

# 100th / 442nd NEWSLETTER



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## LOOKING AHEAD

By George M. Nishinaka

I am not a fatalist nor believe in pre-destination, but during combat, I felt like many veterans that if there was a bullet that was meant for me, it would get me. Otherwise, I would have to think that the bullets flying around me were all coming my way and that would be untenable. In combat, living or dying is mostly luck like winning or losing in a big for life "crap shoot." Regardless, I don't think I ever teased death nor foolishly took any unnecessary chance, if I had the time to think about consequences.

There was an artillery barrage, and pieces of hot metal shrapnel were flying all over the place, and I picked up one. It was still hot with a whiff of smoke curling up from the shinning metal about the size of a small joint from one of my fingers. I picked it up, and I was thinking that this could make a real nice souvenir, but before I could even put it into my pocket, the fellow next to me said, something like, "I knew a guy who kept a piece of shrapnel; next day, he gets hit. He 'ma-ke'." I took one last look at the shinning metal and threw it back; like I stated earlier, I wasn't

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## LOST BATTALIONS EPILOUGE

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following article is the third and last installment of the book draft submitted by Franz Steidl. He has informed the editor that he was successful in contacting 1st Lt Marty Higgins, acting commander (at the time of the rescue attempt) of the 1st Battalion, 141st Inf Regiment of the 36th Division, who now resides in Columbia, S.C. He has also contacted Col James Hanley, Col Chris Keegan and Col Young Kim who have been all helpful in correcting and adding intelligence information which has produced 16 more additional pages of draft to the current 36 pages now appearing in our Newsletter. Franz Steidl will be our guest speaker at our 35th Annual Installation Luncheon, Saturday, January 21, 1995.

### LOST BATTALIONS EPILOGUE

Staff Sergeant Tsuneo Takemoto distinguished himself during the attack by running some 30 yards toward a Group of Germans armed with machine pistols, shouting and spraying them with his fire. Inspired by his courage his platoon also charged and destroyed the strong point. Later, when his men were counterattacked by 12 Germans he again led a charge, routing the Germans and netting 34 prisoners before the action was over. For his gallantry, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

By now the lead battalions were only 700 yards from the encircled 1st Battalion of the 141st Infantry. But the 442nd was at less than half strength.

Tech 5 Clarence Taba of Company I went to battalion headquarters, saying, "No officers, Send us some," and the colonel replied. "Three lieutenants are on their way." But the infantry lieutenants never made it up the hill, all injured en-route.

With Captain Byrne dead, Taba told the only remaining lieutenant that he was the company commander now. But he said, "I'm the executive officer, I'm not in command." I went to Colonel Pursall and said, "He refused to take command and ought to be court-martialled." But Pursall said, "I'll commission you and you take over." Because I wasn't trained as an officer I also refused to be commissioned as a lieutenant.



## FOX HOLE NEWS

By Frank Y. Morimoto

As long as I have been associated with "F" Co 442nd, Roy Mino Yamada has served as treasurer. He is truly dedicated and has kept our chapter solvent all these years, and we thank him from the bottom of our hearts. Roy was inducted into the Army two days before Pearl Harbor at Ft MacArthur, CA. From there, he went to Fort Knox, Kentucky which is an Armored Division Post. After completing 13 weeks of Basic training, his next assignment found him at Fort Benjamin Harrison where he spent the next two years doing menial tasks around the Post. He then transferred to Camp Shelby, Miss. when the 442nd Inf was activated. He was originally assigned to "E" Co and sailed with them in May 1944 from Camp Patrick Henry. After a long voyage, he landed in Oran, Africa. After the first day of combat, he was transferred to "F" Co when it suffered so many casualties. He served in the second Platoon with then Sgt Mas Chomori as his Platoon Sgt with Sgt Ohama as his Asst. Sgt Hank Oyasato was his Sqd leader. Luckily, he survived the whole war and after "D" Day in Europe had enough points to be separated from the service. He sailed from Leghorn, Italy and landed at Camp Patrick Henry and was discharged at Fort Sheridan, Ill. He and his lovely wife Helen are blessed with two children Lyn and Alan and are proud grandparents of five children.

Yuke Iguchi was one "F" Co faithful medical technician in combat and this is his military history as he related it to me. Yuke was living in Van Nuys, CA when he was inducted into the Army Nov.,

ant. But Pursall made me first sergeant. That lieutenant actually refused to be put in charge. He may have been shell shocked, because he was eventually evacuated to the hospital. So I ended up as acting company commander - me, a clerk."

The Germans too had suffered terrible losses on October 29 - at least 350 killed, wounded, or captured. The German army log for October 30, reads:

"After two clear days, hazy weather; the enemy's main thrust is in the area of the 16th Infantry Division south of the road les-Rouges-Eaux to St. Die."

"Attacking with superior forces the Americans were able to break through in several areas."

On the morning of the October 30, every gun and mortar the 442nd RCT could muster was trained on the ridge separating the combat team from the "lost battalion." Following the barrage, the lead companies moved ahead until Company I reached a mined roadblock defended by some 50 Germans. After renewed artillery fire, Companies I and K overcame the obstacle, and continued their push.

At about 1400, a Company I patrol reached the outer perimeter of the "lost battalion." There were tears in a good many eyes, but little cheering or jubilation by the 211 men remaining of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Everybody was too exhausted from the days of bitter fighting and exposure to the elements. The Texans, just like the Nisei soldiers were suffering terribly from trench foot, after days of slogging through the icy mud.

With the patrol led by Tech Sergeant Takeo Senzaki were Sergeant Lawrence Ishikawa, PFC Henry Nakada, and PFC Matsui "Mutt" Sakumoto from First Platoon. Soon thereafter, they were joined by a platoon from Company B on the right flank. Sakumoto describes the encounter.

"I could see in a distance one or two persons moving about, but when I told Henry and Sergeant Senzaki, they didn't see any movement. The next time I looked ahead I saw this GI look straight in my direction. I kept looking and looking until he motioned to his buddies. Then everybody started yelling and motioning to come ahead. I was taken directly to their command post where I met a lieutenant - I forgot his name - who introduced himself as the commanding officer."

The book, The Fighting 36th, describes how Sergeant Edward Guy of New York City was on outpost when he saw somebody.

"He strained his eyes looking and then he raced down the hill like crazy, yelling and laughing and grabbing the soldier and hugging. PFC Mutt Sakumoto just looked at him... and the first thing he could think to say was, 'Do you guys need any cigarettes?'"

The Japanese Americans were the most pleasing sight in the world to Buck Glover. "I saw this short, dark-skinned kid come up, wearing an American helmet several sizes too big. Did that matter? No. Here was a brother of mine coming up to save my life... As long as I live, I will never forget the soldier who asked, 'Are you guys out of cigarettes?'" By 1600, both the 100th and 2nd Battalions had made preparations to evacuate the wounded, and established a peri-



1941. His first Military Post was Fort MacArthur, CA. After a brief stay, he went to Camp Grant, Illinois where he underwent a 17 week basic medical course. He then went to Cott Field, Ill. where he served for a year. Then he went back to Camp Grant until he was sent to Camp Blanding, Florida, in July 1944 for a basic infantry course when more replacements were required for the 442nd in Europe. On Nov., 1944 he sailed to Marseille, France and joined "F" Co in Sospel. He served in the Champaign campaign and the Italian Po Valley battles and left the unit in Dec., 1945 as he had enough points to be discharged. He sailed from Leghorn, Italy to the Port of New York and on to Fort MacArthur where he was discharged. We can never thank our Medics for the role that they played in combat as they are unarmed and just like sitting ducks and at the mercy of the enemy. Yuke and his wife Emi are faithful supporters and active members of our Chapter and can always be counted on to serve whenever needed.

Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery was a cool day with a threatening sky and a few sprinkles. A nice crowd attended the service to honor our fallen comrades. Hiro Takusagawa was the M.C. and performed in a professional manner. Warren Furu-tani of the Los Angeles School Board rendered an eloquent challenging speech. The Eternal Rose Kaneshige sang our National Anthem and her dedication should not be overlooked. From "F" Co, Stan "Kowshine" Kawashima, Jack Wakamatsu, Frank Sotelo, Ocean Miyake, Mits Mitsueda, Mas Tamayei, Roy Yamada, Shiz & Mas Miyamoto, Emi & Hiro Takusagawa, and Yuri & Frank Morimoto enjoyed the ceremony. Most of the group went

meter around the hilltop.

The next day, October 31, the 3rd Battalion received orders to push on toward the end of the long ridge which had been the initial objective of the 1/141st. The 100th meanwhile was to shift south to protect the regiment's right flank and supply lines, while the 2nd Battalion remained on Hill 617 to protect the 36th Division's left flank. Soon, patrols from the 3rd Battalion encountered a group of Germans constructing a roadblock in their path. Following an artillery barrage, Company I attacked and managed to take 8 prisoners. Because of the threat of tanks and flak wagons on both sides, the roadblock was left intact and occupied by a company from the 100th Battalion. At dusk both battalions reached their objectives - the southern tip of the Foret de Champ just above the hamlet of Vanemont. The unit remained in position for three days while conducting patrols south, east, and west of the ridge.

On November 3, the Germans attempted to break through the 3rd Battalion's thinly held line, but Companies I and L repulsed the attack with heavy cross-fire.

Even though most rifle companies were down to less than half strength, General Dahlquist decided that the 442nd should clear the ridge all the way down to the valley floor. The objective was to cut off the Germans holding Gerardmer from their main forces around St. Die. Why Dahlquist decided to continue the attack with the spent 442nd is still subject to speculation. In hindsight, it is obvious, however, that the attack was a gamble. The narrow Corcieux Valley was well defended by the German 716th Division. This division was in far better shape than its battered neighbor, the 16th, commanded by General Hackel. Elements of the 1716th, 933rd and 736th Grenadier Regiments backed by the armored Task Force Escherich lay well entrenched in a semicircular position around the downward slope of the Bois de la Bourse. Their withering fire met the 3rd Battalion as it descended into the valley, virtually stopping them in their tracks.

The regiment tried again the next day. Attacking at 0800 on November 5, their mission was to break through the enemy defenses and secure the railroad track running around the base of the hill. The American rifle companies were lined up in a semicircle, curving from the northeast to southwest. Company F was at the northern end of the arc with the 3rd Battalion rifle companies L, K, and I forming the bow facing east. Company G, attached to the 3rd Battalion, was facing south while the 100th Battalion was defending the slopes toward La Houssiere against German attempts to cut their slender supply line.

As soon as the 3rd Battalion men came out of their holes they ran into heavy resistance, including artillery and mortar fire which had been scarce during the previous four days. The barrages lasted from dawn to dusk - artillery shells giving a brief warning with their whine while mortars, including heavy 120mm, whispered only faintly just before impact. All of the companies sustained heavy casualties and managed to gain no more than 200 yards. While it may have been obvious to the commanders on the ground that the 442nd, far from cutting off the Germans were themselves vulnerable to being



to Paul's Kitchen for our customary lunch and then to Orange County's V.F.W. Kazuo Masuda Post for their Memorial Service.

I was informed that recently Mr & Mrs Bruce Nagasaki of San Diego sent a generous donation to "F" Co in memory of Kazu's sister Sumi Kamachi. Also Tak Sasaki of Monterey, CA did likewise for his buddy Shoji Nakadate. We thank you all very much!!!

"F" Co quarterly meeting was held at the Hong Kong Gardens Restaurant in Torrance, CA June 5, 1994. Pres Hiro Takusagawa made the arrangements and 24 people enjoyed the meal and meeting. We were honored by several guests. Marge & Mas Yoshida brought Caucasian friends Addie & Henry whose last name I didn't catch and Zig Elizono a friend of the Fukasawas and a student of U.C. Irvine. Henry served in Italy the same time as the 100/442, and he wanted to meet some of the fellows. Zig is writing a term paper on the history of the 100/442 and he wanted authentic information about them. 1st Sgt Jack Wakamatsu obliged him, and I am sure that he got ample information. Marge & Mas Yoshida, Shiz & Mas Miyamoto, Donna & Sadao Okuhara, Telma & Mas Tamayei, Emi & Yuke Iguchi, Jeane & Mas Chomori, Frank Sotelo, Roy Yamada, Jack Wakamatsu, Emi & Hiro Takusagawa, and Yuri & Frank Morimoto enjoyed the good food and camaraderie. Roy gave his treasurer's report, and I was amazed when he told us that "F" Co has about 81 paid up members that are located all over the continent. We were saddened to learn from Roy Yamada that Tadashi Arita who was in the same squad as Roy passed away February 1994 in New York. "F" Co sends their condolences to the family.

cut off, General Dahlquist insisted that they keep up their attack. But by nightfall, the objective was nowhere in sight, and the company commanders had to pull back to their original positions or risk even more lives for such marginal gains.

On November 6, Company E joined in the fray, yet the Germans held. Company G on the right was further hampered by an unusual minefield. Thin wires ran from each mine to the German fox holes, and each time one of the Nisei soldiers got close, the opposing soldier would pull the wire and detonate a mine. When a tank supporting Company G was disabled by an anti-tank round, the Germans captured it. But a second American tank set it on fire with three rounds from its 75mm gun.

American armor attached to the 442nd played a pivotal role throughout the campaign. The men of the 752nd Tank battalion were considered far and away the best the Nisei soldiers had ever worked with. Through the most difficult terrain and against a tenacious enemy they went as far as they could, and then some.

The Germans too respected the 442nd RCT's tactics combining tanks and infantry in the wooded area.

"With tank attacks, the escorting infantry covered dead angles of the tanks by escorting them on both sides. It was rarely possible to separate the tanks from the infantry, thus allowing the enemy to penetrate deeper and deeper into the forest. In this, for tanks difficult terrain, showed the American Sherman tank with its superb driving ability a superiority over the Panzer IV."

Also the 232d Engineers had performed magnificently, keeping the single useful trail open day after day, in icy rain, to support the push for the "lost battalion," and beyond.

On November 7, the 3rd Battalion made its final effort to drive the Germans off the slopes reaching toward La Housiere and Vanemont. After a 1,000 round barrage throughout the night and early morning (from Company M's mortar platoon), the attack commenced at 0930. According to a prisoner's testimony, the pounding took a heavy toll in lives, and nearly drove some of the Germans mad. Company G gained 800 yards and was able to seize some houses at the base of the hill just short of the railroad tracks, and by nightfall, the companies were in echelon formation from the bottom of the hill to the top: G, I, K, and L.

The plan for November 8, called for a sweep around the hill, like a gate, with Company L being the hinge on top. As clever as the plan was, its execution was problematic. It is a tribute to the men that they were able to move at all. Most companies had dwindled down to fewer than 30 men on the line, many of them sick. Nearly all suffered from trench foot, some so badly they could hardly walk while others were coming down with flu from the constant exposure to the elements. As the turning movement progressed, German artillery and mortars pounded the 2nd and 3rd Battalions with more than 2,000 rounds between November 7 and 8.



The Reverse Raffle held June 25, 1994 at the Memorial Hall was a fun affair and a financial success. The 100th Bn cooks and crew served a gourmet meal of steak, chicken, shrimp shishkabob, corn, eggplant, salad and cold drinks.

Don Seki and crew did a great job conducting the raffle. Emi & Hiro Takusagawa, Shiz & Mas Miyamoto, Emi & Yuke Iguchi, Frank Sotelo, Ocean Miyake, Yuri & Frank Morimoto & grandson Dan Johnson enjoyed the great meal and the excitement of the raffle.

Recently, Ocean Miyake informed me that his daughter, Monica, was getting married June 5, 1994 in Las Vegas, NV. "F" Co members sends their best wishes to the newlyweds.

#### ABLE'S FABLES

By Fred Yasukochi

After all, this is the month of July, and I'm thinking that it was not too long ago that I just put to bed Vol 33 #5 issue of the Newsletter and that I could go back and do my favorite thing, which is to relax and take a long snooze this summer day and catch up on my long awaited sleep time. Then someone calls and ask, if I heard this or that, and so I decided it's not worth all this hassle so I get up and try to put the story behind all of this enthusiasm, but better yet, just get up off your duffer and finish the September issue of the news and get it out of the way!

Jane and I were up in Seattle, the first part of June, there, to see our son receive his masters degree in accounting from the University of Washington and to meet his fiancée's parents who reside

Again individual acts of courage generated the momentum to gain some ground. For example, PFC Joe M. Nishimoto, an acting squad leader in Company G, crawled through a heavily mined and booby-trapped area to reach a German machine gun position. He destroyed it with a hand grenade and then circled to the rear of another gun, killing its crew with a burst from his Tommy gun. He went on killing a rifleman and driving another machine gun crew from its position. His actions broke the stalemate in his area and earned him the Distinguished Service Cross. PFC Nishimoto was later killed in action.

Having thus driven a wedge into the German positions, the companies spent most of November 8 mopping up the hillside, and General Dahlquist decided to pull the 442nd from the front line.

In a separate action Company F, with two platoons of Anti Tank Company, pushed northeast to meet up with the 142nd Infantry driving down the Rouges Eaux River Valley. They met little infantry but were shelled regularly along the way.

Meanwhile the 232d Engineers continued their desperate efforts to keep the roads open, laying corduroy steel and repairing fills that had been torn open by their own tanks and the constant pounding of German artillery. This unit and the 111th Engineer Battalion later received Distinguished Unit Citations for keeping the supply lines of the 36th Division open.

By nightfall, November 9, most elements of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team had been relieved and pulled back to rest areas. The door to St Die lay wide open, allowing the 36th Division to continue its push toward the Rhine.

Vitus Kolbinger, Adjutant of the now severely, depleted Mountain Battalion 201 to the north remembers his own efforts to have his battalion pulled back from its hopelessly exposed positions. Able to get through to Infantry Regiment 225's commander, he was able to persuade him, but calls to higher headquarters, countermanded the decision. The call was answered directly by General Fieldmarshal Keitel who conveyed the Fuhrer's orders: "The mountain troops have to hold their current positions to the last man!"

Kolbinger recalls telling the regimental commander, "That's a death sentence for us. Why don't you just give us the order, honestly, to sacrifice ourselves."

The regimental commander answered. "Yes, I order you to sacrifice yourselves!"

After personally conveying the order to his battalion commander, Lt. Colonel Kapfer, he again returned to the regimental command post and blatantly lied that he could only find a few stragglers, all that was left of his battalion. The lie was accepted, and after several telephone calls, the new Fuhrer orders came down "To collect stragglers and establish a new defense line."

like its sister battalion 202 from Salzburg, Mountain Battalion 201 from Garmisch had about 1,000 men when they joined in the fight on October 26. About half were combat veterans, the rest well-trained recruits. Both battalions were decimated in the fight against the 7th Infantry Regiment and the 442nd.

The commander of the nearly destroyed German 16th Infan-



in Bellevue. We called May Namba and Kurimuras, soon after we got there, so we were able to have lunch together with May, Terry, Marie, Evelyn and Toshimi. They took us on tour around the Seattle area, really on short notice, and went to see a Washington State winery, sold under the name of Chateau St. Michelle wines. Really enjoyed the outing, except for the constant drizzle and light rain. We talked about the families and the members of "A" Battery, and got down to the Reunion in April of 1995. They were interested and thought that perhaps they would be there and asked that the arrangements for the hotel be left to the individuals and the hotel people. In other words, let the hotels send out their reservations cards and deal with the guests directly instead of the committee becoming involved in the negotiations. We told them that we would pass along their request to the committee and for them to make sure their reservations were in order. None of the people that we had lunch with knew or ran into anyone from the 522nd that we should contact. At least that was the story to the present but that they would certainly pass on the information regarding the reunion and urge everyone to attend. They all send greetings to everyone and wish to see all of you come April of next year. With that, the luncheon meeting was over; but it was still raining outside!

On a more local note, Joe Hattori called me the other day to inform me that he read a notice in Times that one of our original member of "A" Battery had deceased in early July, and that his services were held in Laguna Hills. He was 80 years of age and is survived by his widow, Ruth

try Division, General Hackel, was sent on "vacation" that day. Filling the gap now were parts of the 716th Infantry Division, and Grenadier Regiment 736.

The entry of the 19th Army dated November 11, reads, "General Hackel's health has deteriorated to a point requiring a long vacation. Apparently his court martial was the last blow..."

But the 442 had paid a heavy price. In the 3rd Battalion, where casualties had been heaviest, Company I had only four riflemen and a light machine gun crew section left on the line. Company K had 17 riflemen and part of the weapons platoon, commanded by Sergeant Tsutomu Yoshida who later received a commission. The ranks of the other regimental units were similarly depleted, down to one third of their normal strength.

When General Dahlquist came to inspect the regiment in the rear only a few hundred stood for the muster. When he asked, "Where are the men?" Colonel Virgil Miller, the regiment's executive officer replied, "That's all that's left."

Daniel Inouye later a lieutenant and recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, now serving as the U.S. Senator from Hawaii remembers.

"Company E that day was the largest company in the regiment; we had 42 men in formation. A company at full strength had 197 men...that shook me up. When you're in combat, all you see is your platoon, but when you line up like this and all of a sudden you realize your company of 42 men is the biggest. My God!"

Only the 522nd Field Artillery remained combat effective, supporting the division's push all the way into Germany. The 100th Battalion was detached from the regiment and sent to the rest center at Bains-les-Bains. The 2nd was assembled at Fays, and the 3rd was resting at Lepanges. The men got hot showers, clean clothes, and the chance to catch up on their sleep. In every battalion, the chaplains held services for the men who had died during 25 days of action. 1,800 men lay in hospitals all over France, recovering from their wounds. Some would never be entirely well, while others returned to fight again.

Still the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were sent back to the line on November 13, relieving the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry in their defensive positions (with 3rd Battalion of the 442nd staying in reserve). Thus, positioned in the Foret Dominiale du Champ, the 442nd mission was to stop any German counterattack while the 36th Division continued its push east. Evidence that the Germans were making a major withdrawal came during the night of November 15, when observers reported huge fires in St Die and Corcieux about one mile ahead of the American front lines. The Germans were torching everything that could possibly be of any use to the advancing Americans. In St. Die, one of the oldest cities in France, many historical monuments crumbled in the flames. On November 17, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was detached from the 36th Division and ordered to proceed to Nice on the French Riviera with out delay. As the unit pulled out, Colonel Pence received the following letter from General Dahlquist.

(1) The 36th Division regrets that the 442nd Combat Team must be detached and sent to other duties. The period



and a niece, Adele Parker Verkamp. Not too many of you will remember him, because he was a quiet member and was in our hutment. He was transferred into the 69th division just before we pulled out to go to the European Theater of Operations. I remember him talking about the real estate business, and I understood him to say that his father was in the business with him selling real estate on the west side of Los Angeles. He was a fine fellow with good humor.

I have been informed by those that be that "A" Battery was poorly represented at the reverse raffle and Hall Clean Up BBQ Luncheon held by the 442nd Club. I hear that the only ones attending were Tootsie Yoshimura and her sister Yoshi, Fumi Uyeda, Koji and Maggie Konishi. Seems that was the "A" Battery contingent, and I must say that is a poor showing. Hopefully, more can attend next year. The 442nd Club House can use more support for its once a year fund raising effort and to clean up the place. Dozo tanomimasu!

Maggie Konishi and Tootsie Yoshimura have announced the luncheon planned for the members of "A" Battery to be held at the Oiwake Restaurant, 2nd floor at 122 Japanese Village Plaza Mall, Los Angeles, CA on Wednesday, Aug 17, 1994 at 11:00 A.M.

This announcement will be printed too late for this event, but I thought that I would put it in since there is just no other way without expense to do so. Please accept my apologies.

The 522nd F.A. reunion is coming right along and the plans for this gala event will soon be announced and brochures to this effect will be forthcoming soon.

The dates are April 27, 28,

during which you have served, October 14 to November 18, 1944, was one of hard, intense fighting through terrain as difficult as any army has ever encountered.

(2) The courage, steadfastness, and willingness of your officers and men were equal to any ever displayed by United States troops.

(3) Every officer and man of the Division joins me in sending our best personal regards and good wishes to every member of your command, and we hope that we may be honored again by having you as a member of our Division.

#### EPILOG

The individual efforts and sacrifices made by the men of the 442nd are nothing short of heroic. Company I for example lost 28 killed and 205 wounded in action throughout the war. Among the wounded, 42 earned the oak leaf cluster for being wounded a second time, ten more earned two clusters, and Staff Sergeant Shiro "Cash" Kashino from Seattle, recipient of both the Silver and Bronze Stars for gallantry, also had five oak leaf clusters on his Purple Heart - unparalleled in the 442nd.

First Lieutenant James D. Weatley Jr., Company I's acting company commander, had three clusters on his Purple Heart when he was killed near Carrara toward the end of the war. Company I had a number of outstanding officers like 1st Lieutenant Mike Kreskowsy who was almost always up front with his Tommy gun, calling at the Germans like Munchkins from The Wizard of Oz, "Come out, come out wherever you are!"

There were Captains Joseph Graham, wounded on Hill 140 in Italy, and the 6 foot 4 inch Joseph David Byrne, killed in action one day before the "lost battalion's" relief.

Throughout its combat involvement from Salerno, on September 27, 1943 (100th Battalion only) until the end of the war with Germany, May 8, 1945, the 442nd accrued an impressive array of decorations:

1	Medal of Honor
47	Distinguished Service Crosses
1	Distinguished Service Medal
12	Oak Leaf Clusters to Silver Star
343	Silver Stars
17	Legions of Merit
15	Soldier's Medals
38	Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Star
810	Bronze Stars
1	Air Medal
486	Oak Leaf Clusters to Purple Heart
2,022	Purple Hearts
36	Army Commendations
87	Division Commendations
12	Croix de Guerre (France)
2	Palms to Croix de Guerre
2	Croce al Merito di Guerra (Italy)
2	Medaglia di Bronzo al Valor Militare
7	Distinguished Unit Citations
2	Meritorious Service Unit Plaques
1	Army Commendation

Note: Numbers reflect official records as of 1946. Many more awards were



and 29, 1995. The program will show that Thursday April 27th will be arrival date, and we expect people arriving at various time of the day and night into Los Angeles. Hospitality suites will be available for all members at the Miyako Hotel which will be our Host Headquarters and the Hospitality quarters for the reunion. The Otani Hotel will be available for check in and possibly tour groups to depart from.

Golfing will be available with Sud Kodama in charge. I understand that everyone is invited to play which will be held at the Whittier Narrow's Golf Club. He has arranged a package deal for all golfers which includes 18 holes of golf, carts, and green fees plus prizes for the cost of \$55.00. For those who have not established handicaps, there will be a callaway scoring system in effect to tally the scores. So for your pleasure and for your few days in Southern California, enjoy the weather and the sun. Everyone is welcome to this fun golf package.

Don't forget, be sure to sign up for golf. It'll be fun, fun, fun.

The Museum personnel have been working tirelessly for the past few months to gather information and facts as they pertain to the 522nd and its role in the liberation of the Dachau inmates. By the time you folks get down to Los Angeles, they should have an exhibit well worth your time to see. It will really highlight the history of the 522nd F.A. Bn and will make you proud of the role the 522nd played in WWII.

#### EXTRA

Word just received from the Kurimuras' that they just learned that Alfred "Goldie" Yamaguchi died in Seattle, Washington on July 14, 1994. He was 79 years old. He was

made but not properly recorded by medical facilities and due to rotations and medical discharges.

But the price paid by the Nisei Soldiers was severe. During 19 months of combat the 100th Battalion, followed in June of 1944 by the remainder of the regiment, took disproportionately large casualties. 650 men died in action or from wounds, 3,536 were wounded, 67 were listed missing in action, and another 177 were injured in non-combat accidents. (The most often cited statistics from Orville C. Shirey's book Americans: The Story of the 442nd Combat Team are incomplete).

What kept the Nisei soldiers going in the face of such adversity? "Hattori no namae wo haji kake na!" (Don't disgrace the Hattori family name and reputation). Not to bring shame to the family was probably as important a motto for the 442nd as "Go for Broke." This, coupled with personal relationships formed the foundation for the "esprit de corps" of the regiment. Some soldiers also wanted to demonstrate their loyalty to a nation which had imprisoned them and their families because of their race.

It is said that Colonel Gordon Singles, the 100th Battalion Commander, publicly refused to shake General Dahlquist's hand during a full dress review at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Dahlquist was then a visiting four-star general. Also, years after he retired, General Pence, the 442nd commander, could not bring himself to mention Dahlquist's name without his voice trembling with anger.

When asked what kept him and the other German soldiers going, Vitus Kolbinger, Adjutant of the Mountain Battalion 201 states:

"Hardly the clever ideological motives that came at us from the very clever and omnipresent party organs. It was more a patriotic concern, love for ones homeland, particularly among the mountain troops; also sober pragmatism. Until that point, none of us soldiers had ever 'run away.'"

When asked what he thought about the American effort in the Vosges Mountains, Mr. Kolbinger states,

"In light of their superiority in materiel, I don't believe it was necessary for the Americans 'to fight to the last man,' as Hitler demanded of us. The high casualties on both sides of the 'Ht. Jacques' demonstrate that."

Vitus Kolbinger fought in the war from September 1, 1939 through Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Russia, and the Vosges Mountains until his capture by the Americans in 1945. After the war he completed his studies as an opera singer, and gave numerous performances. His career was cut short by recurring sinus infections, the result of freezing on the Russian Front. A pensioner since 1978, he has dedicated much of his time to researching and chronicling the fate of the Mountain Battalions 201 and 202.

Today, memorials mark the progress of the carnage, and each year veterans from both sides of the war return to retrace their steps taken five decades ago, each year fewer as the years take their toll. It is with a deep respect for their sacrifices that I have written this article to commemorate the 50th anniversary of those events.

I would like to express my gratitude to the following



a good soldier and had a good sense of humor. He was at the 50th reunion, his very first, and he commented on how much he enjoyed it. His funeral was private.

## HIGH ANGLE

By Fred Yasukochi

Many years ago, I recall taking a course in high school, called "Typing 1-A, fundamentals of typing." Well, I thought everyone should take this course. After all, isn't everyone going to go on to college and wouldn't it be necessary to turn in term papers when you attend college? As next semester arrived, I was anxious to see how many students would actually take this course, and sure enough, a lot of students were enrolled in this typing class, but not many of my male classmates turned up as I had imagined. Nevertheless, a lot of female classmates had signed up for this course. In those days, it was almost imperative that, for their future, typing would be a required subject in which they could and must excel for job skills. Secretarial jobs were, after all, the starting position of most job opportunities for women in those days! On the first day, after acquainting ourselves with the modern typewriters of the day the Royal and the Underwood, the elderly woman teacher with her pince-nez glasses was the teacher and professor who had been this department for a long time and remembered by those students who passed through our high school some 10 to 15 years previously, remembered her well.

As most of you who have used those famous named brands of typewriters for many years will recall that some of the fun was in seeing how many of those keys you could jam in a

individuals organizations for their invaluable assistance:

Joe Hattori \* Vitus Kolbinger \* Werner Kortenhaus \* Tom Masamori \* Sam Sakamoto \* Rudy Tokiwa \* Hank Yoshitake \* The National Archives \* The UCLA Map Library \* Oberstecutnant Diefenbach \* Militargeschichtliches Forschungsamt \* Freiburg \* Publications: \* Americans: The Story of the 442nd Combat Team by Orville C. Shirey \* Boyhood to War by Dorothy Matsuo \* Go For Broke by Chester Tanaka \* I Can Never Forget by Thelma Chang \* U.S. Army Samurais in Bruyeres by Pierre Moulin

Joe

After the battles for Bruyeres and relief of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment (Lost Battalion), Joe Hattori continued with the 36th Division in the Push toward the Rhine and deep into Germany. When I interviewed Joe after the 442nd RCT's reunion in Hawaii in spring of 1993, he showed me the following piece which first appeared in the battalion newsletter:

"I remember you, Joe, when you first came into the Battery. You seemed bewildered, lost and alone. Disillusioned, too. I didn't blame you; after all, you had just left behind unhappy experiences within barbed wire fences only to see once more drab and ugly barracks. But you got over it. Hutment 6 became your home too. Remember?"

"Remember basic and unit training? Regimentation, discipline, uniformity - as if we were a bunch of regulated automatons. Remember maneuvers and the wilds of Louisiana and our first taste of C-rations?"

"Italy, our First glimpse of war-torn Europe... hungry, ill-clothed, and homeless. Italy and our baptismal fire at Grossetto. But all wasn't the grim business of fighting. Remember our First unpleasant taste of raw, red vino? And the pass to the Eternal City of Rome, and Via Roma in gay Napoli? I can still hear the city's cry of 'Hey Joe...'"

"Remember France and the rain, the mud, the snow and the cold? The bitter fighting up in the Vosges Mountains. Then Sospel and Menton and the Riviera and Nice. Nice, naughty, but delightful. Nice and champagne and cognac, tres jolies mademoiselles and jitterbug. Au revoir to fascinating France was pretty painful, huh?"

"And at last to Germany...The Siegfried Line and the maddening, unrelenting drive across the vaunted defenses of the Rhine, across the Danube, up to the foot of the Bavarian Alps. The V-E and cease fire...Remember our last drink together with the boys at Cafe Engel?"

Joe said, "He lives in Japan now - can't find him - Sam 'Sad Sack' Sakamoto." Where's Cafe Engel," I asked.

"Donauworth," Joe answered. "Had a 'good time there after the war. We went all over the place - Munich, Berchtesgaden, when the 101st was still there. We saw Hitler's house, the Eagle's Nest. Went to Brussels too. Nobody bothered us."

Joe continued with A Battery of the 522nd Artillery Battalion all the way into Germany. As the war neared its



typewriter and to see if possibly the next one you would be assigned to might be a newer and better machine for you to work with. I am still amazed that the old system of typing is so much ingrained in my automatic reflexes that I find myself typing the first phrases that the teacher instructed me to type so long ago and that is "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." I asked the teacher if this phrase had political connotation, and she replied, "Certainly not!" If you will study the phrase young man, you will note that it contains most all of the alphabet that you will normally need to know when you use the typewriter for the purposes you intend it to be! It's a little thing, but as I can recall my Army serial number at my beck and call, something I was instructed to memorize some 54 years ago, I can still remember that phrase, and I type it today without hesitation and probably will continue to do so until it's time for me to turn in my ticket along with my Army serial number.

On a more serious note, I would like to inform you good people of the 522nd F.A. Bn that your committee, planning the reunion in 1995, are working hard to get a good program for the three days. We hope that everyone and all will find something in the program that will interest them and to join us in the celebration come April 27, 28, and 29 for next year, 1995. All of the pertinent information regarding the event should be in your hands within the next couple of weeks. The personnel at the Japanese American National Museum have been working with our comrades in Hawaii as of late and so they have been traveling to Hawaii to con-

end his battery was attached from one unit to another until one day they reached a small Bavarian town called Dachau. It was April 29, 1945 when Joe and a few buddies approached what looked like a large work camp. Earlier Tadashi Tojo and Robert Sugai, assigned to an Allied tank battalion, had shot the lock off the gate and found what none could ever forget - the crematoria of the infamous concentration camp with emaciated bodies stacked like cord wood.

George Oiye who was also there had this to say on June 13, 1993, at San Francisco's Temple Emanuel. "There wasn't much we could do. Dachau was a surprise, not a military objective. Later, when I had time to reflect on it, I felt guilty. I don't know why. I guess I felt guilty for mankind degenerating this far - and I am part of the human race." One of the ironies was that of the Japanese Americans who liberated Dachau many still had their families at internment camps in the United States. Most of the Nisei (second generation) veterans agree that the record of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team played a large part in gaining redress under President Reagan for Executive Order 9066 signed almost fifty years earlier by President Roosevelt. Throughout the war not a single act of treason or sabotage was committed by Japanese Americans.

#### Footnote

The anti-tank Company of the 442nd is quite possibly the only army unit credited with capturing a submarine. This occurred during the "Champagne Campaign in Southern France when a German one-man submarine accidentally entered the Bay of Menton. The submarine pilot was even more confused when the men who captured him turned out to look Japanese.

Franz Steidl

1610 Old San Jose \* Soquel \* CA 95073 \* TEL 408/476-2062

tact the members of the 522nd groups. I am sure they are well on their way to presenting interesting artifacts and stories from over there.

Golfing is on the schedule. Men and women are invited to participate. Reasonable rates and times are promised with good intentions on the weather, Southern California style! Available are tours of local attractions such as Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Magic Mountain, Universal City Tours, and many more. Shopping trips as well of the more popular malls etc. are being looked into. The committee is trying to encompass the whole family fun theme.

The Miyako and the Otani Hotels are going to be an-

nounced as the official host hotels for this function with the Miyako Hotel being designated as the Hospitality HQ and house the official Reunion Headquarters. Hospitality rooms will be manned by the different battery personnel on designated date and time as posted on dates of the reunion. The Otani Hotel will be the site of the Banquet as announced in your reunion brochure.

Personnel of the Japanese American National Museum are now hard at work with the planning of the 522nd exhibit and display at the Museum on 1st Street in Los Angeles in conjunction with the unit members of the 522nd F.A. Bn and in cooperation with the Jewish organizations which



will highlight the liberation of the Jewish prisoners at Dachau by the men of the 522nd F.A. Bn, in early 1945. Much conversation has taken place and subsequent knowledge and understanding has developed within the Jewish and Japanese American committees which will further develop into a worth while event for all the families to learn and enjoy.

We all look forward to these activities and hope that this event will help kindle everyone's interest and understanding in what the men of the 522nd have fought and sacrificed for all Americans today!

#### ITEM BY ITEM

By James T. Miyamoto

The second round of the I CO 1994 Golf competition was held at the Imperial Golf Course in Brea, California on June 17th. Under ideal golfing conditions, the following golfers had an enjoyable round: members Nobo Ikuta, Ike Ito, Frank Kinoshita, Ted Matsumura, Jim Miyamoto, Bill Morita, Bill Okazaki, Tak Senzaki, Jim Yamashita, Harry Yoshimura, and guests Tok Kataoka and Frank Nakashima.

The results of this round was as follows:

1st low net	
Harry Yoshimura	66
2nd low net	
Nobo Ikuta )	
Fred Matsumura )	68
Fr low net	
Tak Senzaki	
Bk low net	
Bill Okazaki	
Fred Matsumura	
CP 8th hole	
Tok Kataoka	

One round remains to be played before the 1994 Champion is determined, and assuredly all golfers are fine-tuning their games for that final game for the final

event to be held in early August. Note: It was good to have Bill Morita back with us on the golf course after a prolonged absence due to medical reasons.

The final game scheduled for August 4th chaired by Harry Yoshimura at Los Amigos Country Club at 9:00 a.m. will be history by the time this Newsletter is published. Results and the final determination of 1994 Club Champion will be in the next issue.

As many of our members have received a letter from Jim Yamashita informing us of the passing of Mino Suzumoto, I CO, Hawaii. A close comrade in arms to many since World War II days and to those of us who met him later, someone whose hospitality and friendship we enjoyed through the years. We will miss him and others like him whom we are losing as the years go by. Remembering them, we look forward to the Reunion scheduled from September 29th to October 3rd at the Four Queens Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. All paper work and financial details should have been completed to the Hawaii committee handling it.

#### LOVES NOTES

By Hiro Nishikubo

MINI-REUNION: FOUR QUEENS, LAS VEGAS

As of today, the total participants will be 117 persons. Plans are progressing nicely to have a great time. See you all in about a month!!!

Our activities have been rather slow this time as this is being written before our July meeting of the 29th. Since the last Newsletter, we have participated in the Costa Mesa Parade on June 4. Love members at the parade were Don Seki and Hiro Nishi-

kubo. As usual, the associate members had their historical exhibit set up.

We were also at the Reverse Raffle Drawing. No Love CO winners this year despite the fact that we had our same lucky seats at the dinner. Like they say, "Wait til next year!" Those people at the dinner were Ben & Fudge Kitagawa, Don & Sumi Seki, Art & Chie Nakahara, Sam & Yo Ikari George & Faye Doi, Tom & Yo Mori, and Hiro Nishikubo. The food was once again very good, thanks to the 100th cooks.

On the weekend of the 11th of June, we got the bad news that our beloved Mary Kaminishi had passed away. Funeral services were held on the 16th at the Gardena Buddhist Church. Love CO was there en masse, and many of us were involved in the service as requested by Mino. Burial was the next day at the Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes. Again all of us who could make it were to say a last farewell to Mary. Our condolences go to Mino and his family.

We heard that Bev Yamamoto is taking post-surgery treatment and coming along fine. We're praying for your full recovery, Bev.

That's about it for this time. I'll guess I'll see you all in Vegas on the 9th of September.

#### ONE PUKA PUKA

By Al Takahashi

Today is Father's Day, and the day that fathers are honored and treated like kings, showered with gifts and love. So, the fathers of the 100th Bn group were treated to a most delicious Chinese luncheon at the Pacific Seafood Restaurant in Alhambra, all arranged by hard



working honorary member Allen Dong. All of us also received a surprise gift of Chinese manju (jin do and chashu bow) to take home to enjoy. This also was Allen's doing. Thank you ever so much for a great Father's Day bash. The following were present: Hank & Fumi Sakato, Tom & Ruth Kasai, San & Teri Fujikawa and their daughter Eva, Mrs. Fujigami, Teri's sister, Harry & Harumi Sasaki, Ben & Jean Tagami, Bill & Irene Sato, Lloyd & Michi Toda, Ted & Chiz Ohira, Hank & Elsie Hayashi, Max Kumamoto, Carlos & Bev Picazo, Buddy & Lily Mamiya, Ken & Hisako Miya, Nora Kim, May Fujita and son Wayne, Mas & Alma Takahashi, George & June Kurisu, Mike and Doris Miyake and the son Mike, Jr, Eric & Irene Abe, Lloyd & Chuckie Seki, Harry Fukuzawa and family with five grandchildren, and Nobu Okamoto, Allen Dong, Douglas Tanaka, and Al Takahashi.

The Reverse Raffle was a huge success. Members of the 100th/442nd/MIS gathered at the Club House on June 25, 1994 and enjoyed a wonderful dinner prepared by the hard work of the following: Ben Tagami, Alan Dong, Fumi Sakato, Teri Fujikawa and Hisa Miya in the kitchen, and Sam Fujikawa, Hank Sakato, Hank Hayashi and Dave Sunahara of the Sons & Daughters Associated Group helped set up.

After dinner, the reverse raffle proceeded smoothly without any hitch thanks to Don and Sumi Seki, Ted Ohira, Fudge Kitagawa and Casey Kasuyama. The big winner of \$3000 was Turk (Lucky) Tokita of Lihue, Kauai. Second place winner of \$1500 was Teri Fujikawa of L.A. and the third place winner of \$500 was Harold H. Nishikawa of Pasadena. The \$100 winners were as follows: Tetsu J. Uyechi, Nob Ikuta, Ted Ohira,

Mas Takahashi, Hiro Suzuki and Ben Tagami. That concluded the reverse raffle. The mini-affle that was held on the side had many small winners.

The 100th/442nd Association wishes to thank everyone that participated in the fund raising effort. There were MISers that also attended: Vic Abe, Jim Mita and Mits Usui. Thank you for your help. The funds raised will pay for the insurance on the Veterans' Hall plus the yearly maintenance costs.

On Sunday, July 10th, MIS Club held its annual fund raiser '94 bingo at Maryknoll Catholic Church ground in Los Angeles with prime rib as their main dish and BBQ chicken for non-beef eaters. Members from the 100th prepared the BBQ chicken. They were Ben & Jean Tagami, Sam & Teri Fujikawa, Henry Sakato and Buddy Mamiya. Attending also and supporting MIS from the 100th were Nora Kim, Buddy and Lily Mamiya, Sam and Teri Fujikawa, Hank Sakato, Ben and Jean Tagami, and Al and Connie Takahashi. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and everyone took home a door prize. The fund raiser was a great success.

#### HOW IT'S DONE

By Toe Yoshino

H Chapter had its regular meeting at the Club House on July 23, 1994. Those who attended the meeting were: Mas Fujii, Yoshi/Casey Kasuyama, Dorothy/Duke Ogawa, Chiz/Ted Ohira, Frank Saito, President Tom Shimazu, Grace/Mel Takamori, Michi/Lloyd Toda, Mike Tsuji, Emi/Joe Yamaki and Toe Yoshino. It was really good to see Mike. The ladies served coffee and tea and the delicious pastries. Thank you ladies. Frank Saito generously brought some fruits

for everyone who attended the meeting. "Mahalo" Frank.

H Chapter had its share of Reverse Raffles Winners. They were Turk Tokita who won the \$3,000.00 first prize, Ted Ohira \$100.00, Tom Makabe \$50.00 and Chiz Ohira \$35.00.

24 people will be going to Escondido to visit and spend some time with Ann and Col Chris Keegan. They will have pot luck Saturday night and Luncheon Show at the Lawrence Welk Resort on Sunday.

Bryson Paddock wrote and said Rebecca and he are in good health and are enjoying themselves with their daughter and grand child. He said one of these days both of them will join us in Las Vegas. They send their "aloha" to all of us.

Tom Sano wrote and said his new address is:

1537 W. Flora  
Reedley, CA 93654

Also received thank you letter from Maria Matsumoto and Mike Tsuji. Heard through the grapevine that Masa Kai was under the weather several months ago, he is O.K. now.

28 people from L.A. signed up for the Kauai Mini Reunion. They will depart LAX Sept 13, 1994. They will be in Kauai from Sept 13 to 17. On the 17th, some will leave for Maui, some to Honolulu, and some will return home.

H Chapter will have two busses for Las Vegas, December 2, 3, 4, 1994. Anyone interested in going on this trip can contact Casey Kasuyama, Duke Ogawa or Ted Ohira. Hotel accommodation will be at Fitzgeralds.

All "pau" for now.

#### TANKBUSTERS

By Tak Hattori

Anti-Tank meeting at Denny's La Palma on July 14, 1994 was called to order by



President Henry Ikemoto at 9 A.M. Attending were Richard Takahashi, Frank Seto, Henry Ikemoto, Tak Hattori, Dave Kawagoye, Chappie Kishaba, and Seiji Oshiro.

Dave passed out "Silent Wings" booklet which contained an article from the June Issue of the Smithsonian Magazine. The article was written by a noted journalist Kathleen McAuliffe and was made into a booklet form as a supplement to Anti-Tank Company History published by Jimmy Sakimoto.

Henry Ikemoto took Dave Kawagoye and this reporter to the Commissioned Officers Club, Naval Station in Long Beach where the Anti-Tank Luncheon in September will be held. Henry treated us to lunch, and we toured the facility. Afterwards, Dave gave us a tour of the Shipyards where he used to work. Until you are actually there close up, you can't believe how BIG everything is. The ships, the cranes, the dry docks are immense. You can see for yourself when you come to the luncheon in September.

Henry and Dave attended the Association meeting on July 2nd. There was a TV crew from ASAHI TV Japan filming the meeting for a documentary of the Japanese experiences from December 7, 1941 through now. It is to be aired in Japan in September. This crew is interested in the Nisei youth who were old enough to serve in the military. They were taking names of those person's willing to be interviewed.

The Japanese American National Museum is collecting data, interviewing, etc. re: the 522nd and the Dachau experience.

A temporary date for the Camp Shelby Monument Dedication is June 18, 1995. A tour is being arranged. Dan

Inouye is involved and President Clinton or VP Gore is expected to be the main speaker.

Association president George Yoshihara reports there are still openings for the Bruyeres celebration and tours.

JANM exposition is to be at the LA Hilton and the LA Convention Center, November 11. Symposium will be at the hotel and the displays will be at the Convention Center. For fees and schedules, call Hank Yoshitake (213) 722-5024.

Mitskuo Akiyama, our Big Island foreign correspondent sends us an interesting happening about a couple of our long lost Anti-Tank buddies. On May 17, 1994, MASARU TAKE-TA and TADAO TANOUE were at a hotel in Narita Nikko Hotel about to depart on a tour to the Peoples Republic of China. They sat across from each other at dinner but did not recognize each other, not even after introduction. In the course of conversation, they discovered they were both from Anti-Tank Co 442nd RCT. They both joined A-T at Ghedi Airfield as replacements. Masaru took his basic training at Camp Blanding FL and Tadao at Camp Hood TX. Masaru was in the 4th Platoon and served as company clerk under 1st Sgt Benny Hamamoto. Masaru retired from Meadowgold after 43 years of service. The Takedas reside in Manoa and have 3 married children.

#### **EASY DOES IT**

By Robert S. Ichikawa

#### **SAN GABRIEL MEMORIAL**

Sunday 29 May 1994, A memorial Plaque was dedicated at the East San Gabriel Valley Community Center, honoring eleven men who died in service from WWII, Korean and

Vietnam Wars. Among those listed were: Pfc STANLEY K. HAYAMI and Pfc HENRY M. KONDO from E CO. Members in attendance were: M. Fujita, R. Ichikawas, S. Kiyomuras, M. Kunihiros, J. Ono, B. Yamanakas and G. Yoshiharas.

#### **COSTA MESA PARADE**

Saturday 4 June 1994, The 100/442 Color Guard participated in the Annual Fish Fry Festival Parade in Costa Mesa. Color Guards were: Sam Fujikawa (100), Robert Ichikawa (E), Nob Ikuta (I), Russ Nakaishi (Assoc), Dave Sunahara (Assoc) and headed by Hiro Takusagawa (F). The Associates provided a tent exhibiting the 100/442 memorabilia. E CO members present were: Jou Okitsu, Mike Takamine and George Yoshihara.

#### **FADDAHS DAY**

Saturday 18 June 1994, The Annual E CO Faddahs Day Potluck was held promptly 3 p.m. A delicious dinner fit for a king was prepared by the wahines. There to enjoy were: K. Akiyamas, M. Fujitas, R. Ichikawas, E. Ito and Gary, G. Kanatani, S. Kiyomuras, R. Kizuka, G. Kubo, G. Kusunokis, G. Ozawas, J. Okitsus, J. Onos, R. Ozawa, T. Shiomichis, M. Takamines, L. Urasaki, H. Wachis, B. Yamanakas, R. Yanais and G. Yoshiharas.

Thanks again to the ladies for another fine dinner. ono...ono...ono!

#### **100/442 RAFFLE**

Saturday 25 June 1994, the Annual 100/442 Raffle was held at the Hall. As per usual the 100TH and all the helpers did another excellent job of providing the delicious victuals. M/C Don Seki and aides did a terrific job of running the show. Lily Urasaki was the only E CO winner with \$50.00 draw, others present were: R. Ichikawas, M. Takamines and G. Yoshiharas. Thanks to all



responsible for a really great show.

#### MEETING

Saturday 16 July 1994, the monthly E CO meeting was held at the Hall at 3 P.M. Discussion centered around picking up the Hawaii group at LAX (Lawsons Tour Group) dedication of the Shelby Monument and the E CO reunion next year. Thirty three were present. Thanks to TOBAN TEAM #4 for the scrumptious snacks. Later the group played poker on one side and Shanghai Rummy on the other.

#### E CO CRUISE/BRUYERES TOUR

Thursday 30 June 1994, George Kanatani & daughter, Kay Kaneshina, Jou/Kay Okitsu and Ben/Hisa Yamanaka left LAX for London where they met with the folks from Hawaii, NOCAL and SOCAL and others from Denver and New York, a total of 60 in the Tour. They landed in Venice where they boarded the ROYAL ODYSSEY for a 12 day cruise in the Mediterranean. While on board the ship, they had a 442 symposium in the theater. Speakers were Mas Tsuda, John Tagashi, Joe Sakato, Tsune Takemoto, Norman Hashisaka (MIS) and Lawson Sakai. Questions were answered and the audience participation was enthusiastic. On other days, the group participated in the Talent Show, singing and dancing the hula.

July 14th, the group marched in the Bastille Day Parade. Later they traveled by bus to see the 100/442 Monument in Bruyeres. Next day they placed a wreath on the 36th Div Monument, where Pierre Moulin described the battle. Ben Y. found a GI helmet with a shrapnel hole in it, and it sure looked like his when he got smacked in the head with shrapnel. Later, they all had dinner in Bruyeres where they met with and talked with the local town's people and managed to

communicate in broken English and French. Joe Sakato, and Tsune Takemoto were presented with plaques for receiving their Medals of Honor. Lawson Saki accepted a plaque for E CO. Coincidentally, General Foster, one of the officers in the 36th Div, was there on his vacation. He attended the banquet and met Mrs Tom Crowley.

July 16th, stop was Aris where they stayed at the SOFTEL HOTEL (1st class). They toured Normandy and the well kept American Cemeteries and of course the Louvre Museum.

July 20th, as usual, all good things must come to an end, the tired tourist left Orle for home. As they landed in LAX, the hostess thanked the E CO 442 for flying Delta. Thanks to Ben Y for the tour info; he says they were so tired they didn't open their suitcases for three days. E CO picked up about nineteen members and guest at LAX returning from Lawsons European Tour. The Hawaii people had an overnite stop prior to heading back to the Islands. About thirty E CO members met with our friends from the great state of Hawaii at the Tin Sing Restaurant in Gardena for dinner (They missed the rice). A great time was had by all, meeting with the old and new friends. Greetings were made by Jaxson Ono; Tsune Takemoto introduced the Hawaii people; and Ben Y. gave some hi-lites of the trip. Thanks to the following: Yone Kiyomura for arranging the menu, Kiyo Yamate for shuffling the shuttle service and the drivers, Kay Okitsu for arranging the seating and the name tags and Jou Okitsu for taking care of the finances and of course Jaxson for his leadership.

#### NEWS ITEM

GEORGE KUWAYAMA, LACMA,

senior curator of far eastern art, coordinated the Korean Art exhibit at the Museum on Wilshire Blvd in LA. A traveling exhibition of 125 art works, which included 17 items designated as National Art Treasures by the Korean Government, will be shown through August 21st. He is the brother of Kelly our E CO Medic.

#### TRAVELERS

Memorial Day week-end Jou/Kay Okitsu caught a lot of trout at Saddle Bag Lake. They ran into George Kanatani catching his limits. On the way back their engine blew. They went back the following week to pick up the car and did some more fishing.

Shig/Yone Kiyomura were invited to San Francisco to meet with and shake hands with the Emperor and Empress from Japan.

George/Ruth Yoshihara journeyed up to Watsonville for a wedding and later visited with Martha Miyamoto and presented her with a 100/442 watch. She is the wife of Mitch Miyamoto designer of the 442 patch and emblem.

The following had a great time with Lawsons European Tour, Kay Kaneshina, George Kanatani, Jou/Kay Okitsu and Ben/Hisa Yamanaka, and they are still suffering from jet lag.

#### EAGLE SCOUT

Mathew Aihara, grandson of Ben/Yuki was awarded the Eagle Scout Badge and was given a 100/442 Certificate.

#### ROTC AWARDS PROGRAM

Hiro Takusagawa received the following letter, dated 17 April 1994:

I am writing to express what a great honor it was to receive your unit's award. Though I am a cadet now, soon I will receive my commission as an Infantry Lieutenant.



In this age of global conflict and confusion odds are that I will see some sort of combat. When that day comes, I can only hope to live up to the standards set by Americans such as you who fought with the 100th/442nd. Your unit's courage in battle, and dedication to country are qualities which I find most admirable. It is also clear to me that the success of those men who served in your unit has gone far beyond the war in their service to this country. This fact is exemplified in respected men such as yourself, Senator Inouye of Hawaii, and the 100th/442nd Veterans Association's commitment to passing on its high ideals and experience to young leaders in the military today.

I can think of no greater honor as a cadet than to receive the 100th/442nd Infantry Award. The award is displayed proudly on my wall, and I have already begun to study the book of your unit's fascinating history with greater interest. Indeed, as I take command of my first infantry platoon I will do my best to exemplify the citizenship, patriotism, and leadership qualities of the 100th/442nd Combat Team.

"Go for Broke"

Cdt. Bt. Colonel  
Michael Murray  
University of  
Southern California

#### BOARD ACTION

Approved \$500 to Associate Chapter for revolving fund regarding display expenses to be incurred.

Approved the presentation of 100/442 Association caps and Book American to Dr. George Mizushima family members.

#### IN TRIBUTE

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN THE PASSING OF

SHOICHI KAJIMOTO	C CO
JACK MATSUZAKI	F CO
NINORU SUZUMOTO	I CO
KAZUO MORIZONO	S CO
ROY ICHISAKA	F CO
TAKASHI ARITA	F CO
KEN MATSUDA	G CO
PAUL MATSUMOTO	H CO

IN TRIBUTE AND RESPECT TO THEIR MEMORY ALL DIRECTORS STOOD IN REVERENCE AS THE BOARD ADJOURNED ITS MEETINGS ON JUNE 11, 1994 AND JULY 2, 1994.

#### CAMP SHELBY PROJECT COMMITTEE

There is being planned for the Summer of 1995 a "Homecoming and Monument Dedication Reunion" at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Dates have not been secured as we are trying to have President Bill Clinton or Vice President Al Gore present for the special occasion.

Many high ranking military personnel have already indicated their desire to attend and to be a part of the salute to the loyalty of the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and the 171st Infantry.

Accommodations for the travel, hotel, bus and area tours are being finalized and will be forwarded to you as they are completed.

Please be on the alert for further updates.

#### CAMP SHELBY PROJECT COMMITTEE:

442nd Veterans Club, Hawaii  
100/442 Veterans Association, Los Angeles  
100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club, Hawaii

MIS Club, Hawaii  
NorCal MIS Association  
MIS Club of Southern California  
National Japanese American Historical Society

#### LYN CROST

A letter, dated May 20, 1994, was received from Jack Herzig. Excerpts are as follows: "Aiko and I have just received information that Lyn Crost is having her book about her experiences in World War II published by the Presidio Press....

She was thought so highly that the Smithsonian devoted a display about Lyn in the Japanese American exhibit at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., showing her old field jacket and fatigues along with some of her own mementos....

HONOR BY FIRE Japanese Americans at War in Europe and the Pacific by Lyn Crost is a moving story of men who fought first for the right to fight--swallowing their pride and accepting harsh rebuffs--then went on to show a rare courage and tremendous fighting spirit. It is a story of moral, as well as physical, heroism.

LYN CROST served as a war correspondent in Europe, where she covered the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.... Crost now lives in Washington, D.C. Through the years she has maintained her close ties to the Japanese American community.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

about to tease death.

I also learned about the right or wrong time and about the right or wrong place. Not only from training that teaches you to be at the designated agreed spot on time, not 5 minutes early nor five minutes late - there is a reason, I was told. My personal experience, I remember to this day is: When we had left Massa Carrara Area in Italy and was entering Gragnana just before Castelpoggio, the village was under heavy artillery fire, I with others were taking refuge in an abandoned cafe. This was cut short when two of us were told to get to the CP. In answer to the question, where is the CP? We were told to follow the telephone wires. We started to follow the wires. The street width was like our alleys and the building walls hugged the street so that the artillery shells would hit the walls not the street, unless it was a motor round. About a hundred yards ahead, an artillery round hit the wall, shrapnel falling all over the place, like a tree burst. By the time we reached the spot, I could see a bursting hole in the wall about 15 feet from the ground, yellow powder like, all around the hole, and the acrid smell of cordite. Just then, another artillery round hits the wall behind us, less than a hundred yards, where we were just seconds ago. I probably said, "My God," but I don't remember. I do remember thinking, if we had run, we could have been killed; or if we had walked slower or rested, we could have been killed - time and place.

We finally reached the CP which was located in a two story building. The artillery barrage was still on,

and I believe this was the time we had advanced on the mountain so fast and far that our left flank's enemy position on the flat coastal plains was behind us. We were getting shelled from in front via La Spezia and back/side from north of the Carrara area. A shell hit the building, glass was flying. I was luckily on the second floor at the time, for the shell had hit the front entrance of the building killing an Italian Partigiano who was unlucky enough to have been standing by the entrance. The entrance, with its door, I came into the building; and the entrance, with no door, I vacated the building to go on to Castelpoggio. This event, obviously, has left, to this day, an indelible experience to remember that just to survive that day, I must have definitely avoided being at any of the wrong unlucky places, all day long.

Regardless, I, moreover, do not live by an Astrologer's readings, but I have, in curiosity, had my readings done. It was interesting to note that the Astrologer asked not only where I was geographic-

ally born, the City, somewhere on this Earth, but also the time: when I was born, not only the date and year, but precisely what time I was born, a.m. or p.m. I had to look this one up in my birth certificate. This placement of the time and place against the position of the moon and other planets, the astrologer can, I presume, "near scientifically," interpret the past, present and future. I was amazed at how good he was in relating my past which gave some credence perhaps to his ability possibly to interpret the present and probably predict the future. I note that fortune cookies and Palmistry, seemingly, do not take time and place into account as important factors in predicting the present nor future. Regardless, if there is a right time and/or the right place to do and if and when it is my will to choose the time and place, I trust that my decision making process will be up to speed and that good luck will also continue to follow me.

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