

JICPOA Annex
 (Joint Intelligence-Central Pacific Ocean Area)

Nobuo Furuiye

1. Nucleus of JICPOA consisted of the original three teams.
Team Leaders: S/Sgt. Tadashi Ogawa, now Deceased
S/Sgt. Don Oka
S/Sgt. Nobuo Furuiye
2. Overall mission and responsibilities:
 - a. Translate and evaluate any and all documents which were sent to JICPOA HQ. at Pearl Harbor Intelligence Center.
 - b. Linguists attached to this unit were to be the pool to be assigned to any unit requesting an interpreter or translator from JICPOA HQ.
 - c. Majority of the linguists from this pool were assigned to the Navy or the Marine Corps. This was due to the fact that the Navy Department did not allow any Niseis in their branch of service.
 - d. The JICPOA HQ. was under the direction of the Navy, and all other branches of service which came under their command had to follow their directives.
3. Annex office building was located halfway between downtown Honolulu and Waikiki on Kapiclanlani Blvd. (Exact address unknown) Building was a former furniture showroom and warehouse, which was renovated to accomodate as an office and living quarters for us. Downstairs: Living Quarters for Enlisted Personnel.
Upstairs: Office and Living Quarters for Officers.
4. Treatment: We were very fortunate in one sense that everything was conducted in an atmosphere of relaxed condition. (working) The area was not too crowded then, and everyone in the immediate surrounding treated us with affection.
5. The building was quite large, and if I can recall at one time we had 50 or more linguists quartered there. This I think was the maximum. All of our supplies came from Ft. Shafter, and I (acting 1st Sgt.) had to send my supply Sgt. daily to the Fort for different items. Every requisition was made daily, whether it be regulation supplies or personal.
6. Why the ANNEX?
 - ✓ The Navy did not want the Niseis working inside Pearl Harbor. My personal opinion is -- they did not trust us inside. I was not alone in this thought of trust. Case in point: I was cleared by Navy Intelligence, had a Marine Corps ID but could not go

through Pearl Harbor gate without an officer from our unit, even to attend to official business at JICPOA HQ. Fortunately I did not have to make more than a couple of trips there as this ruling was in force for the duration. It was very disheartening to say the least.

7. Admiral in charge of JICPOA: Name unknown, as we Niseis hardly ever had direct contact with HQ. It was all through our officers at the Annex who picked up the documents if they were not sent down to us by a courier.
8. Duties at the annex was to translate all documents and to evaluate which had priority, and took precedence over other material. This duty of evaluation was done by those who were stronger in NIHONGO and consulted with the officers who made the final decision. This was done by the personnel waiting in between assignments as groups of three or four would leave on duty with different units. (Usually Navy or Marine) Once the document was deemed priority, it would be translated and OK'd by the officer with his signature and taken to JICPOA HQ. I do not know of how the Army operated under these conditions but usually the officer whose name appeared on the translation got the recognition. I recall a couple of letters of commendation for the work to the officers for our translation in finding out of key Japanese units and strength on IWO JIMA and also the Phillipines. I was upset about the credits so I conferred with the CO. (Maj. Soper, USMC) and he made a directive that hereafter all translated papers will have the Nisei's name on it too. But it did not change the credits of who did the bulk of work. In spite of being ignored by the Navy Department the linguists still did their best in all the works assigned.
9. Personal Duties with the Navy and Marine Corps.
 First Assignment: Aboard a light cruiser to intercept any enemy messages via the radio. Worked with radio-man in the radio shack for over 30 days. Only message of significance was the news of the Japanese Garrison on IWO JIMA were anticipating an attack, but did not know when. I was treated with the respect on this assignment and given every courtesy by the men and officers aboard ship. Although I was not the rank of a Chief Petty Officer, I was given the same quarters and rank. It was one of the more pleasant assignments.

Returned to Honolulu at the end of November '44 and resumed my duties at the Annex. Many new faces, and nearly all of the original 30 were gone out on assignments. In January '45 I was attached to the newly formed 5th Marines and had to go through combat training and amphibious landing exercises. At the time I was assigned to the Recon & Patrol of the 2nd Bn. ^{AND} they had a Sgt. from New York to be my body guard. He was to become a very good friend even after the end of the war. Unfortunately he is now gone. The Sgt. was to be my buddy throughout the IWO JIMA invasion. We landed on IWO on the second wave (15 Min. after 1st wave) and never moved for 3 days. Highlight of the campaign was the capture of a wounded code man who they sent back to Headquarters immediately. I heard they flew him back to Honolulu, but was not confirmed. Also, the belongings of Col. (Baron) Nishi, which I came across and sent back to Regiment.

Wounded on the 6th day of battle along with my buddy. Very minor and able to return to duty after 2nd. day

Returned to Annex on April '45, and found an entirely new group of people.

Sent to Saipan on a light duty to aid the survivors there. Most of these citizens were displaced individuals who were sheltered in a compound. Our main duty was to try and get them relocated and help them get back on their own. It was not to interrogate or to extract any information.

Sent to Guam as an interpreter in a cannibalism trial of captured Japanese soldiers. The three soldiers were captured hiding out in a cave by Marines, They were seen by CB's (Navy) during a routine surveying of the territory and alerted the officials. It was a very emotional and trying case as they survived by eating the flesh of their dead comrades. The Col. trying the case was to become one of my best friends after the war as we lunched at least once a month after the war. He was the former Governor of Colorado, and his brother-in-law Lt. Gen. ^{Marine Corps} Henry Larson was the Island Commander.

This Marine Corps General was instrumental in getting my Purple Heart to me after my discharge. It was through his efforts and my buddy who was a witness, that I received my belated medal in late 1946.

Was getting ready to return to Honolulu when the war ended and was immediately dispatched to Marcus Island as an interpreter for the surrender of the Island. The island had a small garrison of approximately 1500 men. They were a contingent of construction and quartermaster personnel. Off-shore there was a very badly maintained landing ship which was getting ready to take the first group back to Japan. Ironically, I met a Nisei who was caught in the conflict while he was in Japan. Can't even recall his name.

Marcus
Isle

This duty was one of the most distasteful of all my experiences as an interpreter. I worked as the interpreter for the negotiating team (Chiefs of Staff) on both sides. The Island Commander was a very elderly two star General called up from retirement. The American was a two star Adm. Whiting, who was on desk duty on Guam due to running a heavy cruiser aground on one of the Pacific Islands. The Japanese Colonel of the negotiating team, presented me at the time of the surrender ceremonies a boxed "KATANA" along with one for the Admiral and the Chief of Staff. After the Japanese left, Admiral Whiting confiscated my gift stating that enlisted men were not eligible to receive such gifts of appreciation. This was the most humiliating and upsetting of all my duties while in the service.

I returned to Guam and immediately sent to Japan with the orders to work with NAV-TECH JAP. (Naval Technical Mission to Japan) in Sasebo. Inventory of arms in Saga, Miyasaki, and Kumamoto. Fortunately for me I was able to visit my relatives and met one of my old instructors in Kumamoto City.

Respect

Able to return for discharge on points in Dec 2 1945. (Denver) Overall, I don't believe we received the recognition due us as linguists by the Navy or the Marine Corps. They would not take Niseis into the Navy, so they had to rely on us from the Army on detached duty. Most of the officers I had to work with were just so-so, except one Navy Lt. Donald Keene. This man came to us at the Annex in mid 1944 after completing his studies in Japanese at U. of Colorado. He was one individual who knew what it was all about and studied the language along with us and treated us as his equal. Today he is the head of the Oriental Studies at Columbia. He has many translations of the Japanese classics to his credit, such as the Genji-Monogatari.