

NOVEMBER 3, 1985

Richard Oguro

LONI!

Will gladly make myself available for the December 1 thru 8 week1

However, may I be a "critic" of your NISEI SOLDIER for a moment? I never had the chance to do so while you were in your "rush-rush" trip" trip in Hawaii last! Do you have to always rush-rush?

It is a UNANIMOUS sentiment that NISEI SOLDIER is too short (running time, that is) to fully cover/depict pictorially such a topic matter. The use of the word nisei is really what I would like to "grumble" about. The Mainland Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA's) have been molded by the mainland media into simply: Nisei. A clear translation of the word itself means simply - 2nd generation. So with the use of that word there needs to be a clarifying noun/adjective? Such as: Nisei Americans; Nisei Germans; Nisei Chinese, et cetera.

We 2nd generation Japanese American soldiers have always been labelled by our local media: newspapers and radio as Americans of Japanese-American, shortened to AJA's.

Such trivia as this make up the "slight" differences that exist between the mainland KO-TOONKS and the Hawaii BUDDHA-HEADS! Besides, films that have come out so far, except the Nisei Soldier, have been more mainland oriented/slanted as to incense us buddha-heads!

Controversy still exists as to what exact words describes most exactly the 2nd generation Japanese Americans. Nikkei - means Japanese-Americans; Nichi-Bei - means Japanese-Americans. And, not all the AJA's that served in WW II were 2nd generation. Some were Sansei's (3rd Generation) as well as some were 2nd/3rd generation. We had Japanese-Hawaiians, Japanes-caucasians too!

My favorite is of ^{CAUSE AMERICANS OF ANCESTRY} ~~Japanese-Americans~~, that is, AJA's. But that is really no big thing as we say it in Hawaii. What's in a name?!

Then you mention my association with JICPOA. Really, I never served in this intelligence center of the Pacific - that's what it really was. I served in the ATIS intelligence cntr of Gen MacArthur in the SWPA Theater. (ATIS - Allied Translator-Interpreter Section) and SWPA - South-West Pacific Area)

I really don't know just what you want to know and would like to do when you are in Hawaii in December. Let me give you a short "refreshercourse" of the MIS story, as I know it.

Before the out break of WW II, Dec 7 41, the two Hawaii National Guard units, the 298th and the 299th Regiments had been federalized and deployed along the beaches of all the islands of Hawaii, the 298th, the beaches on Oahu and the 299th, the beaches on the rest of the islands. That was around June 1940, about the same time the 1st DRAFT was instituted.

Upon completion of their basic training (8 weeks) they were assigned to units of the 298th and the 299th - to bring these regiments up to full war-time strengths! On the mainland, kotonk draftees were assigned to units everywhere on the mainland.

About the time of the 3rd draft (April 1941), three AJA's were recruited SECRETLY by the Military, in Hawaii, and sent to Manila, sub rosa, and planted in prominent Japanese establishments in Manila: Art Komori - Richard Sakakida - and Clarence Yamagata, all out of Hawaii

In Nov 1941, one month prior to the out break of WW II, the 1st class of the MISLS (Military Intelligence Service Language School) started at the Presidio, San Francisco in an abandoned hangar of Crissley Field on a shoe string budget of \$2,000.00 A dream come true for Messers: Rassmunsen-Wekerling & Company!

INFAMOUS DEC 7, 41! February 1942, FDR's equally infamous Japanese exclusion act which caused the setting up of relocation camps for internment etc.

June 1942, graduation of 1st class and its deployment. Some graduates retained as instructors; others sent out to the fields - Alaska, Hawaii, and the South Pacific.

Just prior to the graduation of this first class, in May 1942, in Hawaii, the 298th and the 299th Hawaiian Regts were all recalled to Schofield Barracks, having been relieved finally by fresh units from the mainland.

At Schofield, all AJA's from these two units were pulled out and formed into a separate unit - the Hawaiian Provisional Bn.

Between the 1st Draft to the 4th Draft (this group was still on basic training when Pearl Harbor was attacked) 1400 AJA's had been drafted into the Army.

With the Battle of Midway eminent, this provisional Bn was wished away to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. Upon arrival in Oakland though, the unit assumed a new name: 100th Inf Bn (Sep).

Sept 1942, the Bn was paid a visit by teams from the Camp Savage MISLS. The first class at Camp Savage was in session. The school had to move from the Presidio to Minnesota because of the edict too.

✓ Nov 1942, the 1st contingent of 100th Inf Bn boys (60) were transferred to Camp Savage. 2 weeks later another group was transferred from Camp McCoy to Camp Savage (I was in this 2nd group). Recruiting from the relocation camps had fallen short of its quota so the 100th had been asked to make up the shortage.

The first Savage class graduated and were dispersed. Sgt Ron Chagami of Hawaii was in this class. He was a mainland draftee, though. Going back a little, A Dr. Alfred J. Burden was in the first class at the Presidio. Being a reservist he had been called to active service while practicing medicine on Maui.

Classes started for us in Dec 1942. Since we were really the first group from Hawaii to be sent to MISLS, we labelled ourselves SEMPAL GUMI, meaning #1! Guinea Pigs. The recruits from the relocation centers were also in the same boat - the first of their kind to attend MISLS, so they are also sempais!

In February of 1943 while our class was still in session, the 442nd RCT was activated in Shelby, Mississippi, with about 6,000 volunteers all buddha-heads from Hawaii and mainland kotonks.

The 100th which had been transferred to Camp Shelby in Dec 1942 had been on the Louisiana Manuever and had just returned back to Camp Shelby to find the 442nd RCT encamped next door! The 100th was still a separate. Shortly after its return, the 100th got its debarkation orders and moved out. Finally landed in Oran, Africa, August 1943. Was attached to the 34th Red Bull Division. Received its baptism of fire in Salerno, Italy and fought with the 34th through Cassino, Anzio and the break-through to Rome, before finally being re-assigned as a bn of the 442nd RCT which had just arrived in Italy, after the fall of Rome. The 442nd RCT had been shipped overseas minus one bn. The 100th filled in the void, however, was permitted to retain its identity as the 100th Inf Bn, less (Sep) which was dropped for good. It is recorded in the Army history books today as such.

One month before our graduation, a team was made up and sent to Alaska; the Merrill's Maudraders Language Team was handpicked from this class and secretly moved out before graduation! Kazuo Yamane and Ray Harada were assigned to the Pentagon, D.C. and later Yamane himself was to work with SHAEFF, in Europe, doing G-2 work covering and raiding Japanese embassies all over Europe. A team composed of Ben Yamamoto and a few others were sworn to "secrecy unto death" and assigned to a POW camp established in Byron Hot Springs, Byron, CA! In spite of the ban on Japanese to stay out of the West Coast??? Groups were sent out to JICPOA, and to New Caledonia and Brisbane, Australia. A few were also sent to New Dehli, India to bolster up the center there.

Graduates of the 4th class, 3rd class at Camp Savage were predominantly volunteers from

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from Hawaii and the USA. These were recruited by recruiting teams sent out by the school and composed of the 2nd Savage class (Sempais) This is the group that really organized the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii. The MIS Nor Cal Assn on the other hand, however, was founded by the Sempais of the Class of June 42!

The buildings that housed JICPOA ANNEX as the MIS section was called in no more. Originally this unit occupied a building near McKinley Grill and later moved into more spacious quarters on the commissary grounds on the waterfront.

The following intelligence centers operated in the Pacific during WW II:

JICPOA - Which was really operated by the Navy and the Marines for their joint operation in the Pacific Ocean sea-land operations.

CBI - China-Burma- India. There was a center at New Dehli, India as well as one in Chungking, China which was known as Cintac, I believe. Dr Burden of the 1st class, Presidio, headed this center.

What are your specifics? Interviews? What kind? Whom?

Please do your homework thoroughly. Hope to hear from you before you are here.

SINCERELY

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P.S. Back in Sept 1942, 60 members of Company B, 100th Inf Bn "disappeared" for about 4-5 months. The story never leaked out until way after the war! This contingent was hand picked from above to participate in a Dog Training Experiment to be conducted on Cat Island located on the Mississippi (?) In Louisiana! The experiment was to be conducted to test the theory that Japanese smelled differently from other races, that dogs could therefore be used in the Pacific war! But, after 4 or 5 months, all the fighting the men with all breeds of dogs proved negative and the experiment was abandoned!

Ethno selective weapons

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China selective response

852
1062
272
272
5-1-47
84-47
822
29
73