

John Aiso, Judge

Los Angeles, CA 90028

The one single person responsible for the success of MIS, without whom the program probably would have floundered. In my opinion, he was by far the greatest Nisei leader of WWII, bar none. footage in 1980 NHC Yankee Samurai documentary.

Photogenic, poised, ARTICULATE, modest gentleman.

Absolutely essential to tell the NISEI photoshopy, the best of America and their cultural background of the best of Japanese morality, traditions and ideals.

His responsibility was to lead, to organize and to train intelligence operations.

As a highly visible Director of Training, the fulcrum of the process whereby Pentagon policy through the Commandant, Col Kai Rasmussen was administered in the training program, he was much maligned by certain segments of the faculty and students.

- Reasons for being maligned: unhappy, frustrated, stressed, resentment; blamed for everything; faces for all crying;
- Dedicated, knew

(e.g) One ^{chills & damp} rainy night, Faculty was waiting for 7pm beginning of night classes in one of the classrooms;

"Anybody who'd go out on a night like this would be a damn fool."

And 7pm bell rang; John Cross put on his rain coat boots and walked by me; ^{went into the barn to check the classrooms;} without saying a word to me what could I do - and I followed his example

- Tremendous humbler, deputy without sedition.

- Always so humble, modest, down-to-earth; crossed contentment from ~~teacher~~ President to Dean.

Always, in good mood, humorous,

- Late, late night work

Faculty training; course development
close to 2,000 students,

- Conducted meetings w/ entire Faculty

7:45 every morning; required daily reports detailed

(St. Louis Army's holdy center for records because of fire)

- Every instructor of every class was required to keep daily record of his ^{students} knowledge of English; history & science; leadership

Evaluated by entire faculty;

In the fall of 1941, Col Weckelby interviewed John ^{(a Pvt at the time, 9 mos into his service (constant K.P. duty))} at Camp Hahn, near L.A. John worked in the Motion Pool. John did not wish to become chief musician for the 4th Army Intelligence School. Weckelby put his hand on John's shoulder and says, "John, your country needs you."

• Last duty as soldier

(Also to Kihara on 1st meetg) "Yesterday afternoon, as a buck private, I worked the windows in this bldg."
(5pm end of tour)

* Also graduation speech

- Appt. • Judge of Superior Court, L.A.;
- Then Appt. to Appeals Court
 - Retired from bench
 - Enter law firm
 - now retired.

- You are American soldier
- loyalty, courage, smartly
- Remember you
- Japanese spirit

Feb 1984, Nisei Lawyers, testimonial dinner film.

- His sister spoke; • Frank Chuman; • George Aratani;
- LA. lawyers group may have kept a written or taped copies of the speeches.

2 younger brothers volunteered for MIS:

Daniel also
James also
Paul also - taught Japanese for Navy. Boulder Colo.

Shigeo Ben Suseta

La, Ca

trouble maker, always maligned of Aiso
Menill's Marauders - Kiker; trash;
called in several times, insubordination to instructors,
"bad boy"; couldn't handle him, so sent him to Aiso;
& Ben would beat Aiso in years

Many years after the war, both happened to board
the same plane; only two seats side by side; talked
about old times; suddenly realized Aiso's magnitude
of responsibility; the high standards that had to be maintained;
completely turned around. Today a staunch
supporter;