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# VOX

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BRUYERES REUNION      OCTOBER 1984      FRENCH VERSION

1. Serge Carlesso in forest (the man we meet first is Serge Carlesso, who lost his leg while going out under fire to bring food to families in Bruyeres. He was picked up by the 442nd medics and cared for in a 442nd aid station, so he got to know the nisei closely and very early in the war.)

only  
v/o  
①

"I was 16 years old at the time of the battle for the liberation of Bruyeres. And I was wounded the 10th of October, 1944. I think that there are few words to speak of the bravery of the people, and I know... I know that their silence has significance. One has to have suffered to be able to speak about the suffering of others. That is why, today, I talk about the suffering of the nisei ... all that they have done ... all that they have endured; because they, too... they are people, like me, who are covered with scars. When one is covered with scars, one does not speak about what one has done."

v/o  
②

on/cam  
Carlesso  
1st  
time

Perhaps happy people don't have any history. But one is not necessarily happy just by having all four limbs. I lost a leg, that's for sure; I lost many things in the course of this war. But finally, I have found something fantastic -- friendship. I think that until the end of my days, this friendship for the nisei -- I will keep it intact. And I will transmit it to my son; he knows the whole story of the nisei. And I hope my grandson too, that I'll be able to teach him what the nisei have done here in Bruyeres."

2. Bus guide on bus (English)
3. Woman with picture of nisei soldier in square, with man (M/M Stickert) (words unintelligible) (People in Bruyeres approached us with pictures of nisei they had known, asking, "Do you know this man; is he here?" This couple had made friends with an Island nisei who helped them bring in their crops.)
4. gym: Serge to boy: "Here, take these flags to your Daddy over there." (Among the people shown here helping to prepare are M. Carlesso, his son, and his grandson.)
5. Area shot of village ... bus
6. Farmer Gerard Henri and his wife Marcelle. (This couple describes their first meeting with the nisei whom they found stealing cabbage in their cabbage patch.)

Gerard: "When the Hawaiian soldiers first came through here, they saw the cabbage in our garden, and they picked the cabbage heads to eat it raw. They looked different from us."

Marcelle: "We were very happy to see them."

Gerard: "We were happy to see them. They came on our land and ate the cabbages."

7. Jean-Marie Thomas, photographer, at his shop in Bruyeres. (This is the town

photographer who first photographed the arrival of the 442 in the streets of Bruyeres.)

"Come on in. I have no wife, as you can see. I'm a bachelor. My father died seven years ago. When he was here I worked a little bit to keep up the house. But now I live alone, my work occupies my time. I'm a correspondent for La Liberte de l'Est, a daily newspaper. And I still have several clients as a photographer.

On the day of the liberation of Bruyeres, I heard a knock on the door. The guy at the door, the soldier, said something but I couldn't understand him. He appeared to be Japanese. Well, I said to myself, the Japanese are with the Germans.... I couldn't very well go out and embrace them, since we were expecting the Americans. Then I noticed their weapons. They had serrated grenades, not like the Germans who have smooth grenades. Then he pulled out a pack of Camels and some money, and I saw it was the Americans. Well, at that moment, with my reporter's instincts, I got out the Rolleiflex and some film and went to photograph everything I could see."

8. Bus (guide and crying)

9. Mayor of Biffontaine, describing what he saw because his farm was right next to the forest where the 100th was fighting.

"What struck me... it was the last day (of the battle of Bruyeres) ... you could hear the men in the forest -- battle cries of the men. It was the Hawaiians, or Japanese Americans, as they are also called. They went on the attack, and pushed hard in hand-to-hand combat. The fog was so thick, you could hear them, but you couldn't see them."

10. In square, Mr. Cadario speaking in English. He is in the French military.

11. Bus enters Bruyeres; veterans interviews; vets embraced by Serge's family.

12. Old woman, looking at windows in town square:

"That was '14...1914...and then the last one. It was a great celebration when the Americans came to us. Near Charmes... near Charmes... maybe too near ... I remember well (the liberation), it was a great celebration for me because my son, who was retired, didn't want to go to do forced labor in Germany.

In 1914, my mother gave three sons for France, three brothers of mine. I was very happy to lodge (the Japanese American soldiers) in my house. I even took one into my house, and he took on a French name. He was very, very nice. You know that Charmes was massacred. They set fire to it -- we could see that from my house. I hid my son for two years, so he wouldn't have to go and work in Germany. I am a war widow; I lost my husband."

13. Matsumoto. (In the town square we saw window displays welcoming the 442. This display was a picture of an Island nisei named Tadashi Matsumoto, holding the young baby of a French family. The family's daughter, Agnes, explains the display honoring their "libérateur.")

Agnes, in square: "This is Tadashi. He is one of the Hawaiians who came to liberate us."

Matsumoto explains in English. 1:47

125  
Father Poirot, in their home: "We always hoped to see our friend again. We've kept a good memory of him. He looked after the baby when we went out to dig potatoes. We've always hoped to see him again."

✓ 14. Mayor of Biffontaine, speaking about the nisei soldiers: *None?*

130 "The things they did...they really had it, they had balls. They were really men. All that is not forgotten. So today we are building this monument, with a plaque, so that people will not forget."

15. Army trucks. The French army provided trucks to transport the nisei visitors up into the forests of Bruyeres for the unveiling of the new monument at Biffontaine in their honor.

138 } Biffontaine/Bruyeres ceremonies/Hideko Seo *Drums paraded 2, 3, 4*

139 } --this song is the song of the French resistance (drumming and voice piece)  
140 } -- Hideko Seo came from New York to honor her brother, killed in the battle for Bruyeres.

*Minister Philippe Seguin gives a flower to Hideko Seo*

141 } 16. Chet Tanaka with school children (English)

17. Chet in forest, telling about combat experience. (English)

18. Jean Drahon with M. Robert at the Robert Farm. This man was a member of the French resistance who guided the 442 to safe houses.

Drahon: "They sent me from Bruyeres to find the Americans (who were advancing on Bruyeres)...I met up with them in the forest. The Americans came down here, from the forest ... I ran up to here and signaled them to come down (to the Robert farm) at top speed."

Robert: "To go to the front the Hawaiians -- the Japanese Americans -- could not come down in front of my house, or they'd have been seen by the Germans, who were in Bruyeres. There was no question about that; they'd have been spotted by the Germans."

Drahon: "The Hawaiians were capable soldiers, courageous, they weren't afraid of anything."

Robert: "The first to arrive at my house was a Japanese. A shell fell right next to him. He wasn't wounded at all, but he was..."

Drahon: "Shaken up."

Robert: "Shaken up, so much, because the artillery shell exploded right next to him. So I said to my comrade, (the Japanese soldier) "You make war; why make war? You'll be 'kaput.' And he said, 'What difference does it make if I'm kaput? My mother will get 100,000 francs. If I'm kaput, my mother will get 100,000 francs.' That is to say, ~~most of~~ these soldiers were not married."

*All*  
Drahon: "There were ~~a lot of~~ bachelors. *Robert said: maybe our chief's was!* But these were young men, 20 years old! But they were courageous!"

Robert: "Incredible! These men were well trained, expressly to fight a war, yes, yes. But you know, I was more vigorous then ... 40 years ago ... I was 36 then."

Drahon: "We're 76 years old now, both of us."

20. Gerard Henri and Mme. Voirin walking into Mme.'s house. (This woman cared for the 442 wounded in her house.)

Mme. Voirin: "These soldiers came from so far away to risk their lives, and got wounded. There were six wounded there, on my bed. They were there, broken... There were three of them at the head (of the bed), three of them at the foot. They were mortally wounded."

*tanks*  
There was one I remember, pulled me by the hand, pulled back the covers, and showed me all the intestines that had spilled out of his stomach. He showed me with his fist that he was thirsty. I had practically no more water. (The explosion) had broken the water conduit in front of my house. There was no more than a trickle of water, and I had only one glass. But I went out under the (artillery)shelling to get them water. They pulled me by the hand for me to embrace them ... those poor children of 18 - 20 years old."

Question: "Did you want to embrace them?"

Voirin: "Yes, it was hard, it was cruel to see them like that."

Question: "They spoke to you?"

Voirin: "Well, you see, I couldn't understand what they said. He spoke a word to me, I understood "mama" -- for me, in my mind, that meant "my mother." The other words went past me. To the others, well, I couldn't say anything. I only had my one eye, but the tears flowed. Because of this reunion, the whole night last Sunday to Monday, I could not close my eyes. I remembered everything again, like a movie in front of me. I heard their death rattles. There was one ... I couldn't understand the name he was trying to tell me, it was the name of his mother. But I couldn't make it out. Then he died, this soldier who was always so yellow from jaundice (like a lemon?). When he passed away, it made me heartsick... each one came over here to defend us...(church bells in background) There are some things I forgot; I'm 81 years old. They all came with a good heart. They remembered the good things even when they were cut down." *hand*

20. Wally Nunatoni, Sam Ishinara (English) *They made it all the good things we made to them*

21. Frenchman in square, in English, re racism: "Anyhow, they were Americans." *29*

22. Church/Family portrait at Gerard Henri farm/church bells *Nunatoni: 150*

23. Matsumoto introduces Poirot family/goodbyes/view of town from heights.

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