

522nd vet relates wartime exploits
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by Robert Shimabukuro

Los Angeles — Clarence Matsumura, speaking on behalf of the 522nd Field Artillery, and Eric Saul, curator of the Military History Museum at the Presidio in San Francisco, gave a brief history of Nisei veterans' accomplishment in Europe and the Pacific during WW2 at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Holocaust Museum Jan. 12.

Matsumura related the experiences in Germany of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, which was among the first Allied troops to reach the Dachau concentration camp in April 1944. Matsumura told of the mixed emotions involved in staying and helping the just-liberated prisoners while under orders to continue advancing in order to "find the (camp) guards" as well as Hitler's headquarters and "to capture as much territory as we could before the Russians got there."

In an emotionally charged speech, Matsumura asked for any information from survivors about how many were actually helped by the 522nd. He added the the 522nd was among the first to reach many POW camps, recently abandoned by fleeing guards, with French, Bulgarian and Russian prisoners. Saul presented a historical overview of WW2 Nisei exploits, relying on anecdotes about the Nisei.

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Clarence Matsumura can be reached at

Hope this info will be of help.

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Also - you might be interested to know that Clarence was a staunch backer of Frank East - so you know that at least some vets stood behind the resisters also.

This is the part that was left out of the first column:

Saul recounted a battle in which 200 Texas soldiers of the 131st Infantry Regiment of the 36th Division were trapped by the Germans for almost two weeks. While 10,000 soldiers of the home Texas unit couldn't get to them, 2,000 men of the 100th, 442nd and 522nd could. "In four days of the fiercest fighting of World War II, you broke through and rescued those men."

After that, the 522nd was detached from the 442 as part of the 7th Army to spearhead the attack on Germany.