton, CO area where they operated a pool hall for a time and then turned to farming. Tak completed his elementary education in the Brighton area, Eastlake, Riverdale and others and graduated from the Fort Lupton High School in 1940. Tak went to the local Japanese school for 4 years where they had classes during the summer months when the regular schools were on vacation.

After graduating from high school, Tak returned to farming and was held out from the military service because of an agricultural deferment until he was drafted in January 1945.

Tak was inducted at Fort Lewis, MO and completed his basic training at Camp Blanding, FL. From Camp Blanding, Tak was sent to Fort Meade, MD for advanced infantry training where his unit was designated to go to Europe as a unit. Tak recalls that he was restricted to the base and had only one pass to Washington, D.C.

While at Fort Meade, the war in Europe came to an end and so Tak went for an interview to go to the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS). Tak said he knew a few words of Japanese and was accepted and went to Fort Snelling, MN in July 1945 where he was enrolled in Class F-1. After completing language training, Tak was sent to Fort Lewis, WA for deployment to the Pacific Theater. He shipped out on the converted liner Ernie Pyle and landed in Yokohama. In Japan, Tak stayed at the 4th Replacement Depot in Zama, Japan for about 3 weeks waiting assignment. While at the 4th Repl. Depot, Tak was interviewed for the paratroops when he volunteered for the Airborne Corps.

Tak took his airborne training at Sendai, Japan. He remembers that this was a crash course of only 2 or 3 weeks. For jump training, the unit had to wait for a C-47 transport from Tokyo. Each day the troops would wait to see if the winds were favorable and then they would have to wait for another day. During these tests, dummies or live animals were dropped to check on the wind conditions. Tak remembers that on one day the C-47 dropped what was not a dummy or an animal. The jump was not successful and later the unit heard that there was a human casualty. Then the class of nearly 450 men dropped almost into half. With 26 men taking jump training at one time on the old C-47, it took a long time to complete the jump training. After jump training, Tak was assigned to the 472nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 11th Airborne Division and was stationed at Yamagata Shi. Tak stayed at Yamagata for his entire tour from February to October 1945.

The paratroop duties included checking on U.S. military personnel who had been discharged in Japan and inspecting factories and foundries. Tak remembers that the Japanese civilians were leery of the Nisei. Tak also remembers the deep snows in this northern region. All the houses had round holes in the roofs. When Tak asked what these holes were for, he was told that the holes were used as an exit in case of deep snows covering the doors. Tak also remembers that the local railroads were used to transport their military materiel because the snows were too deep on the roads. Tak also remembers that the local cabarets and

dance halls were off-limits to the 11th Airborne because the paratroops caused so much trouble. Tak said that he only met a few families in Japan.

Just before returning to the United States, Tak took a furlough and visited his family's relatives in Okayama Ken. He also knew a family that had farmed in Brighton and had returned to Japan before the war. Tak said that he felt like a stranger to his own family perhaps because his dad had left Japan on bad terms and had not returned to Japan since. Tak said that after the war, his mother and sister went to Okayama and had a good time.

After his furlough, Tak returned to San Francisco and on to Camp Beale where he was discharged in November 1946. He farmed for a while but then moved to the Denver area where he worked on a number of jobs. Currently, Tak works for a delivery company.

### Incidents

Tak remembers the charcoal fired trucks in postwar Japan. These trucks seemed fine until they reached a hill. Then the driver had to stop, block up the wheels and stoke the burner with more charcoal. Also the trains were sometimes burning wood and would run out of steam and had to be stopped to build up steam pressure. Such were the transportation conditions in postwar Japan.

One day, Tak and some of his buddies went shopping and returned with a basket of eggs and boasted of having scrambled eggs for breakfast. Tak and his friends were staying at a local hotel courtesy of the U.S. Army. After a night at the hotel, the boys tried to scramble the eggs only to find that they were all hard boiled! Because of the lack of refrigeration, the local farmers cooked the eggs to preserve them!

Tak recalls that all of the local cabarets and dance halls in Yamagata were off-limits to the men of the 11th Airborne!. It seems that the men were too enthusiastic in their pursuit of fun and often ended up damaging the premises. Ergo, off-limits to the men of the 11th Airborne. Tak seems to have survived this extreme ordeal without too much wear and tear.

## Jack S. Suzuki



Jack Suzuki was born in Sacramento, CA on March 1914. He attended elementary school in Sacramento and then moved to another location where he completed high school. Jack's Japanese education consisted of daily week-day classes which he attended for 8 years.

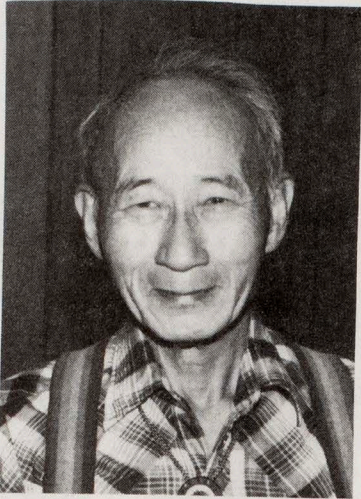
Jack was drafted into the Army in January 1942 and his family was eventually evacuated to the Tule Lake Relocation Center in California. Jack was inducted into the Army at the Presidio of Monterey, CA but was sent to Camp Grant, IL for his medic basic training and was then sent to Fort McClellan, AL for his infantry basic training. From Fort McClellan, Jack was sent to Fort Sheridan, IL where he and the other Nisei's were just waiting around and finally Jack was selected for the MISLS at Camp Savage, MN. (Editor's note: Jack was with Class C-5 of the February 1944 term at Camp Savage.) He completed his Japanese language training at Fort Snelling, MN and was then sent to the CBI (China, Burma, India) theater of operations. There Jack was attached to the 157th Language Team at New Delhi, India. The Team was given captured documents for translation. Jack also served with the British South East Asia Interrogation Center. His duties outside of New Delhi were in Rangoon, Burma, Singapore and Malaya with a brief sojourn at Penang and Saigon. The trip to Singapore was through the Malacca Straits with Australian and Indian Troops. Jack's service in Singapore was with the British troops.

Jack attained a rank of Technician 3rd Class and was discharged February 1946 at Fort Logan, CO. In Colorado, Jack attended the University of Denver and graduated with a degree in Economics. However, he opened and operated a grocery store in Denver and ran the store for about 40 years. He is currently retired and lives in Denver.

### Incidents

Jack recalls this incident. In New Dehli, he was asked by an Indian Captain to interrogate a group of Japanese Army nurses who had been captured in combat in Burma. The nurses were in pretty bad shape with injuries and in a hospital. Jack recalls that the nurses were terrified because they thought that they would all be executed if captured. Jack gradually gained their confidence and the nurses began to ask for food, particularly fruits. One nurse asked Jack to take a finger back to Japan for her! (Apparently this was a Japanese custom at that time!) Jack also recalls that the nurses looked just like the Japanese men because of their clothing and the fact that they wore no makeup!

## Sumiji 'Jim' Tamaki



Sumiji 'Jim' Tamaki was born in Centerville, CA (now known as Fremont). When he was about 5 years old, his father was injured in a farming accident and unable to farm, the family returned to Japan. Jim went to school in Japan and graduated from the 8th grade. He returned to the United States to live with a relative in Yakima, WA and attended elementary and junior high school there. He then moved to Everett, WA and attended high school for only 3 months but was forced to seek employment. He registered for the draft in 1939 at Seattle, WA but was rejected from military service because of flat feet. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Jim was reclassified for limited service and drafted into the Army at the Presidio of Monterey, CA in January 1942. He received his basic training at Camp Robinson, AR. After basic, he was assigned to the Army Induction Center at Camp Grant, IL and then to the Army Replacement Center at Fort Sheridan, IL. From there, Jim was sent to the MISLS at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, MN but not as a student but as an Army cook! After two years at Fort Snelling, Jim was discharged in 1946 from Camp McCoy, WI. Jim has had various civilian jobs but finally made a career with the Denver Yellow Cab Company where he was an automatic transmission rebuilder from 1954 to 1982. He retired in April 1982.

While at Fort Snelling, Jim was assigned to a troop train carrying soldiers from Fort Snelling to the West Coast. On the return trips, the troop train carried Pacific veterans returning from the war for discharge at Camp McCoy, WI. Jim remembers these veterans as the hardest drinking and fightingest group he has ever seen. It seems the biggest argument was who had the most medals!

## Roy T. Terada



Roy Terada was born in Laupahoehoe, HI in January 1919. He completed his elementary education in Hawaii where his instruction in Japanese consisted of classes for one to two hours daily and three hours on Saturdays. He later completed his college education at the University of Denver where he earned a BSBA and MBA.

Roy recalls that he received his draft notice on a Saturday afternoon for induction on the following Monday. To this day Roy wonders if his employer ever found out why he didn't show up for work on that Monday! Roy was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks in December 1940. At boot camp, Roy got a bad feeling about the place when he was assigned to his first guard duty, first shift, Post No. 1. He said that he felt a lot better the second day when he was assigned to the first garbage detail of his new profession. On March 1941, Roy was assigned to Company G, 298th Inf. Bn, Schofield Barracks. In December 1941, Roy was assigned to the S-2 (Intelligence) School at Schofield.

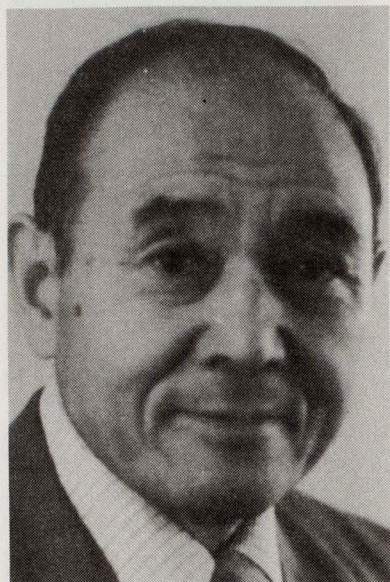
On December 6, 1941, Roy was on maneuvers with his battalion. He was CQ (Charge of Quarters) until 8:00 AM, December 7, 1941. He was relieved at 8:00 AM and eye witnessed the bombing and strafing at Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Field and Pearl Harbor. Roy was then placed on beach patrol at Waimanalo until June 1942. While on patrol, Roy's company captured the first Japanese prisoner. The prisoner was a lieutenant off of a 2-man submarine which ran aground off of Waimanalo and he swam ashore less than 500 yards from where Roy was posted!

In June 1942, Roy was shipped to Camp McCoy, WS through what Roy calls a first class guided tour through Oakland, CA and the heartland of the U.S. and assigned to Company 'B', 100th Inf. Bn. Then in December 1942, Roy was transferred to Camp Savage, MN and assigned to Section 7 of the December 1942 term. In July 1943, Roy was assigned to SCU 1946, Tracey, CA through the Presidio of Monterey by orders of General DeWitt. At SCU 1946, Roy enjoyed 13 months of grueling military regimentation. He worked in air conditioned offices, dined in resort type dining rooms, enjoyed vintage movies every night, there were indoor heated swimming pools, mud bather, tennis courts, voluntary hikes, passes to San Francisco on weekends and two to three furloughs per year. Roy's stay in San Francisco was restricted to designated hotels and private residences. To this day, Roy isn't sure of what they did or accomplished! In August 1944, Roy was reassigned to Fort Snelling, MN. In January 1945, Roy left Fort Snelling with 10 intelligent (Roy's words!) and bewildered GI's of the 3024 Special Headquarters Intelligence Detachment. They boarded a newly commissioned Liberty Ship for destinations unknown. The Liberty Ship docked in Hawaii.

The Special Headquarters Intelligence Detachment was assigned to Fort Shafter, HI. After a month of relaxation, the 3024th consisted of 1 Tech Sgt. (Roy). He fooled around Oahu talking to prisoners of war and civilian prisoners from January to November 1945. He reported for about 4 hours once a week plus a once-a-month requirement to sign a complete payroll voucher with one name on it! By then, Roy had too many points for assignment to Japan.

After 4 years, 10 months and 28 days after the start of his luxurious tour of duty, the Army regretfully requested that Roy terminate his employment with them and go back to the tedious task of earning his own living. Roy's mother was especially happy for his retirement. Roy says that she dreaded seeing the Army issue carbine under his bed whenever she cleaned up. The military had a good deal too. They did not have to house or feed Roy for almost a year. They may not have known that Roy even existed, except on pay days!

Masao Wakimura



Masao Wakimura was born in Seattle, WA and attended elementary school in Tacoma and Sumner, WA. He graduated from Sumner High School in 1936 and was attending Placer Junior College, Auburn, CA when he was drafted into the Army. Masao attended Japanese schools in Tacoma, Sumner and Snoqualmie Falls where there was a sawmill camp. Apparently Japanese from mainland Japan also worked there and they conducted a Japanese school in the evenings.

Masao was inducted into the Army at the Persidio of Monterey, took his basic training at Camp Robinson, AK and was stationed at the Camp Grant, IL Reception Center and Fort Sheridan, IL. He was sent to Camp Savage, MN in February 1944. From Camp Savage, Masao went to Fort Snelling, Company 'C' which was the first graduating class from Fort Snelling. (Editor's note: Masao was assigned to Class B-5 of the February 1944 term.) From Fort Snelling, Masao was sent to POA, Fort Schaefer, HI. From Hawaii, Masao went to Saipan and then to Japan. Masao landed in a regular beach landing at Wakayama with the 98th Infantry Division. The beach landing was necessary because the landing was in September 1945 and the mines had not been cleared from the harbor. Masao served more than 6 years in active duty, 3 of which was overseas in the Pacific.

Masao's military career was very interesting because he was assigned to so many units. As a 2nd Lt. he was assigned to the 25 Infantry Division. While in Japan he saw the devastation of an earthquake in the city of Fukui. Also after his landing, there was a severe storm in Osaka with much flooding. There were bodies in the subway and the Yodo river after the storm. After this, Masao and others were sent by the orders of the commanding general to look for suitable housing for the troops of the 98th Division. Osaka is a large city of about 3½ million people but Masao says that it was a strange and scary feeling to walk down the street with not a soul in sight. Masao knew that eyes were watching him. Eventually, old men and children appeared. The Americans talked to them and gave them cigarettes, chewing gum and candies. The troops all wore helmets, were armed and all looked alike so Masao took off his helmet and put away his gun. The natives were much relieved to learn that Masao was a Nisei and spoke nihongo. Soon, the people learned that the American troops meant no harm and the roads became clogged with people returning to Osaka from the country.

John R. Woods



John R. Woods is from Denver and attended the University of Denver where he studied the Japanese language under the Reverend K. Sasaki of the California Street Methodist Church. During the summer of 1943, John was interviewed by the Navy for their Japanese Language School at Boulder, CO, then by the Army for MISLS and was accepted to start their next class at the University of Michigan. John was inducted into the Army in December 1943 at Fort Logan, CO and then sent to the University of Michigan for one year of Japanese language. One of his instructors at Michigan was Beans Yamamoto of Denver. John was then sent to Fort McClellan, AL for 13 weeks of infantry basic training. In April 1945, John was sent to Fort Snelling, MN for an additional 6 months of language training. He was assigned to Company A. (Editor's note: John was assigned to Class E-6 of the April 1945 Term.) On October 1945, members of John's graduating class were commissioned at 2nd Lt. and sent to Japan. After spending a week at Camp Zama, John was sent to ATIS, GHQ. John lived in the NYK Building until December and then he was assigned to Korea. John was assigned to the 310 Intelligence Detachment which was attached to the 7th Infantry Division, Seoul, Korea. Six months later, John became the commanding officer of the detachment which consisted of 25 Nisei and one Caucasian and a jeep driver. Their headquarters was in Seoul with 3 or 4 outposts along the 38th parallel. One of their first assignments involved the repatriation of the Japanese Army personnel. They had never fired a shot and found it difficult to believe that the war was over. This was followed by the repatriation of Japanese civilians, many of whom had never been to Japan because Japan had occupied Korea since 1904. The main refugee camp had many thousands of people living in tents and on the ground. The Japanese were from all walks of life. John will always remember the wife of an Japanese Air Force General. Her lot was no better than the rest. The Japanese who lived in Seoul were allowed to take with them only possessions that they could carry on their backs. (John often thought of our own Japanese American evacuation from the West Coast. Years later, John was pleased to work with Mrs. Sadako Tsubokawa and Mrs. Ralph Carr in placing a plaque in the Colorado State Capitol Building in the memory of the late Governor Ralph Carr.) The Japanese refugees left their homes and possessions to an unknown fate. They were usually moved at night. The American troops would escort long lines of Japanese, moving down hilly roads, their paper lanterns with flickering candles furnishing the only light. They were assembled at the freight railroad station south of Seoul. The usual procedure of 20 families per boxcar was followed. The Koreans used narrow gauge railroads so that 20 families allowed little or no room. The boxcars were loaded in the cold winter nights and often the trains were not moved for 24 hours or more. The trains would spend several days going to Pusan. There the Japanese were transported to Japan by ship. John's principal duties involved his language training and an attempt to keep some humane conditions for the evacuees. (Years later, John met through Mrs. Tsubokawa, Mr. Maeda and his family. He later became

the Japanese Ambassador to Korea. Their conversation revealed that he and his wife took part in that relocation to Japan.)

The lucky Japanese refugees were able to escape from the north of the 38th parallel. Here John's outpost interrogation teams found a good source of information. The Japanese refugees were followed by Korean refugees. In Seoul, John's efforts were involved with the brutal and destructive activities of the Korean Communist and radical students. This was the time that the Joint Trusteeship was established between the Americans and the Russians and the Five Year Trustee Program that split Korea into two countries. During this time there were anti-American parades and demonstrations directed mainly against Koreans in authority. MIS personnel took part as interpreters in raids against Communist headquarters, newspapers, homes of known Communists, etc. After the refugees stopped coming south alternate sources of information had to be developed. John was the interpreter for the 7th Division Commanding General. This gave John the opportunity to do and see many things that would not have been possible as a translator in Tokyo.

While stationed in Korea, John met some very interesting Koreans including Dr. Syngman Rhee, Korea's first President. John still corresponds with a Korean lady who ran an orphanage girl's school in Seoul. During the Korean War she instituted an evacuation program for the children from Seoul to Cheju Island. A movie, "Battle Hymn" starring Rock Hudson was made about her efforts. She has been honored at the White House in Washington, the United Nations and the Queen of England. She now approaches the age of 90.

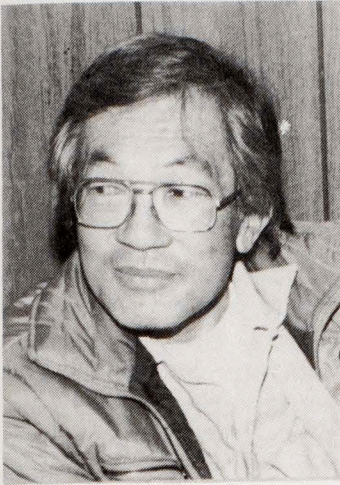
John left Korea in April 1947. He stayed in the active reserve commanding a reserve CIC Detachment. John attended the basic CIC Investigators course in 1949. He retired from the Army after 20 plus years of active and reserve duty as a LTC.



Company 'A' - AIJLS - MISLS

John R. Woods was a member of Company 'A', East Quadrangle, University of Michigan. Photograph was taken December 1943. Commanding Officer was a Capt. Spence shown here in the center of the formation. After one year at Michigan, John was sent to Fort McClellan, AL for basic training and then on to Fort Snelling, MN for additional language training.

Paul H. Yokota



Paul Yokota was born in Los Angeles, CA and received his elementary education there. He was in high school when the war broke out and he was sent to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. He completed his high school in camp and one week following the commencement exercise, about three fourth of the boys in the graduating class received a 'Greetings' from the government. Paul remembers the wonderful sense of timing by the army. He entered the army in 1944 from Heart Mountain and was sent to Fort Leavenworth, KS. (Paul insists that it was not to the Federal prison there!) After being issued uniforms at Fort Leavenworth, the Nisei's were all sent to Camp Blanding, FL. Paul's basic training began in January 1945. After completing 17 weeks of basic training, the group was sent to Fort Meade, MD. While

at Fort Meade, the war in Europe ended so that the orders to go to Europe was changed. There the Nisei's were told that there was a recruiter from Fort Snelling to accept volunteers for Japanese language training. The choice was left to their discretion. Paul and ~~two~~ other decided to go to Fort Snelling.

At Fort Snelling, Paul was assigned to CO 'H' under a Captain Tsubota. Captain Tsubota was with the 100th Battalion and was from Hawaii. He said that he would be strict and it turned out that he was. (Editor's note: Paul was assigned to Class E-11 of the July 1945 term.) Paul remembers a detachment of Nisei WAC's at Fort Snelling. The WAC's ate at the same mess with the men and naturally no one objected to their presence. Paul remembers the nihonshoku at Fort Snelling and thought that was nice. He felt that the studying was rough, however, for him anyway. During the nine month course, the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan which ended all hostilities in the Pacific. Then General MacArthur sent word through Washington that he was in need of additional MIS men immediately which shortened Paul's studies abruptly. Then a mass troop transfer began. Paul believes that he was sent through Jefferson Barracks in Washington. Eventually, the Nisei were sent to Japan although the rumors were that they would be sent to the Philippines. Paul wound up in Zama and then on to ATIS in Tokyo. He was assigned to the Tokyo Provost Marshall's Office. He was involved in the investigation of all traffic accidents involving Japanese civilians and Allied personnel. Paul remembers that he was kept busy and this went on for about a year. After the tour of duty was up, a major in his office wanted Paul to stay but he declined after telling the major that he planned to return to school. Paul remembers that his was an interesting tour, going to hospitals, offices, schools and police departments. He returned to the states and was discharged.

After about 2½ months of civilian life, Paul noticed an article in the Rafu Shimpo that the ~~Per~~sidio of Monterey was requesting former MIS personnel to reenlist due to the shortage of MIS personnel. Paul said that he fell for it and went back into the service. He was sent to the ~~Per~~sidio of Monterey and on to Tokyo and then on to ATIS. This time, Paul was assigned to the Tokyo CID (Criminal Investigation Division). He was told that the CID was equivalent to a police department detective division or the counterpart of the FBI. Paul assisted in the investigation of various

felony cases. This went on for about 4 years during which time the Korean War broke out. ATIS was cleaned out and the word was that they would be sent to Korea. Paul was therefore sent there and joined the 1st Marine Division. He served with the 5th and 7th Marines of the 1st Marine Division. Paul remembers that they had native Korean interpreters also. After 8 months, he was rotated to the states and eventually discharged. The Veterans Administration sent him a letter trying to get him back in service but this time he stayed out.

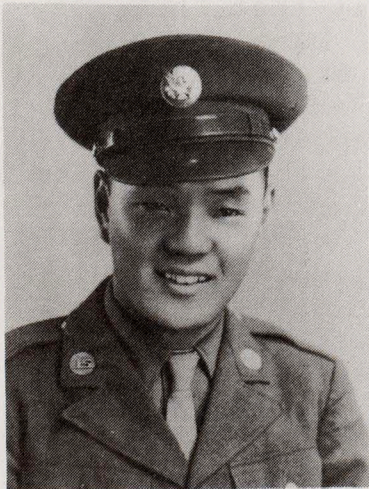
After his second discharge, Paul went to Detroit to join his brother and entered school. However this did not work out and he came to Denver and began working in the liquor business where he still works today.

### Incidents

At ATIS in the NYK Building, Paul remembers that a cousin, Tadao Yokota looked him up. It seems that the local newspapers wrote an article concerning the Nisei and included names and therefore the Japanese civilians knew the whereabouts of the Nisei's.

While serving with the CID in Tokyo, Paul often served as an agent because of the extreme shortage of personnel at the CID and because of his language ability. Paul said that an agent usually has to have specialized training but that he had the credentials and worked on a variety of cases. Paul also felt that the Nisei served a valuable function as a bridge between the Japanese civilians and the occupying forces.

### Kent T. Yoritomo



Kent Yoritomo was born in Denver, CO in February 1926. At the age of three, his family moved to the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado where he grew up. Kent attended elementary and high school in Blanca, CO graduating in 1944. His Japanese language training consisted of 2 years of Saturday classes at the Blanca Nihon Gakuin which he recalls as being a rather informal setting. George Hayashida, who later became one of the earlier members of the MIS was one of the Nisei instructors. After military service, Kent attended Adams State College in Alamosa, CO and also the University of Colorado graduating in 1951.

Kent was inducted into the Army at Fort Leavenworth, KS in November 1944. He was then sent by troop train to Camp Blanding, FL where he finished basic training. After a short furlough, Kent was sent to Fort Meade, MD for advanced infantry training and in June 1945 was interviewed for Japanese language training. Although he knew virtually no Japanese, he was selected and sent to Fort Snelling, MN in July 1945 where he joined the others in Class F-11 of the July 1945 term. He finished language training in December 1945.

During the Christmas holidays, Kent was sent by troop train to Fort Lewis, WA which is just outside of Seattle, WA. After a

couple of weeks in Fort Lewis, he was shipped out to the Pacific. Kent shipped out on a converted liner, the USS Ernie Pyle which took the northern route to Japan. The Ernie Pyle landed in Yokohama and Kent remembers seeing all of the sunken ships in the harbor. The troops were then sent to the 4th Replacement Depot in Zama, Japan to await assignment. There the incoming Nisei were greeted by other Nisei who had preceeded them and who wanted to trade Japanese yen for American dollars and most of the newcomers foolishly did so. They also tasted dried squid for the first time as these were on sale at many food shops. From Zama, Kent was sent by truck to Nara, Japan, which was the headquarters of the Division Artillery of the 25th Infantry Division. He was assigned to the Headquarters Battery of the Division Artillery. In Nara, Kent did a number of simple interpretation tasks, such as talking to the Japanese who lived near an artillery test range, investigating the wreckage of an American fighter plane which had been shot down. Near the end of his tour, Kent was promoted to T/5 which was the highest rank he attained. He was offered another promotion if he would stay with the 25th but Kent wanted to return to school.

In September 1945, Kent was in the service long enough to qualify for discharge and shipped out of Yokohama bound for San Francisco. From San Francisco, he went to Camp Beale, CA which was a major separation center. There were so many troop in for processing that the Army was granting 45 day furloughs so that the offices could get caught up. After the furlough, Kent went back to Camp Beale for discharge in October 1945.

Back in Colorado, Kent enrolled at the Adams State College but didn't like the courses offered and transferred to the University of Colorado at Boulder, CO. After graduation, Kent went to work with the U.S. Geological Survey where he joined several other Nisei who had also just been hired. (Isao Kuge was one of these.) After 6 years Kent transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, VA. He retired in 1983 after 31 years of service. After one year of retirement in Virginia, Kent returned to his native home near Denver, CO.

#### Incidents

Kent's first encounter with the wartime mainland Japanese was on the liner Ernie Pyle. There he ran into Former Japanese POW's being repatriated to Japan. Some of the Japanese troops asked Kent, when they realized that he was a Nisei, if he were afraid of the Japanese! Also, while trying to interpret for the ship's doctor, Kent ran into the first Japanese goldbrickers who had all of the mysterious symptoms that kept them from performing ship's duties. The doctor knew quickly these types and good naturedly gave them some white pills. The doctor also knew instantly if any soldier was really ill because he sent these to the ship's hospital for further treatment. The POW's were very appreciative of the doctor's attention and they asked for his address so that they could write.

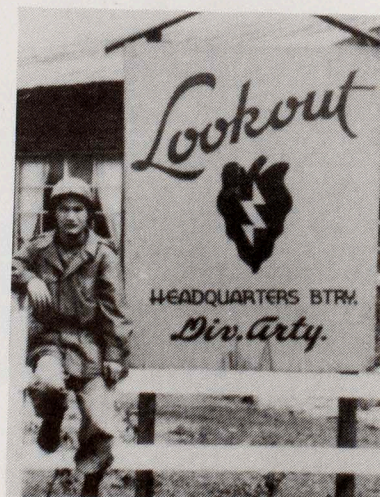
After getting used to being in Japan and learning some more of their language, Kent was given a furlough to visit his father's relatives in Fukuoka Ken. This turned out to be one of the highlights of his stay in Japan. His grandparents accepted him without question and provided the gracious hospitality of the Japanese. His aunt who was bedridden with a stroke talked to him quite matter of factly and suggested that Kent stay in Japan because the

family estate, which was quite large by Japanese standards, would pass out of the family because Kent's father was an only son. Kent also talked with his cousins, two of them were in the Japanese military, the eldest being stationed in Burma and the younger was a fighter pilot. Both were able to return to Japan unharmed. The pilot was in China scheduled to become a kamikaze pilot when the war ended. At the end of the war, he was given a tank of gasoline and told to make his way to Japan as best he could. He said that he flew too high trying to conserve fuel and burned out his engine and crash landed in China. He bummed his way across China, trading his possessions for food. Throughout this visit, Kent felt strangely at home and he wonders to this day what that feeling meant.

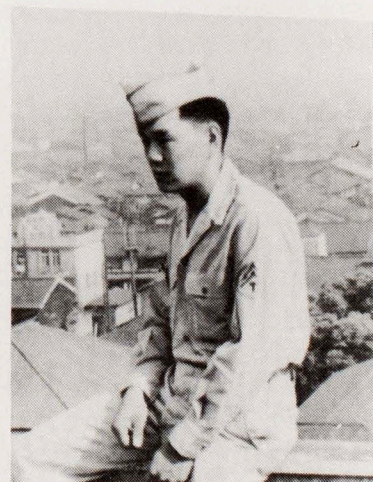


Some members of the 6th Platoon, 'K' Company. Fort Snelling, MISLS, winter 1945 in front of the 'Turkey Farm'. Left to right, Toshio Tokunaga, Chester Yokoyama, Jackson Yamashiro, Elmer Yoshihara, Kent Yoritomo and George Yamashiro. Kneeling, Tsutomu Yoshida. Together, these 'students' made life miserable for the poor instructors who

tried their very best to instill some Japanese into these uninspired minds. Most looked forward to the passes to Minneapolis, MN on the street car which ended at Fort Snelling. The 'Turkey Farms' were quite cold during the winters with the pot bellied stoves providing the only heat!



At left, Tong Yet, one of the two Chinese Americans in the Headquarters Battery of the Division Artillery of the 25th Infantry Division. Tong was from San Francisco. At right, Kent in his younger days on 'R&R' in Kyoto. This city was spared from the bombing as was a beautiful city with wide streets and many temples. 'R&R' in Kyoto was at a continental style hotel



## Yoshio George Yoshida



Yoshio George Yoshida was born in Sacramento, CA, June 1925. he attended elementary school in Downey, CA and was attending Downey High School when he and his family evacuated voluntarily to Brighton, CO right after the start of the war. George graduated from Brighton High School. George's education in Japanese consisted of Saturday classes in Downey. He recalls studying reading and writing in Japanese through Book 7. George says that he also learned some Japanese at the Judo classes in Downey where the instructor, Higiyo Sensei used Japanese terms in the Judo lessons. George and his family operated a strawberry farm in Downey at the time of the evacuation but moved to Colorado where they had to find work immediately. Three employees at the strawberry farm also evacuated with them to Colorado.

Upon graduating Brighton High School, George registered for the draft and was classified 4-C (enemy alien) but after complaints from local white citizens about the Nisei not being drafted, George was classified as 1-A and immediately drafted. After being inducted at Fort Logan, CO, George was sent to Camp Blanding, FL where he joined the 208A Bn for basic training. After completing basic training, George was sent to Fort Meade, MD for advanced infantry training for departure to the European theater. While at Fort Meade, George and a number of others in the battalion contacted measles and were nicknamed the 'measles battalion'. After some time in and out of the hospital, George was sent to Fort Shanks, NJ for embarkation to Europe.

George's battalion landed in Le Harve, France and they traveled across France to Marseille. From marseille, they traveled to La Spezia, Italy where they joined the 442nd RCT. George was assigned to the 2nd Platoon, CO 'E' under Lt. Ihara. From La Spezia the 442nd traveled north to Milan.

In Milan, George contacted a case of the hives and the Sgt. sent him to the medics who then sent George to the Army hospital in Leghorn. While at the hospital, George heard rumors that the 442nd, particularly the younger troops (of which he was one!) would be sent directly to the Pacific because the fighting in Europe was coming to an end. Also at the hospital, recruiters from the MISLS were asking the Nisei to take voluntary language tests with the promise of an airplane ride to the States with a 45 day furlough. George figured that the nine months schooling was better than being shipped to the Pacific and so he took the language tests which he found to be rather easy. From the hospital in Leghorn, George flew to Casablanca, Brazil, Florida and then to a 30 day furlough in Brighton, CO. At Fort Snelling the classes were on an academic break so George got an additional 15 days of furlough.

AT Fort Snelling, George was told to go immediately to Greeley, CO to guard some Japanese POW's. Apparently the feeling was that George and the other Nisei knew enough Japanese to perform guard duty. It soon became apparent however that George needed additional schooling in Japanese so they sent him back to Fort Snelling! George had enough overseas points such that the Army could not send him to another overseas assignment unless he signed a paper which George prudently refused. And so, half way through language class,

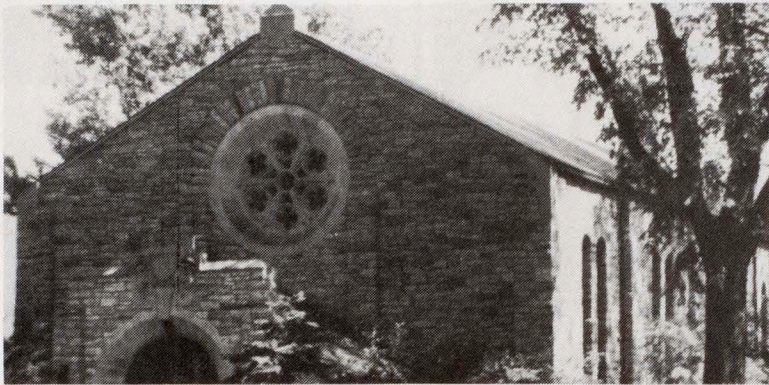
George was washed out and sent to Camp McCoy, WS for discharge. After discharge, George returned to Brighton and began farming with his family. They went to the San Luis Valley to try their fortune growing lettuce but that did not work out so they returned to the Denver area. George met his wife, Kyung in Denver. George's parents did not return to California and both are buried at the Riverside Cemetery.

#### Incidents

It seems that minor illnesses played a big part in George's army career. First, at Fort Meade, George and others in his battalion contacted measles and that delayed their departure to Europe for about two months. Later at Milan, George contacted the hives and that led him to the hospital at Leghorn and the language tests that brought him to the MISLS.

✓ George earned three battle stars in about two months although his unit had limited combat duty. At Milan, this was considered a combat area so George earned on battle star. Near Milan, the crossing of a river resulted in two more battle stars all with the 5 points that goes with each star!

# Memories



Above left, MG Clayton L. Bissell, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 at MISLS graduation, November 1944. Center, Colonel Kai E. Rasmussen, Commandant MISLS, right, Major John F. Aiso, Director of Academic Training. Photos courtesy of Steve Sugno.

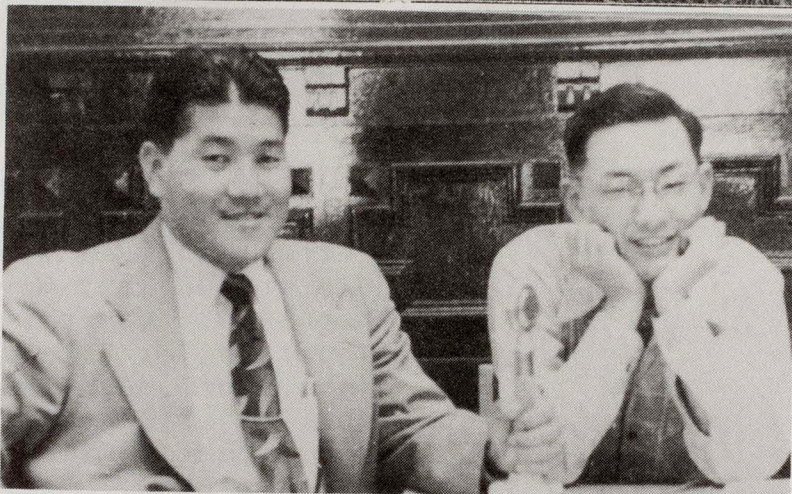
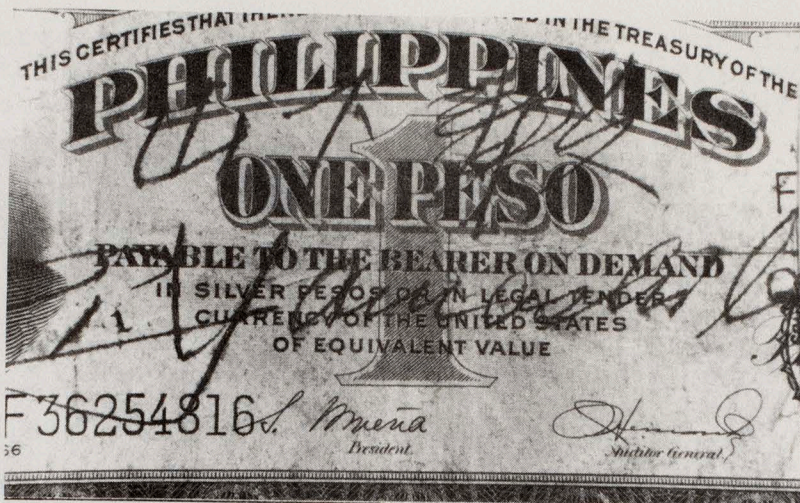


Left, the Chapel at Fort Snelling where many Nisei members of the MISLS were married.

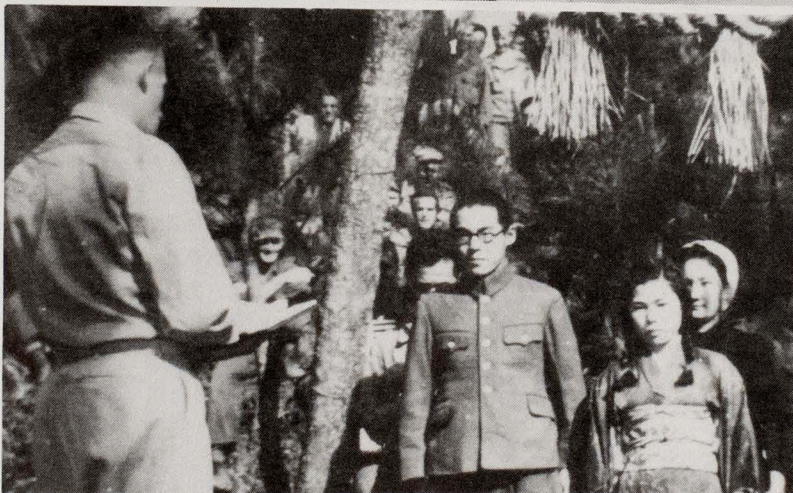


Center left, Post Theater at Fort Snelling at the time of the MISLS. Many first-run movies were seen here by the students.

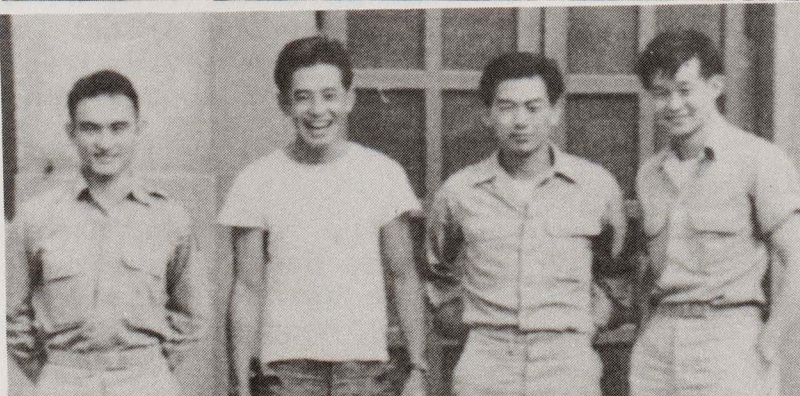
Left, the Round Tower at Fort Snelling. One of the unique features at the Fort. Photograph courtesy of Russ Sato.



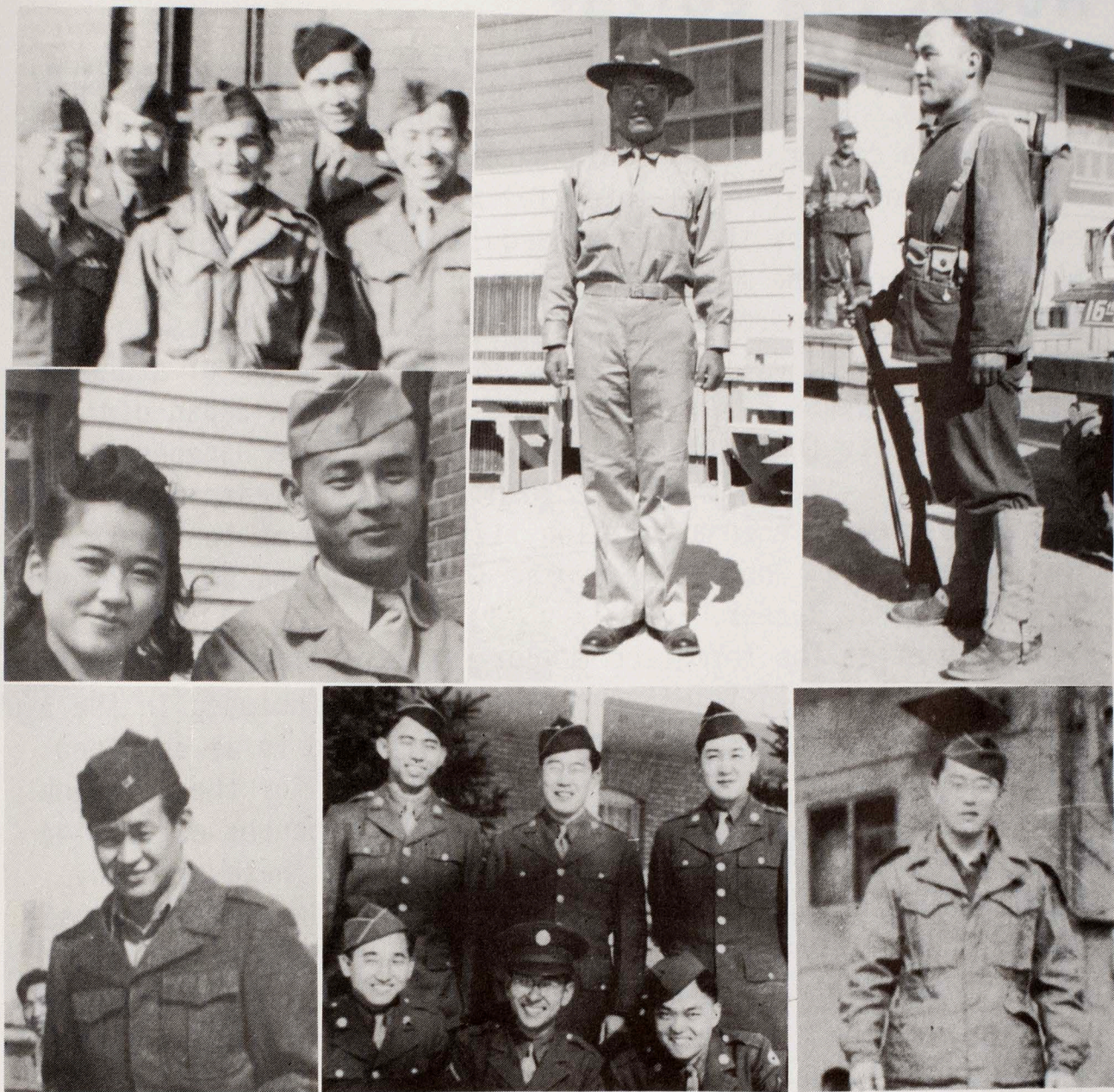
Extreme upper left, a Phillipine Peso note signed by General Yamashita and retained by Sueo Ito. Above Sueo with Hajime Mukae in the Philippines. Left Sueo Ito as a civilian with Tetsuo Nukazawa working with the Judge Advocate in Yokohama.



At left, a wedding ceremony between a Japanese POW, a Major Umezawa and a Korean 'comfort girl'. This event took place in Okinawa. Photograph courtesy of Shunji Hamano.



Lower left, Ikera Matsu-monji, extreme right with some friends. This photograph was probably taken in Wakanai where Ikera served with a CIC Sub-detachment.



Extreme upper left, John Oya and friends in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan at the Headquarters, 77th Infantry Division, October 1945. Center and upper right, Shunji Hamano in basic training at Fort MacArthur, CA. Note the world War I type uniforms with campaign hat, field pack, bayonet, leggings and Lee Enfield rifle. Upper left, Ken Aiba with his then girlfriend and present wife, Ruby perhaps near Fort Warren, WY. Lower left, Ikera Matsumonji during his young soldiering days. Center, John Noguchi, probably at Fort Snelling with friends. Some of these friends were identified as 'Jeep' Nakano, Ken Kuwabara and Richard Shikuma. Lower right, John Noguchi at the Fukuoka Naval Base. John is shown on top of a Japanese aircraft carrier which was later towed out to sea and sunk by the U.S. Marines in a disarmament effort.

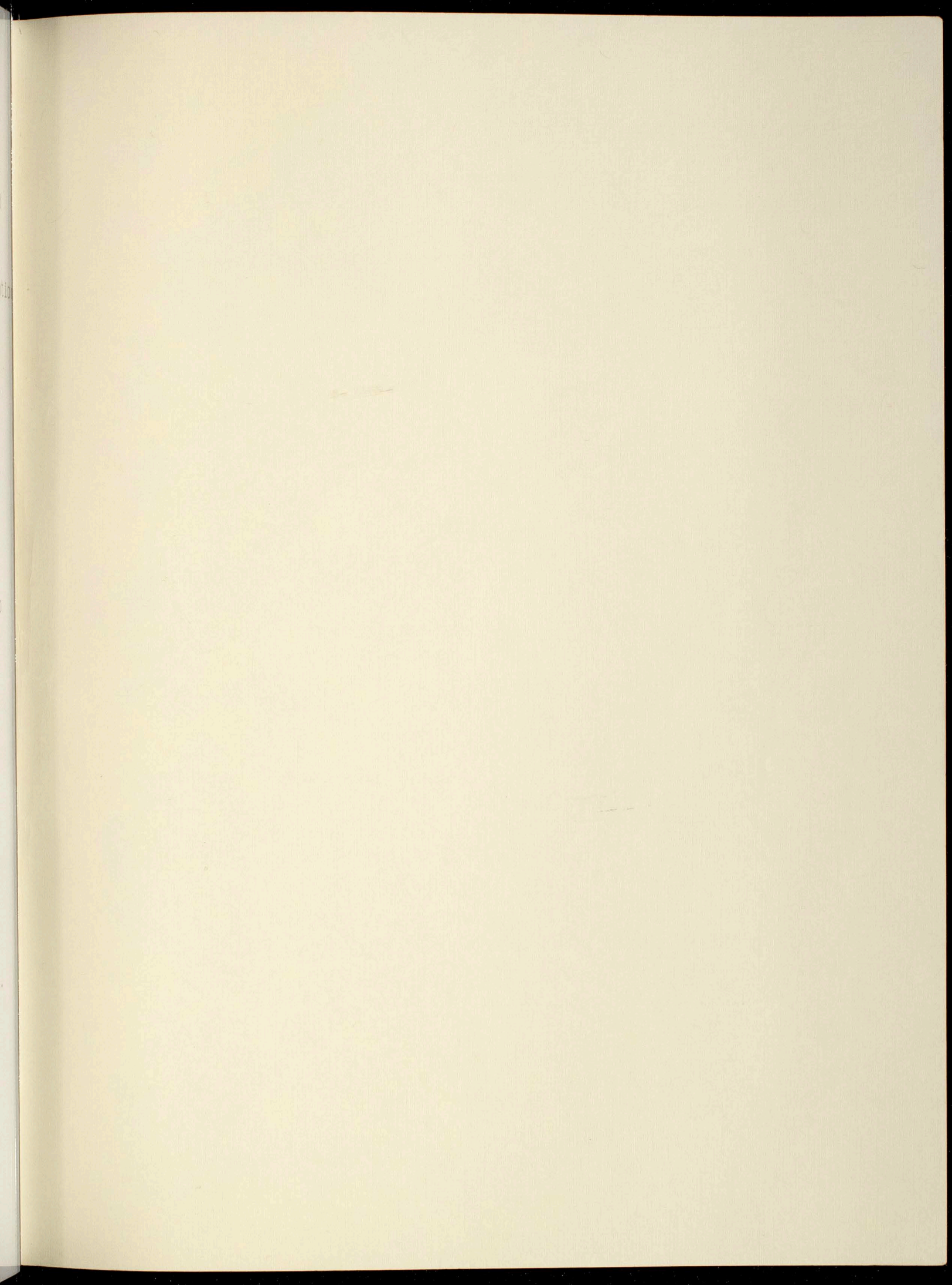
## About the Editor

This series of autobiographies has been a labor of love by this editor. My MIS career, if such a brief experience can indeed be called a career, was a truly unremarkable one occasioned by pure accident. During an interview while at Fort Meade, MD, by pure chance, I knew the Japanese equivalent of the word for 'invention' which convinced the interviewer that I knew more Japanese than I really did. Furthermore, the poor instructors at MISLS couldn't have found a more disinterested or uninspired group of students than were in Class F-11. Only after some time in Japan did I truly recognize the value and significance of the Japanese language for me. I regret that I did not study or learn more. However, the need to earn a civilian living forced me to return to the United States and earn a degree in engineering which became my professional career.

Soon after the formation of our MIS club, I began urging the members to submit their MIS experiences to be included in the club newsletter, of which I was also the editor, and to be combined into a pamphlet which could serve as a momento for the veterans. Thus, I became a begger, cajoler and chief tormentor extracting entries from the somewhat reluctant veterans. There are many typographical errors in the text for which I take full responsibility. Not having conveniences such as a word-processor or a desk-top publishing capability, I resorted to hand-typing all of the text. Being an amateur photographer, I also copied all of the photographs submitted by the members to be included in this volume. The captions for for these photographs were coined after discussions with the veterans concerning their experiences. Many other photographs were submitted which I chose not to use and I apologize to anyone who may be offended because of their omission.

Finally, I can only hope that this will eventually prove to have been worth the effort.

Kent T. Yoritomo



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