

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB



PUKA-PUKA

PARADE

FEBRUARY 1991

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: George Hagiwara

Many of you may be unaware of the plight of Bruce Yamashita. He is the Hawaii man who enrolled in the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1989. He was the only Japanese American out of a class of 150. After completing all nine weeks of training, he was "disenrolled", thrown out, of OCS, just two days before graduation. The reason given was "unsatisfactory leadership". Late last year, through his attorney and with the support of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Yamashita filed an application for discharge review with the Naval Discharge Review Board and for records corrections review with the Board for the Correction of Naval Records. Yamashita wants the reasons for his discharge (administrative discharge, "unsatisfactory-leadership") changed and his evaluations upgraded. His reasons - he was victimized by discriminatory treatment by members of the OCS staff and the evaluation process was tainted by such racial discrimination.

Yamashita's situation was the cover story of the November 2, 1990 (Volume 11, Number 21) of The Hawaii Herald.

Racial discrimination of any kind can not and should not be tolerated. It is what we of the 100th Infantry Battalion fought so hard against and won. After reading the Hawaii Herald article, I felt so strongly about what happened to Yamashita that I asked Ben Tamashiro (Dog Chapter) to assist me in writing a letter to General Alfred Gray, commandant of the Marine Corps, expressing displeasure at the injustice done to Yamashita. The Board of Directors approved and endorsed the letter at the January 10 meeting.

January 10, 1991

General Alfred M. Gray
Commandant, Marine Corps
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20280-0001

Sir:

The injustice done to Bruce Isami Yamashita - his disenrollment from the 140th USMC Officer Candidate School on April 12, 1989, as a result of racial discrimination - is a matter that is contrary to the basic principles that uphold our country. It must not be allowed to stand. This is our conviction; a certitude arising from a review of the relevant documents concerned and a personal interview with the man himself. Thus it is our demand that he be accorded the corrective action requested by him.

The findings of your Inspector General simply perpetuate an onerous practice. To state that none of his fellow candidates believe he was discriminated against is beyond disbelief. For one, it flies in the face of Mr. Yamashita's Candidate Training Record dated 890411.

The platoon commander's statement that Mr. Yamashita was disenrolled because he was "unable to learn basic military skills and ultimately could not adopt to military life", the sublimation of subjective peer evaluations over written record to arrive at a decision to disenroll for "leadership failure", the company commander's single cryptic note that he is "not suitable for conventional service in the Corps" - the whole is irreconcilable with the record and, furthermore, runs counter to the stated policy of the Corps forbidding discrimination or bias based on race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Carried to its outer extremes, then, the weighting of subjective peer evaluations is a paradox. For as seems evident from the documents reviewed, it provides grounds for encouraging, covertly if not overtly, the very kind of discrimination or bias so forcefully enunciated in the Corps policy. This letter is to express our dismay regarding the implementation or supervision of the spirit and intent of the policy; derelictions that lead to the kind of injustice being unfairly imposed on Mr. Yamashita.

The letterhead (EDITOR'S NOTE: The letter was typed on Club 100 stationery) identifies us as veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion. The 100th was an Army combat unit comprised almost exclusively of Americans of Japanese ancestry born here in Hawaii. It was organized out of the fire and maelstrom of the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and is the first such combat unit in the history of the U.S. Army. (A larger group which included recruits from both Hawaii and the continental U.S. was subsequently organized as the 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 100th ultimately becoming its 1st Battalion.)

Following the attack upon Pearl Harbor, the big question swirling around us was whether our loyalty would be with Japan or America (keeping in mind that we were the first-born on American soil to immigrant parents who had emigrated to Hawaii in the decades immediately following the turn of the century). Fed by fear and racial discrimination, many were the calls for our internment or to be put away somewhere so we would not be part of the problem then facing the nation. Cooler heads, however, prevailed in the military, the federal and local governments, and the civilian community; people who had lived and worked alongside us, had played with us, and had helped educate us under the American system. Out of this faith was born the 100th. And in as tough a way to prove a point, in the two years that was fought through Italy, then into France, and back to Italy, the unit sustained more than 300 members killed-in-action. Purple Hearts totaled over 1,700 while among its honors were three Presidential Unit Citations. Perhaps President Truman summarized it best in a ceremony on the White House lawn after the war honoring the 100/442: "You fought for the free nations of the world. You fought not only the enemy but you fought prejudice, and you won."

But what really did we win? An ideal difficult to achieve, hard-pressed to maintain: an endless battle to assure that in their struggles to find a place for themselves in America, people like Bruce Yamashita hopefully will not have to carry the additional burden of racial discrimination as was our lot. Equality may exist on the surface but we must ever be watchful for the undercurrents that twist and turn it in other directions.

It is on this score that we raise our voices to the fullest in support of Mr. Yamashita's charge in his affidavit submitted to the Board for the Correction of Naval Records that the 140th OCS Staff violated and tainted the evaluation process and denied him his due rights and privileges. Although his is but one small tremor in the larger field where fear and hate abominate the cooperative efforts of people, an honest and even-handed resolution to his request for the correction of military records should help to advance the cause of those who, contrary to all concepts of democracy, are in one manner or the other being discriminated against.

We watch for and await the results of the scheduled action to be undertaken by the Board for Correction of Naval Records.

Speaking for the Board of Directors of the Club 100,

Very truly yours,

George Hagiwara
President

cc: U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye
U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka
U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie
U.S. Representative Patsy Mink
Secretary of Defense Mr. Richard Chaney
Secretary of the Navy Mr. H. Lawrence Garrett III
Representative Norman Mineta
Representative Robert Matsui
Mr. William Kaneko, JACL
Mr. Clayton Ikei
Mr. Bruce Yamashita

FROM THE EDITORS' PUKA: Raymond and Aki Nosaka

In answer to the much asked question, "How are you?":

I'M FINE

There's nothing whatever the matter with me
I'm just as healthy as I can be
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I speak with a wheeze
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in

I think my liver is out of whack
And I have a terrible pain in my back
My hearing is poor, and my sight is dim
Most everything seems out of trim
The way I stagger sure is a crime
I'm likely to fall at any time
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in

I have arch supports for both my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to walk down the street
Complexion's bad due to dry skin
But all things considered
I'm fine for the shape I'm in

Dentures drive me crazy, I'm restless at night
And in the morning I am a sight
Memory's failing, head's in a spin
I'm practically living on aspirin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in

But the moral is, as the tale I unfold
That for you and me, who are growing old
It's better to say, "I'm fine" with a grin
Than to tell everyone of the shape I'm in

(Author unknown)

submitted by Beatrice Takahashi (Headquarters Chapter)

Mahalo to the following who helped with the Puka Puka Parade on December 27, 1990: Bernard Akamine, Akira Akimoto, Richard Arakaki, Robert Arakaki, Kunio Fujimoto, Ralph Fukunaga, Chester Hada, Stanley Hamai, Michael Hamamoto, Ted Hamasu, Tokuichi Hayashi, Fred Kanemura, James Kitashima, Arthur Komiyama, Richard Kondo, Takao Kubota, Yoshikiyo Mugitani, Mitsuo Nagaki, Nick Nakabayashi, Sonsei Nakamura, Vivian Nakamura, Ray & Aki Nosaka, Seie & Evelyn Oshiro, Susumu Ota, Stanley Takahashi, Bob Takashige, Yasuo Takata, & Yukio Tanji.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

MARCH PARADE COLLATING DATE: The March Parade will be collated on **Thursday, February 28** at **8:30 a.m.** in Turner Hall. Team 2: **Baker & Rural Chapters** are responsible for providing the manpower. However, volunteers from all chapters are welcome to come out and help.

ABLE CHAPTER NEWS: Tom Fujise

SHINNEN OMEDETO GOZAIMASU! Attention, Members

Mrs. James Akamine is happy to have James back from the hospital but she would be happier if the person who left a "no name" orchid plant would call her. If you are that person, Mrs. Akamine would be very happy to know and thank you.

The annual Christmas Party for Able Chapter was held on December 15th at the clubhouse. Chaired by Richard Ishimoto and thanks to cooperation from the weather, we had a rain-free evening for the duration of the party. It was one of the best attended parties for Able Chapter in recent years. Approximately 160 adults and children made it the best event this year. The entertainment was fast paced and varied. Christmas carols for lovers of carols, for proud grandparents, the performances by their talented grandchildren and for the little toddlers the joy of playing games for prizes. Yes, with Tommy Nishioka as chairman, Horace Awa as talent scout, and Louise Morikawa in charge of toddlers' games, everyone had a good fun time. Also, the club hall was transformed into an atmosphere conducive for Christmas festivities, thanks to Evelyn Oshiro's experienced hands.

As with so many social events held by Able Chapter, it was the donation of cash and prizes by the generous members that spelled success for our get-togethers. Party chairman Richard Ishimoto wishes to thank all the people for helping to make our party a success. Able Chapter is fortunate in having so many big hearted members whose contributions are always welcome and appreciated. Thank you, Mrs. mae Miyashiro, for your very generous donation in memory of your husband, the late Richard Miyashiro.

It was brought to our attention that during the Christmas season, Mrs. Alfred Arakaki had a display at the Park Shore Hotel. A display of the nativity scene that drew a lot of "Wows" and "Ohs!" from both the hotel management and guests. Besides Paulette, it required the combined effort of son, Mark, and daughter-in-law, Amy, to setup the display in the lobby. During the hard work of setting up the various components of the exhibit, Alfred Arakaki was kind of "invisible", so we were told.

ABLE CHAPTER STAG PARTY: Saturday, February 16

The sign up deadline for the Able Chapter Stag Party is rapidly approaching. If you didn't sign up yet, you'd better get up off that comfortable chair and grab that phone and dial one of the co-chairmen for reservations right away. Just in case you memory's slipped a bit, here's the dope:

Deadline: Sunday, February 10, 1991
 Cocktails: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
 Place: Natsunoya Tea House
 Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
 Cost: \$20.00/person

Co-Chairmen:
 Isamu Inouye 373-1184
 Walter Moriguchi ... 737-7008
 Kunio Fujimoto 455-7410

Your friends are welcome to join us. Treasurer Susumu Kunishige is looking forward to lightening your wallet, while Horace Awa, Japan Nakahara, and Tsugio Tsuru will be in charge of entertainment. Don't forget to call one of the chairmen above and reserve your zabuton.

The 49th Anniversary Party Committee has issued an announcement to each chapter to have five (5) sons or daughters volunteer their services to help the committee. Here is an excellent opportunity to have your young ones to join hands with others and develop a sense of belonging with their parents in Club 100 affairs. Here is an avenue that, with others of like age, can help plan this and other similar club events from here on into the future of our club.

HOW MUCH VITAMIN C DO WE NEED?: from Let's Live, January 1991

The amount recommended by the National Research Council is 60 mg. daily for adults. However, some nutritionists believe the optimal daily dose of vitamin C should be much higher, especially if you think you're catching a cold.

Clinical tests have shown that a new vitamin C, patented ester C polyascorbate, is more effective than regular vitamin C (ascorbic acid). Unlike plain ascorbic acid, ester-C is non-acidic, with the same pH as distilled water, which allows using much larger doses without acid stress.

BAKER CHAPTER NEWS: Yasuo Takata

On January 12, a get together of the first draftees was held. Over fifty showed up. Hakaru Taoka and "Joe" Nakahara did a bang-up job of rounding up the old timers for their luncheon. Among the Baker Company boys, met 'Fat' Hamakado, and 'Fat' Morimoto. Their nicknames don't fit anymore. Going around, we got Takeshi 'Old Man' Tanaka, Yasuo Takata, 'Fat' Morimoto, and Seo talking about the good 'ole Palama days. Before the draft, found out that "'Ole Man" Tanaka lived on Desha Lane, Seo lived on North King Street, 'Fat' Morimoto and Yasuo Takata were Akepo Laners. 'Fat' Morimoto, being close r to Robello Lane, used to go to Furoba where both men and women bathed together. 'Fat' must have had a treat. 'Ole Man and Yasu went to 'Furos' that had separate baths and lost out. Seo, who was a barber, described the various barber shops we went to, the various Japanese stores we went to, Ichiki Store, Palama Store, Uyeno Shoten, and others. They are all gone now, except Palama Store.

"Joe" Nakahara was a lucky one during his recruit days. He was in the same tent with Jimmy Castle. Every weekend, Joe got a ride to Waipahu in Jimmy's big car. Jimmy gave all his tent mates a ride home. The rest of us had to ride a Oahu Railway Train to get home and back.

Roy Kada and Morikuni came up and talked about the kitchen days. Morikuni, especially, for when we moved to B Company, 298th Infantry, I got him transferred to the kitchen crew with Tommy Ogata. We met with our good ole 1st Sergeant Takashi Kitaoka and Takao Azama chewed the fat about the good 'ole days.

From the other chapters, Toshio Kunimura who had the easiest time during those days. When we went in, he was put into the office and didn't have to go thru all the training.

All the B Company boys were inquiring about Takeo Daido. Heard he was not feeling well. We pray that you will recover soon so that we may see your ever smiling face.

Later that night, at the wedding of Ray Nosaka's son, Jonathan Nosaka, at the Honolulu International Country Club. I met Charles Nosaka, older brother of Ray, whom I have not seen for many years.

DOG CHAPTER NEWS: Helen Nikaido

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope you all had a joyous season.

Dog Chapter's officers for 1991 are: President Richard "Mahut" Kondo, Vice President Yoshiichi Okazawa, Secretary Kenji Nikaido, and Treasurer Conrad Tsukayama. Congratulations! To all you able-bodied guys, come out to the breakfast meeting (3rd Saturday of each month) and support your fellow officers. We serve ono breakfast. Free, too!

DOG CHAPTER REUNION: October 5, 1991 in Las Vegas. Total cost is \$504.00 which includes airfare, hotel (double occupancy), transportation, and tips. If you would like to charge your airfare on your credit card, the fare is \$435.00. There will be an extra \$25.00 charge for those who plan to stop over on the way back. Those flying out from Kauai and Maui will be booked on United Airlines. They will arrive in Honolulu and join the Honolulu group. That way, they will save on the inter-island fare. Those from Hilo will have to catch either Hawaiian or Aloha to meet up in Honolulu. Or you could fly out of Kona as there is a United Airlines flight from Kona. We will let you know the cost for the buffet banquet later. We will not have a hospitality room as someone will have to be there all the time. If you need to "shoot the bull", go to the bar or each other's room. Save the gab for the banquet night. Kiyoshi Kami has prepared a registration form, and Robert (Kazuso) Yoshioka will forward it to you. Any questions? Please call Robert Yoshioka (488-1595) or Kiyoshi Kami (735-7844). Okay, you received your year-end dividend or interest, so please send in your deposit and registration form as soon as possible.

MARCH 1991 PUKA PUKA PARADE DEADLINE: The deadline for submitting articles for the March issue of the Puka Puka Parade is Friday, February 15, 1991.

RURAL CHAPTER CHATTER: Ted Hamasu

The Rural and Baker Chapters had the responsibilities to get the last issue of the Puka Puka Parade ready for mailing on December 27, 1990 - the last issue of 1990. The members of Rural Chapter residing in the Pearl City area, anticipating the usual traffic congestions, started their trip to the clubhouse at 7:45 a.m. Fortunately, it turned out to be normal traffic and they arrived at the clubhouse in about 30 minutes.

We were surprised to see Evelyn Oshiro, our "luna" (supervisor) of operations, there with coffee ready for the early birds. Incidentally, Evelyn also lives in the Pearl City area, so she too must have started out very early.

Guess we started operations about 8:15 a.m., with the nimble-fingered people lining up at the first table gathering and making sure that all the pages were in numerical order. The passers gather these sheets, straighten it out and pass them to the staplers, armed with electric staplers, who put it together. Next comes the folders who fold the bunch of papers in half and press and crease it so it stays folded. The conveyors (human) gather these folded papers and pass them on to the punchers who use a larger stapler and punch it to keep the folds together. The transporters gather these products and pass them to the labelers. The mailing labels are computer printed with your name, address, and zip code (self sticking). The labelers stick these labels onto the front of the Parade which now becomes alive and knows where to go and who gets it. The next step is the most time consuming operation - sorting the all-ready-to-go Parades by zip code. Each code is separately packed to help expedite the handling by the post office staff. (This observer may have left out some operations. If I did, gomen kudasai.)

This is, no doubt, a time consuming operation. They call it labor intensive, I call it people intensive. The more hands we have, the faster and easier it is for all concerned. The opportunity to assist in this operation comes only four times a year for each chapter/team. So, let's all put in our share to make it easier for all. It's not hard work and I know that you will enjoy the fellowship working with each other. After it is done, you can enjoy the coffee and pastries laid out and sit around shooting the bull, so to speak.

We thank all those that assisted us in these operations this past year. A special "Thank you" goes to Ray and Aki Nosaka, our editor and co-editor, and to Evelyn Oshiro, our luna, for their untiring efforts to the Puka Puka Parade project. Konnen Mo Mata Yoroshiku Onegai Itashimasu! Mahalo Nui Loa!

HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS: Jimmy Maeda

It seems that the 15th day of a month has become a very significant date in our lives. January 15, 1991 went down in history as the end of the waiting period in the Gulf region. It was a decisive day for President George Bush and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. January 15 is the day that your quarterly payment for estimated tax is due to the IRS for many workers' payday. And last, but not least, the articles for the Puka Puka Parade is due on the 15th.

The Installation Dinner for Hawaii Chapter was held at Fujii Restaurant on Saturday night, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. George Taketa will serve as president for another year. Other officers installed were Motoyoshi Tanaka (vice president), Eugen Eguchi (secretary), Roger Kawasaki (treasurer), Tarush Yamamoto (auditor), and Shigeru Ushijima (historian).

The EBESU'S (Ebesugawa) FLORIST, after 67 years of operation in Hilo, closed its doors on December 31, 1990. Ebesu's was a family owned and operated business. The business began with their father in 1923 and later brothers Baron and Yuki, and sisters Nappy, Kay, Sets, Ann, and Sachi, operated the business. The owners and operators of the establishment decided it was pau hana time and time to enjoy their retirement life. Ebesu's served the community well with hospital, funeral, business openings, personal, and other floral needs of Hilo and the island community. They even took care of the fruit and vegetable baskets to the sick and healthy people. The members of Hawaii Chapter extend their thanks for the continued support and kokua received from Ebesu's. Our mahalo for the use of their truck and flower buckets during the annual Memorial Service. We are grateful to Kay and Stanley Ushijima for their assistance. Hilo will miss the Ebesugawa girls. We extend our "arigato" and "mahalo" to them and wish them God Speed in their retirement life.

HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

Hilo made history during 1990. At the end of December, we had over 210 inches of rainfall. The AJA Baseball League finally was able to begin their 1991 season in late December. Yasuo Iwasaki, Stanley Ushijima, and Yoshimitsu Kondo now have smiles on their faces.

The Big Island is getting ready for another big event: July 11, 1991 - the total eclipse of the sun. The anticipated number of visitors to the island to witness the eclipse is estimated at over 20,000. Hotel rooms have been sold out a year ago to wholesalers. Rental cars are also fully booked. The total eclipse will occur between 7:27 and 7:31 in the morning. The best place to view the eclipse will be the Waiakaloa area. The warning is be sure to have protective viewing material to see the eclipse. Otherwise, you could suffer permanent eye injury or damage. The event is so rare that it will be another 360 years until a total solar eclipse can be seen from West Hawaii.

Personals: Our prayers for a speedy recovery to Larry Hirokawa who is getting better at the extended care section of Hilo Hospital. Our prayers of condolences to the family of the late Susumu Sato who passed away recently. Susumu was a former member of Dog Company. Our prayers of condolence are also extended to the family of the late Richard Chinen who died on January 17. Funeral services were held in Hilo on January 19.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS: Tad T. Hashimoto

Reverend William Shigeo Terao of Torrance, California, a veteran of the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, passed away on December 7, 1990 after an illness. Born on November 14, 1915, he was 75 years old. Funeral services were held at the Gardena Buddhist Church in Gardena, California on December 14, 1990.

Terao was wounded in the leg in Bruyeres on the way to rescue the "Lost Battalion" and thus was a recipient of the Purple Heart. He was a retired minister of the Buddhist Church of America. At the service, over his coffin was draped the flag of the United States of America. It was a Buddhist funeral and this one was different from most in that, standing in front facing the altar were about 26 ministers who chanted Kanzen chanting of Sutra to their fellow retired reverend. Incense offering representing Club 100 Infantry Battalion Veterans of Southern California was made by the president of Club 100th Mr. Eric Abe. A large floral wreath from the 100th Chapter in the shape of the 100th Infantry Battalion insignia was there among the other wreaths. The wreath design combined two Hawaiian symbols. The helmet of yellow feathers worn by Hawaiian chieftains and a leaf of the "ape" tree which Hawaiians were said to have planted at their gates to ward off evil spirits. Incidentally, the 100th Infantry Battalion motto was "Remember Pearl Harbor".

Like some other Japanese American soldiers, Terao reenlisted after the war ended and went to Japan to work as an interpreter for the American occupation forces. In memory of his parents, who were killed in the bombing of Hiroshima, Terao trained at a Buddhist temple in Kyoto and was ordained as a Buddhist priest.

Present from the 100th were Eric & Irene Abe, Buddy Mamiya, Sam Fujikawa, Douglas Tanaka, Henry & Elsie Hayashi, and Tad & Sue Hashimoto. Most of the active members sent their regrets for not being able to attend the services since they were already very far away, committed to a 100/442nd function in another state and could not make it.

On Saturday, December 29, 1990, at around 6:00 p.m., we had a get-together at the Amagi Restaurant in Los Angeles. Club 100 (mother chapter) president George Hagiwara and his wife, Hazel, from Hawaii were in Monterey Park staying with Stanley & Dorothy Yoshino. Dorothy is George and Hazel's daughter. We had Japanese food as per order and when finished, we gathered in the karaoke room. Eric Abe, Toe Yoshino, and George Hagiwara sang duets and Hazel Hagiwara sang a duet with Toe Yoshino. They sang Japanese songs and sounded real good. Dorothy Yoshino played the piano and Eric and Toe sang duets. George thanked everyone for the get-together and remarked how nice it was to see so many friends again. He reminded everyone of the upcoming reunion and to make plans to also attend the club's 50th Anniversary Celebration coming up in 1992. Young O. Kim drove from San Diego, 2½-3 hours away, to attend the get-together, and back home after it was over. Present were M/M Lloyd Toda, M/M Toe Yoshino, M/M George Nishinaka and son, Andrew, M/M Monte Fujita and son, Wayne, M/M Hank Yoshitake, M/M Tom Kasai, M/M Tad Hashimoto, and our guests, M/M George Hagiwara and M/M Stanley Yoshino.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

We had a pleasant evening and also had four presidents present: George Hagiwara, president of Club 100 in Hawaii, Eric Abe, president of the Southern California Chapter, Ben Tagami, 1990 president of 100/442nd Association of Southern California, and new president for 1991 Hank Yoshitake.

I was reading the story of the 442nd Combat Team and, in part of the introduction, published by Information Education Section Mtousa, compiled by members of the 442nd Combat Team: "This volume proposes only to trace the course of two great infantry units, later to become one, together with their supporting artillery and engineers. Many stories circulated by overenthusiastic correspondents have given rise to a popular fiction that these were Supermen. They were not. They could die and be wounded as easily as other men and were. They had the same weaknesses and shortcomings that other soldiers were heir to. Above all, however, they had the fore, the courage, and the will to press forward that make crack infantry of the line. They would and often did drive until they fell from wounds or exhaustion; they were never driven to a backward step in many months of battle against an enemy who counterattacked skillfully and often. More than one commander acclaimed them as the finest assault troop he had ever led."

I was reading one of the issues of the "Stars and Stripes" (Mediterranean edition) newspaper of the United States Armed Forces, published daily for troops in Italy. An article was written in 1945 that gave me a chuckle. This is it: "The 442nd Infantry Regiment, whose Nisei infantrymen won two presidential citations and have fought in the most bitter battles of Italy and France, just received 50 pamphlets from the Army with a note that they should be passed around to provide a few helpful hints. The pamphlets are titled 'Combat Lessons'."

Lieutenant James Vaughn, Company A and C, original 100th, died on November 30, 1990 in Tuscon, Arizona. Our condolences to his widow, Hellen.

Heard that Fuji Fukusawa was ill and we send our very best wishes for a fast recovery.

KARAOKE KAI NEWS: Janet Aoki

New officers for 1991 are Raobert Sato (president), Elsie Oshita (vice president), and Janet Aoki (secretary-treasurer).

Honorary membership was granted to Mr. Henry Tadera from Tokyo, Japan for his interest and support to the Kai. Mahalo, Mr. Tadera, and our sincere appreciation for being a very special friend of the Kai.

On March 8, Friday night, the Kai will be celebrating its 8th anniversary. Chairman for the event is Kenneth Muroshige, assisted by Robert Sato. Reservation deadline is Monday, February 25.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST DRAFT: Hakaru Taoka

50 years seem like an eternity, no doubt, to the veterans who were at least 21 years or older at the time they were drafted. Well, this group of veterans got together on January 12, 1991 to celebrate and, at the same time, commemorate the Golden Anniversary of the first group of draftees inducted into Uncle Sam's Army at Schofield Barracks for \$21.00 a month salary. Their ages now range from past 71 to as much as 80.

It was sometime in 1940 that Uncle Sam implemented a conscription procedure, more commonly referred to as the "draft". After going through the lottery system to select the inductees, the first group of draftees were called to active duty for a one year stint on December 9 & 10, 1940 and stationed at Schofield Barracks. Then, sometime in 1941, the draft was extended for, I believe, six months. However, those 28 years old and over were temporarily reprieved and discharged. The discharge was short-lived for they were recalled as war broke out on December 7, 1941.

At the end of May 1942, most of the AJAs stationed throughout the then Territory of Hawaii were assembled at Schofield Barracks. In the process, those stationed on the neighbor islands were abruptly called together after work one day and told to pack their gear and were secretly shipped out early

50th ANNIVERSARY - FIRST DRAFT (continued)

the next morning and the movement ended at Schofield Barracks. This action was most unfortunate since most of them were stationed on their "home islands" and were yet unable to see their loved ones to even say good-bye. The surprise was, when they arrived at Schofield Barracks, that the situation was quite different for the soldiers were being given passes so freely.

On June 5, 1942, the AJA soldiers assembled at Schofield Barracks boarded a train and chugged along to the army port and transferred to a ship and headed for destination "untold". Subsequently, the unit was named "100th Infantry Battalion (Separate)" and finally stationed Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. The saga of the 100th Infantry Battalion began then and its history has been documented for posterity. In spite of this, many of the individual incidents and many untold stories will continue to emerge as they assemble at gatherings such as this.

The idea of this get-together was first conceived by Toshikatsu "Joe" Nakahara around mid-1990. Subsequently, he got together a nuclei of Masato Kodama, Walter "Biffa" Moriguchi, Sonsei Nakamura, Hideshi Niimi, Iwao "Fuzzy" Fujimori, Tetsuo Tateishi, Ted Hamasu, and Hakaru Taoka and started to plan for the celebration. At the first meeting, Joe was elected as chairman. At one of the planning meetings, Joe related a very interesting story about the capture of a Japanese mini-sub officer at Bellows Field. The submarine was displayed at the then Pearl Harbor Submarine Base Museum, but now he thinks the display is located at the Arizona Memorial Museum. Joe Nakahara says that from what he remembers from reading on the display, the display states that the Sergeant is shown as the captor and not Seiei Okuma. What seems to be lacking is that the story is incomplete and does not portray the story as it really happened. According to Joe, the mini-sub was disabled outside of Bellows Field sometime in December 1941 and the Japanese officer swam to shore at night under the cover of darkness where Seiei Okuma, deceased, was on guard duty. When the Japanese officer was captured by Seiei, he uttered the words "Samui, samui", meaning he was cold. Seiei then turned over the POW to his superior who then processed the POW up through the military chain of command. It is this part of the story which is not told and Joe Nakahara would like to see corrected.

The purpose of the 50th Anniversary Celebration was to bring together the first draft veterans of the 100th so they could talk story of old times and to get reacquainted with long time, "no-see" friends. I believe that this get together did serve the original intent.

The cocktail time was scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., but many of the early birds arrived by 10 in the morning greeting all comers to the party. Sometimes that greeting sounded loud like they were arguing but that's the way they were when they were young. So, that's the way they greeted some, just for the laugh. It was good to see them enjoying themselves. It was also interesting to note that among the participants were people with diversity in background at the time they were drafted fifty years ago. As examples, there was Judge Takeshi "Kit" Kitaoka, who was then an attorney. Then there was Hideo Kajikawa, one of the few "kotonks" and a certified public accountant (CPA) who had already passed the written CPA examination and was working for work experience. There was Yasuo Takata, who was a school teacher back then. Also among the draftees were the "kibeis" or those educated in Japan and having some problem with the English language. Those known to be in this category are Michael Hamamoto, Roy Koda, Joe Nakahara, Tadao Seo, and Thomas Yabuki. It's a wonder that the "kibeis" were even able to memorize the general orders and execute the close order drills on command. Even some of us locals, who had no previous military training, found it difficult to execute close order drills on command. Why? Because many of the movement commands hardly resembled English, such as "1, 2, 3, 4" were given as "hut, tu, tree, ho". No wonder the 100th was considered to possess the highest average IQ at that time for a unit its size, besides being known as the "Purple Heart Battalion".

The gathering was informal to allow the veterans to roam about freely and talk story. To that extent, the gathering was a success. But, from observation, I could not help but get the impression that the mood of this get-together appeared to be somber and that the participants were somewhat more subdued compared to other functions that I've attended. It seemed that the participants showed more concern about the health and well being of others rather than tell stories of what happened many years past.

This gathering was also a very unique sort of gathering in that we had no money to start with. When we determined the cost to charge each participant,

50th ANNIVERSARY - FIRST DRAFT (continued)

we planned to just about break even. But, on the day of the celebration, there were so many "no shows" that the committee was going to be in a fairly large deficit. Fortunately though, the participants saw the situation we were in and rallied to our aid by donating additional money to cover all of the expenses. The committee members thank all the participants for the very generous monetary donations, especially from Ben Kobayashi. Ben realized the situation we were in and instigated the donation idea to bail us out. We also received very large donations from Walter Inouye and Roy Terada. Roy donated \$50.00 from far away Lakewood, Colorado. He sent his regrets and asked that we "buy something for the 'boys'". The anniversary cake used for the occasion was part of his donation.

It was real nice to see you all at the function. Take care and thanks for your most generous donations.

"LEFTY" O'DOUL'S BAR: Ben Tamashiro

It was a good time to be in San Francisco, the second week into the new year. The frisky 50-55 degree weather made me want to step outside to feel the cold snap put a crisp bite into my ears and finger tips, in sharp contrast to home where I tend to move outdoors to get out of the lethargic heat of the day.

Gloria and I had gone to Las Vegas to film a TV commercial for the Bank of Hawaii, accompanied by the technical crew. The support people were from the Vegas area; the make-up girl, for instance, she with the slight British accent who had come to Vegas from London thirty-three years ago as a chorus girl for the Dunes Hotel, had promptly fallen in love with a localite, was married three days later and has been happily married since. We started shooting at 6 p.m. Monday evening on the streets around the Golden Nugget Hotel and worked through the night till 4:30 the next morning. Having already paid our dues at the slot machines, we left for Frisco that afternoon.

The fog and sunless days hardly mattered. The Handlery Union Square Hotel in the heart of downtown is within walking distance of the city's finest shopping and entertainment centers and restaurants catering to every taste from sushi to spaghetti, the Powell Street cable care is right around the corner, and with just a bit more walking one is on Market Street or in Chinatown. And "Lefty" O'Doul's bar is just two doors away from the hotel.

I had stumbled upon the bar on my first trip to Frisco years ago. To literally rediscover it next door was an unexpected plus. My scotch-and-water days are long gone but respects were due. Inside, the long food counter serves sandwiches of steaks, hams, and salads. The whole place is paneled in dark wood; there is a warm feeling about it, just as I remember it. And one of the beers on tap is San Francisco's finest, Anchor Steam Beer. Getting in with the talk around the bar about Saturday's upcoming game between the 49'ers and the Redskins, it suddenly occurred to me that the starting time of 1 p.m. at Candlestick Park is the exact hour that the first-draft guys would be getting together at the clubhouse, at 11 a.m. This set me to wondering whether the game on TV would be disruptive of the festivities; I had signed up (my serial number is 30100428) and had even acquiesced Hakaru Taoka's request (he's one of the planners) to write a story about it. But the shoot in Vegas and the stop over in Frisco screwed that up. Checking with Fuzzy Fujimori (another one of the organizers) after my return, I was glad to hear that everyone had a good time despite or in spite of the game. The woman sitting next to me at the bar said her son had gotten her two tickets at \$30 apiece sometime ago and thought they were a bit high to which the bartender and I both exclaimed that they could be peddled for \$100 or more right now.

We took in the play, "Food and Shelter" one night at the Stage Door Theater, a play about the nation's homeless and depressed citizens. The streets of San Francisco are sprinkled with the homeless and on a tour up north to the win country, the bus driver told us that is all began when Ronald Reagan during his term as governor started to cut back funds for the mental institutions. Up till then, one could be treated in them and upon discharge receive a certificate that read, "I Am Sane." The night after seeing the play, we walked by a mother and her child huddled up against a building to ward off the cold. Before my conscience got hold of me, we had passed them. But the next night on a different street, seeing this mother and her child huddled against a lamp post, I stopped and pulled out a \$5 bill. "For your little girl," I said. And received a blessing in return: "Thank you. May the Lord bless you."

"LEFTY" O'DOUL'S BAR (continued)

Kuleto's is an Italian restaurant that had been recommended to us when we were in Vegas. Fortuitously, it was right around the corner from the hotel. If you haven't eaten there before, try it. for its excellence - food, service, ambience. On the matter of taste, while up country on the wine tour, we also touched upon olive oil. Take a piece of bread, preferably coarse or hard, buttered in baked garlic, and dip it into pure olive oil ("extra virgin olive oil", as most label carry them). Makes your mouth wonder what you're biting into.

At the San Francisco Art Exchange on Geary Street, I was struck by a large painting by an artist named Chen Bu. He had fled China after the Tiananmen Square upheaval and like many another was finding a new sense of freedom outside China. The painting gave me an uplift akin to what I usually feel upon seeing Picasso's Guernica, for instance, or some of Paul Klee's surrealisms. The art dealer must have thought I was some kind of a buyer; he pulled it off the wall and led us to a private viewing room where he extolled the paintings of the artist ("A Chinese master emerges in the West after a lifetime of excellence in the East"). He believed that the one before us would ultimately become a treasure. I'm no more an artist than President Bush is a lover of broccoli and when I finally got around to asking the price - \$8,500 - we gently made our exit.

We even had breakfast in O'Doul's one morning. And before leaving, I went in for one last stein of Anchor Stem Beer. This piece is written to simply tell you of how two people started off the Happy New Year!

CANCER OF THE PROSTATE: A New Dawn For Early Prognosis?: from Let's Live, 1/91

According to a 1989 article in Cancer, reaseacher J.E. Montie and his associates found that prostate cancer is the most prevalent cancer found in American men. The prostate is a small gland that produces a substance to help "liquify" semen. Imagine a fluid-filled bag, with a narrow tube hanging down for the fluid to flow through. The prostate, all 20 or so grams of it, wraps itself around the junction of the bladder and the urethra (the urinary tube). An enlarged prostate, a prostate that swells up and squeezes down on the urinary tube is a common male problem. As troubling as an enlarged prostate may be, it is not nearly the problem that cancer of the prostate can be. Symptoms of this cancer are hard to detect. With no pain or discomfort, or other problems to warn him, the victim usually has no idea anything is wrong. When symptoms finally do occur, the cancer has usually moved into an advanced stage. Since the prostate grows around the urethra, early signs include pressure on the bladder neck. This can lead to the following sysmptoms: Nocturia: getting up at night to urinate, often frequently. Frequency: urinating frequently, but often only in small amounts. Hesitation: having to wait longer for the urine flow to begin. Intermittency: a start-and-stop flow of urine.

Having these problems does not necessarily mean that you have cancer. These signs may also be found with what we call benign prostatic hypertrophy (also known as BPH, a non-malignant prostate enlargement). But if these difficulties do strike, it's a good idea to have a thorough and complete work-up of the prostate to rule out cancer. This is especially important because cancer of the prostate does not always confine itself to the little gland. If the cancer does spread from the prostate, where it goes will determine which symptoms occur. It may eat its way into the bladder and rectum, causing severe damage. Or the cancer may enter the bloodstream, and proceed to the bones. With more advanced spreading, the cancer may paralyze the lower extremities by pressing on the spinal cord. Luckily, this does not happen frequently. There's even a possibility, rare but nonetheless real, that the cancer can spread to the liver, lungs, or brain. Prostate cancer has other means of spreading - such as by the pelvic lymphatic system. These means are not as symptom-producing as when it is spread via the blood to local bones.

That "muscle sprain" in your back may be as innocent as it seems to be, or it may be an advanced sign of a prostatic cancer that has reached out to your back bones with its deadly touch. If you find you're having unexplained difficulties urinating, urinate frequently, or have unexplained pains, get checked.

(EDITORS' NOTE: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Please take care of your health. - Ray & Aki)

CLUB 100's MONTHLY BULLETIN for FEBRUARY 1991

* * * SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALL CLUB 100 MEMBERS, WIVES, & WIDOWS * * *

INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF 1991 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

You are invited to attend the installation ceremony of the 1991 officers of Club 100. A short, informal program is planned after the ceremony.

Date: Saturday, February 9, 1991

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Turner Hall, Club 100 Memorial Building

Cost: Free

Parking: On-street and at Ala Wai School on a first-come basis
Ala Wai School parking will be available from
8:00 - 11:30 a.m. A security guard will prevent
non-members/guests from entering the lot.

Pastor Donald Asman will be the installing officer and Martin Tohara (Dog Chapter) will be the M.C. Company B Ukulele Club, Bob Fukumoto, and "The Fabulous Five" will put on a short program following the ceremony. Refreshments will be served.

The new officers for the club need and would certainly appreciate your support. Please come out and show them that you're behind them.

CLUB 100's BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 1991

- President George Hagiwara (Charlie Chapter)
- 1st Vice President Arthur Tamashiro (HQ Chapter)
- 2nd Vice President Isamu Inouye (Able Chapter)
- Secretary/Treasurer Stanley Kimura (Charlie Chapter)

- Able Chapter Don Matsuda
- Baker Chapter Yasuo Takata
- Charlie Chapter Stanley Akita
- Dog Chapter Richard Kondo
- Headquarters Chapter Arthur Tamashiro
- Medics Chapter Henry Nakasone
- Rural Chapter Walter Iwasa
- Kauai Chapter Makoto Takiguchi
- Maui Chapter Masao Sato
- Hawaii Chapter George Taketa
- Southern California Chapter Eric Abe

CHAPTER MEETINGS: All meetings start at 7:30 p.m., except as noted.

- ABLE Saturday ... February 23 Lounge (8:00 a.m.)
- BAKER Friday " 15 Lounge
- CHARLIE Monday " 18 Board Room (10:00 a.m.)
- DOG Saturday ... " 16 Board Room (8:00 a.m.)
- HEADQUARTERS Thursday ... " 21 Back Room
- RURAL No meeting scheduled
- KAUAI No meeting scheduled
- MAUI Meeting schedule not received
- HAWAII Thursday ... February 28 AJA Hall (11:00 a.m.)
- SO. CAL. Wednesday .. " 20 442 Memorial Hall

CLUB - COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All meetings start at 7:30 p.m., except as noted.

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday ... February 14 Board Room (7:00 p.m.)
- BONSAI Thursday ... " 21 Board Room
- D.A.V. HANELE Meeting schedule not received
- GREEN THUMBS Monday February 4 Hall (7:15 p.m.)
- KARAOKE Friday " 9 Hall (6:00 p.m.)
- INSTALLATION PARTY Friday " 1 Board Room (9:30 a.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 10, 1991 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

1. The board unanimously appropriated \$5,000.00 to repair the leaky lounge roof. Repairs will be done on Monday, January 28. Club members are asked not to park in the driveway on that day. The roofer, Al Rezentes Roofing, Inc. hopes to complete the job that day.
2. Four hundred dollars was appropriated for the Installation Party.
3. 49th Anniversary Party co-chairman Yasuo Takata informed the board that Warren Yamamoto (son of Richard Yamamoto - Charlie Chapter) will set a date for the committee of sons and daughters to meet. The party date has been tentatively set for either Sunday, June 16 (morning) or Friday, June 28 (evening), depending on what the committee decides. Matt Matsunaga (Dog Chapter) is the chairman of the committee to select the keynote speaker. Takata emphasized that the sons and daughters committee would be totally responsible for planning and executing the Anniversary Party. The committee still needs names of interested sons and daughters to make the party a success. If your son or daughter would like to join the committee, please call (or have them call) Yasuo Takata at 988-2819.
4. The board unanimously approved wage increases for the employees of the club. The wage for the clerk-typist position was increased to \$8.00 per hour, not to exceed 19 hours per week.
5. The board agreed to circulate petitions supporting the compromise proposal of the 100/442/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation at the chapter level.
6. The directors unanimously approved a letter to be sent to General Gray, commandant of the Marine Corps supporting Bruce Yamashita's charge of racial discrimination against the Corps. (See 'President's Message' in the Puka Puka Parade.)

NEW CHARLIE CHAPTER MEETING TIME: Starting with the Monday, February 18 meeting, Charlie Chapter will start its monthly meetings at 10:00 a.m. in the board room. This change was due to the problem of trying to find parking for the regular evening meetings. Parking will be available on-street and around the clubhouse on a first-come, first-served basis.

CLUB 100 DUES for 1991 are as follows:

\$18.00 - Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog, Headquarters, & Medics Chapter

\$10.00 - Rural Chapter

\$5.00 - Residents of the Neighbor Islands & U.S. Mainland, regardless of original chapter

To better facilitate the processing of your membership card, the following is requested:

For those planning to STOP BY THE OFFICE or PAY BY CASH: Please have the EXACT AMOUNT handy as I do not have sufficient change.

For those planning to MAIL IN their dues payment or PAY BY CHECK: Please write the name of your chapter in the memo section of your check, not on the "Payable to" line, as it may complicate depositing the check. Please make the check payable to: CLUB 100.

According to the club's by-laws, the annual membership dues are due not later than March 31. Any member who has not paid his dues by that date will not receive the monthly bulletins or Puka Puka Parades until his dues are paid.

To save on the time and expense of mailing individual dues notices, reminders will not be sent. (**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S NOTE:** We were supposed to start the RED DOT system this month. But I haven't finished processing the incoming dues yet, so there are no red dots on this mailing. Please bear with me.) Since the Board of Directors waived the back dues requirement, members who have been arrears in their dues payment need only pay the current year's dues to reactivate their membership.

If you have any questions regarding your dues payment record, please call Paul at the clubhouse office at 946-0272.

MARCH PUKA PUKA PARADE DEADLINE: The deadline for submitting articles for the March Puka Puka Parade is Friday, February 15, 1991.

MARCH MONTHLY BULLETIN DEADLINE: The deadline for submitting news or announcements for the March Monthly Bulletin is Tuesday, February 19, 1991.

Iro-Iro

It's not your father's
Bulova: Casio now sells
'Map Meter,' a wristwatch
which also calculates distan-
ces traveled by the wearer,
estimates arrival
times, measures pulse rate
and computes calories
burned. ⌚ Hattori Seiko
recently introduced a lady's
watch into which perfume
can be inserted for hours of
fragrant time-telling. ⌚ And
for sun worshippers, Toray's
UV Sensor indicates the
strength of ultraviolet rays
and the total amount ab-
sorbed, and it will sound an
alarm when a safety limit is
exceeded. And it also tells
time. ⌚

- The hit of Japan's Diamond Summer Fair '90, which ends on August 10, is a golf putter, ball and tee, all studded with a total of 1,050 diamonds—50.5 carats' worth. Valued at close to \$700,000, the set will be sold to the first person who wants it at the fair's conclusion. According to *The Japan Times*, "A person who plays golf with this set is bound to become famous."
- Maybe even as famous as Sher Ali, a five-year-old boy in eastern Bangladesh, who, because of his shoulder-length hair and four-inch beard, is being promoted by the local citizenry as a saint. His pediatrician, however, says it's hormones.
- In Lhasa, Tibet it's dogs who are revered, believed once to have been messengers of Buddha. In all there are a total of 50,000 dogs in this city of 100,000 people, and about 10,000 are strays. In order to deal with the problems of such a large, loose canine population (and you can imagine what some of *those* might be), the government has built its first dog hotel.
- And in Tokyo's dog days of summer [sorry...], Japan Railways is providing some relief for commuters: JR maintains that 99.8 of their metropolitan-area trains are air conditioned this summer. And as a charming refinement, they are also providing some cars with "weak" air conditioning for those whose comfort zone is a few degrees higher.
- They may be comfortable, but bored: An average Tokyo commuter spends 72 minutes each way on the train, and 33% of 379 surveyed recently spend that time "reading ads on train." A significant number also say they "stare out the window." Hey, folks—get a Walkman or *something!*
- Which brings us to eastern China, where local archaeologists would have us believe they have unearthed a 2,500-year-old skeleton wearing an ancient object equivalent to the modern Walkman. The report, which quotes a professor from Nanjing University, said the team found "earphones connected to a black box containing a silver plate with functions similar to a magnetic tape, and a piece of crystal which seems to be the source of the earphones' power." Enlightened commuters, most likely. Stranger things have happened. Or maybe not. You be the judge.

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