



# 100<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB

PUKA-PUKA

MONTHLY NEWS

## PARADE

FEBRUARY 2000

ISSUE #2000-2

### FROM THE EDITORS' PUKA

by Ray and Aki Nosaka

It is great to have everyone greeting each other with a cheerful "Happy New Year." Let us just hope and pray that the true feeling of comradeship and caring will prevail in this coming year. Congratulations to the new officers of Club 100 who will take the reins to lead us. I'm sure that by working together and offering our help when needed, we can look forward to another successful year in the history of Club 100.

Have your lungs cleared yet of the smoke from the New Year's Eve fireworks? We read many pros and cons regarding the ban of fireworks. We are certainly in favor of a total ban because too many of our friends are suffering from respiratory conditions. Also, we personally witnessed a near tragedy when a skyrocket landed on the roof of our neighbor's house. Thank goodness, before the fire truck could arrive, the flame died out. If it is absolutely necessary to have fireworks for religious rites, why can't that be confined for a certain time on the premises of the temples? We just hope that the Legislators come to some satisfactory solution before 2001.

We are grateful for the 29 people who turned out on December 30 to collate and mail out the first edition of the PPP for 2000. Thank you to Bernard Akamine, Otomatsu Aoki, Alfred Arakaki, Robert Arakaki, Kunio Fujimoto, Tom Fujise, Tokuichi Hayashi, Ed Ikuma, Gary Ikuma, Shigeru Inouye, Gladys Kawakami, Arthur Komiyama, Susumu Kunishige, Philip Matsuyama, Y. Muritani, Joe Muramatsu, Roy Nakamura, Roy Nakamura, Tom Nishioka, Jennifer Nitta, Ray and Aki Nosaka, Tom Nosse, Takeichi Onishi, Kari Sakuda, Leo Sato, Kazuto Shimizu, Hiromi Suehiro and Ukichi Wozumi. (Special thanks to the young people who came out to help: Gary Ikuma, Jennifer Nitta and Kari Sakuda.) A million thanks to Barbara Nishioka for baking and donating the mouth-watering pastries which were thoroughly enjoyed by all of the volunteers. That was Barbara's way of wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by President Don Matsuda

Past President Joe Muramatsu started the Year 2000 with the installation of new officers. Thanks, Joe, for a job well done over the past three eventful years. During Joe's presidency, we had the tremendously successful AJA Veterans National Convention at the new convention center featuring General Shinseki and General Bramlett as the speakers. We also had the unveiling and dedication of three monuments, AJA World War II in Los Angeles, the Brothers In Valor in Waikiki and the 100<sup>th</sup>'s Monument at Fort Benning, Georgia. Joe, we all appreciate your unassuming ways and good humor. I'll try to follow your example.

Of course, the big convention, and other events could not have been pulled off without the help of the Sons and Daughters—old age has caught up with us. Recognizing that the inevitable is upon us, the board passed the Long Range Planning Committee's recommendation to change Club 100 from a veterans to a civic organization and pave the way for more help to ensure and continue the legacy of the 100<sup>th</sup> by our families and offspring in the future. The date for voting on this historic change is 10 AM, February 5, at the clubhouse. Please come out. When a snafu replacement like yours truly has to be dredged up to become president of Club 100, it's time to make some changes.

The board discussed other matters such as the celebration and commemorative book for the Medal of Honor recipients, the Spark Matsunaga Medical Center's plaque, invitation and excursion to the Tropic Lightning Museum in Schofield Barracks. More information on these matters will come out as the plans are finalized. Look for information on the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas in this issue.

**The PukaPuka Parade** is the monthly newsletter of Club 100, an association of World War II Veterans of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Published at 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826.

## **Y2K – 58<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN LAS VEGAS**

We have 64 seats reserved on the non-stop to Las Vegas. Due to a cancellation, one seat is available, so please call in as possible to (808) 946-0272 if you would like go with the Club 100 group.

The cost of the Anniversary Celebration, including the registration fee, banquet, access to the hospitality room, and the seminar and business meeting is \$60 and is due by April 1, 2000. Although there seems to be time to sign up for this portion, please keep in mind that the banquet hall has limited seating (320) and once the capacity is reached, registrants will be placed on a waiting list. Optional tours and activities will be scheduled according to demand. If you live on the mainland or if you will be making your own travel arrangements or if you will be traveling with Ray Nosaka's group, ~~contact the Clubhouse office to receive a registration form for the Anniversary Celebration.~~ Hotel accommodations, including meal tickets, are available at the California Hotel for \$105 double occupancy. You may use the same registration form to reserve your hotel room. Feel free to call Club 100 if you have any questions.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**by Drusilla A. Tanaka**

***Mahalo nui loa*** to the following donors for their thoughtful and timely gifts to Club 100:

- \$25 from Lillian Shiraki
- \$25 from Yoshitaka Ushijima (C)
- \$50 from the T-Shirt Class

**The PukaPuka Parade** received the following donations:

- \$25 from Peggy Pye in memory of Bill Pye (C)
- \$25 from Harry Shimizu

**Note to donors who itemize deductions on tax returns:** Due to the change in IRS tax code status, donations to Club 100 made after July 1, 1999, are not tax deductible to the donor. In the future, please make donations to the Sons and Daughters of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and enclose a note that specifies that the gift is to support a project of Club 100. ~~For example, a gift may be made to support the Club 100 Scholarship Fund, the PukaPuka Parade, the Memorial Service, the Clubhouse Clean Up, the Anniversary Banquet, the Fort Benning Monument, or for any exempt purpose the donor desires. Donors will receive a letter-receipt from the Sons and Daughters which should be saved for tax purposes.~~

All donations made to Club 100 are tax-exempt to the club, so if you do not need a receipt for income tax purposes, you may make donations directly to Club 100. The club is not required to pay taxes on this income.

We will continue to acknowledge all gifts to Club 100 in the PukaPuka Parade.

***Welcome to the Octogenarian Club to the following who will celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in February 2000:*** Hiroshi Matsuura (C/Rural), Hideo Uchida (B), Kiyoshi Hasegawa (C), Max Imai (D), Nicholas Nakabayashi (A), Yeiki Matsui (B/Mainland), Bunkichi Matsuyoshi (Medics/Kauai), and George Teranishi (B/Mainland). ***Many happy returns! And a very special happy birthday to James Lovell (HQ) who will turn 93 years of age on February 6.***

**✚ATTITUDE:** In May 1999, Mitsuo Furumoto (A) suffered a devastating stroke that left him paralyzed on one side, unable to swallow food, and with speech impairment. But, his mind is as sharp as ever. Since then, he has had a "G-Tube" inserted into his abdomen to allow a liquid diet for nutrition; he has had surgery to repair a 20-year old hernia, a tumor removed from his large intestine, pneumonia (twice), infections and isolation room, anemia and heart complications. When we recounted all of what he went through in 1999 shortly after New Year's day, he just smiled and said,

"Tell the Man upstairs I'm not ready to die yet." The only favor Mits asks of us is to buy some candy or other omiyage for the nurses. By the way, they all call him "Sweetheart." And so, in this month of hearts, the Positive Attitude Award is given to Mitsuo Furumoto, former BAR man in the 3rd Platoon, Company A.

Note: The item that we would start a new column, "Monkutare of the Month," resulted in several nominations—from wives of veterans who will remain un-named! It was just a joke, folks.

#### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2000**

All Club 100 members in good standing should have received an envelope containing the meeting notice, agenda and the proposed amendments to the Charter and By-Laws. If you are planning to attend, please call the office at 946-0272 so that we can get a head count for the coffee and donuts. Parking will be available at Ala Wai School.

**Attention Internet Browsers, Surfers, or Just-Beginners:** Rae Ann Galinato, grand-daughter of James Kawashima (B), has created a website about the Japanese American WWII units. Web address is [home.earthlink.net/~goodgali](http://home.earthlink.net/~goodgali) And you can keep up with honorary member Bob Jones at his website: <http://www.hula.net/straighttalk/>

**EAT RICE** — that's the advice comedian Frank DeLima gives to high school graduates in his 'commencement address' recorded on his latest CD. One of the bits of advice is, "Spend more time with your grandpa and grandma, for after they are gone, you won't have a chance to ask your grandpa about what he did in the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion." The credit for the lyrics goes to Mariel Downes, grand-daughter of Kay and Ed Harada (D). When I asked her father, Patrick Downes if he knew why Frank DeLima mentioned the 100<sup>th</sup> rather than the 4-4-2 like most locals do, he answered "Because we're prejudiced."

**BOB JONES ITALY TOUR:** Save the date, Saturday, March 11, for a meeting of all group tour participants at Club 100, 520 Kamoku Street, 10 o'clock a.m. Parking is available at Ala Wai School.

George Watanabe (Hilo High '53) has thoroughly researched the battle sites and prepared maps and pictures, and has reconnoitered the area and says he will spend 3 days with the group guiding those who want to go to all the main battle sites. The mayor of Pietrasanta says, "Don't worry about eating in our town—that's on us!"

**INFORMATION CENTRAL:** This inquiry is also from Bob Jones—A retired tailor in Castagneto Carducci, a fellow named Walter Morganti, is trying to find a 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion lieutenant, name unknown. Morganto was hiding in the woods from the Germans when the 100<sup>th</sup> came through that town, located just a few miles northwest of Sassetta and just off the SuperStrada. He came across this AJA Lt. With bloody head wounds and used wine to clean them. A 100<sup>th</sup> patrol finally found them and drove them to hospital, then drove Walter back to his home town. If you know who this Lieutenant might be, or if this Lieutenant might be reading this article, please call Club 100 at 946-0272. Bob Jones and tour group will be stopping to visit Morganti in April.

Bob added more information: Morganti was about 17 years old and hiding from the Germans who would pick up young Italians for slave labor in Germany. It was at this time as he was hiding in the woods that he ran into this lone Oriental Lieutenant. Clearly there are still many old guys in these Italian towns who have some warm memories of the 100/442 passing through as they liberated their beloved country from the hated Nazis. A lady at the Coffee Bar in Luciana which is nearby told Bob that the older folks told her that after that devastating battle to clear the Germans out of Luciana, the Nisei mess personnel set up a feeding line for the surviving villagers. Nothing dramatic, but I'm sure that normally it's considered enough to beat the enemy, but when you take the trouble to feed the people after a vicious battle, then, they don't seem to forget it as it seems in this case. Luciana is where the 100/442<sup>nd</sup> found their dog mascot, Lucy.

**PUNCHBOWL VOLUNTEERS:** The Schedules for the year 2000 were mailed out in late December. If you did not receive your schedule, please call the office at 946-0272.

## **FROM HAJIME YAMANE (B)**

**Hajime received the following letter at Christmas time. The writer is Col. Joe Blair III, son of the late Joe Blair who served with the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was one of those in the Lost Battalion who was rescued by the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> in October of 1944.**

Dear Jimmy,

December 99  
Pleasant Hill

I wish you a very Happy Birthday and all the Buddha-hood that comes to men such as you.

I was going through some of my Father's old papers and found his discharge papers dated 18 October 1945. The summary of what he did went something like in the Army jargon of the day: "Served overseas in the active theater of operations. Fired various small arms to neutralize enemy personnel. Assisted in taking enemy positions in hand-to-hand and bayonet fighting." As you know, he was a PFC in the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

I was going through some of the material I had collected on the 36<sup>th</sup> Inf Division the other day and found some copies of the old letter that the Division Commander, MG Dalquist had written to his wife, just after the Lost Battalion was rescued by you and your buddies. I got this from the Military History archives at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Here are some quotes from MG Dalquist's letter: "It astounds me how these men are able to stand the physical and mental strain under which they are constantly living. It is almost beyond comprehension that a human being can stand so much. This last week has been a nightmare and I have lost track of time. (That last week that Dalquist is writing about was the week the 100/442 saved the Lost Battalion.) "This is such tough going, not on me but my men suffer so much. I know this must seem boring always talking about the Infantry, but no words can start to describe their sacrifice."

So, you can see that the Division Commander had some idea of the suffering and sacrifice you were going through with the rest of the Infantry units of the 36<sup>th</sup>. However, I know from having been in combat that those who have not been shot at in combat have no real idea of what it is like.

The Germans were fighting for every inch of ground at this time since you guys were getting near the Rhine River approaches into the Fatherland. Germans always fought like hell, but now they were even more determined not to let you into Germany.

About a week after the Lost Battalion was rescued, my Father was in action again and told me about carrying Japanese American wounded to either a company or battalion aid station. He carried three of your men back. On the third one, he kept falling down. He was too battle-fatigued to know that his feet were frozen. My Dad was running on adrenaline and a lot of guts. The medics noticed him stumbling and told him to take off his combat shoes. His feet were frozen and he was evacuated to Paris, England and then a hospital in Camp Buckner, North Carolina. Once he could walk again, he guarded German prisoners at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Once discharged, he became a high school teacher in Pennsylvania. He often used the Japanese American soldier as examples of courage, discipline and loyalty in his American History classes. You men made a great impression on my Father and he passed it on to his students in that little country school in the mountains of Pennsylvania. And, of course, my brother and I learned about the men from "Go For Broke."

Those stories related by my Father were establishing in my brother and me the solid ethics of soldiering that we both took into the Army years later. My brother was a recon platoon sergeant in Vietnam. He was wounded with a lot of shrapnel from a Chinese mine, but he is okay and doing well these days. It is amazing that the Japanese American soldiers did not get national recognition until now. Prejudice is a terrible thing, but we have lived to see this prejudice overcome and recognition established.

In my Spirit, I will always be as close to you as a son or brother. I thank you for being such a great human being. I will try to follow your example in my life.

Aloha,

Col. Joe Blair III

**Jimmy Maeda (A/Hawaii) sent in the following article from the Hawaii Tribune-Herald, dated Monday, November 1, 1999. An excerpt is reprinted here with permission of Hawaii Tribune-Herald.**

**Shared Memories, Generations Apart  
Local veterans remember service in Italy, Vietnam  
By Ceil Sinnex  
For the Tribune-Herald**

The river from hell on the Italian Front in World War II. Americans mistakenly shooting other Americans in Vietnam. These are among the memories of Big Island veterans James Maeda and John Pearson.

James Maeda of Hilo will never forget the Rapido River, where he fought as a member of the famous 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the Battle of Cassino, 90 miles south of Rome.

Midnight, January 24, 1944. The river, lined by German defenses, lay in mountainous terrain near Cassino.

The Germans used Cassino as a major defense stronghold to prevent an Allied invasion of Rome. Allied forces attacked Cassino four times, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in the first two battles.

Two regiments of Texans had already been almost wiped out while trying to cross the Rapido River. Meanwhile, the Germans flooded the farmlands near the river, creating a deep sea of bitterly cold mud.

"The Germans flooded the river, and it was muddy," Maeda recalled. "It was at night, and it was difficult to go through the river. It was high up to our stomachs, and (the Germans) were throwing shells.

"Yes, a couple of our men died."

Maeda did not see his comrades fall, due to the darkness and the fact that it was raining.

Maeda and the other survivors finally got across the river, climbed a wall—reportedly almost 12 feet high and strung with barbed wire—and ducked down behind it.

Unfortunately, some of the men stepped on the Germans' new, hard-to-detect land mines. But, Maeda was lucky, and was sent to fetch litters and medical help for the wounded.

"Some of us got trench foot from the second attack, because of staying in foxholes for a couple of days," Maeda said. Unable to exercise, they suffered poor circulation that caused permanent damage. But for Maeda, the worst was yet to come.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion joined forces with the also-famous 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, serving as the 442<sup>nd</sup>'s first battalion. "On July 3, 1944, I got wounded close to Leghorn," Maeda said. "We were in an Italian farmhouse. The enemy saw us and began throwing artillery shells. They got about seven of us." Maeda was sent by ambulance to a field hospital, and then to additional hospitals.

The Army classified him as more than 50 percent disabled. Even after 55 years, "I have difficulty walking," Maeda said. But he can walk, and play golf, too. In addition to a Purple Heart, Maeda was awarded a Bronze Star for his heroism in capturing a German communication headquarters, taking prisoners, and rescuing American troops.

**MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION** to be held in Los Angeles on Saturday, February 19, 10:00 a.m. To be installed by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance, the wall will include names of all those who died during World War II as well as those who served with the World War II AJA units and who died during the Korean War. Ayako Munemori Yokoyama, widow of Dr. Albert Yokoyama (Medics), sent in the following essay from George Aki, former chaplain of the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>. It is addressed to Members and Supporters of Veterans Memorial Court Americans of Japanese Ancestry, WW II Memorial Alliance.

As the war was coming to an end in Europe, I received a very difficult assignment: "Locate the isolated graves of our men who were hastily buried during the heat of combat!"

As my assistant and I searched for those solitary graves, these were some of my innermost thoughts: "Why did they have to die so young?" "What were their youthful

dreams of their future?" "What moved them to decide to fight for a country that stripped them of their birthright and literally cast them into the American-made concentration camps?" And, finally, "What am I planning to do to honor those men whose lives were cut short so abruptly?" These thoughts were very real then and just as real today.

As youngsters they were steeped by their parents to do all things, great and small, honorably. And so they dreamed their dreams.

Suddenly, everything was turned inside out by "circumstances beyond their control" on December 7, 1941. Overnight they became the despised enemies of America and placed under house arrest. Radios and newspapers screamed: "A Jap is a Jap! The only good Jap is a dead Jap!" And the bitter dehumanizing incidents were followed by (being) forcibly driven like unwanted refugees in their own land, into swamps and deserts in the God-forsaken parts of the USA. Their new home: exactly one mile square full of army barracks, barbed wire enclosed with constant armed soldiers. American-born citizens, prisoners in their own country, and guarded by their own countrymen! No nightmare could match this!

These young men were forced into early maturity. They decided to make their highest goal their own. They went head-to-head with "circumstances beyond their control," and they vowed that nothing, even death would not deter them to be the finest American and to be an anonymous stepping stone towards a world of justice and peace.

These initial volunteers were verbally incarcerated by their peers, elders and some were disowned by their fathers. But, somehow, they doggedly held firm to their prime goal. Some even departed from camp at midnight to avoid a riot. Despite the acrimonious objections, they held steadfastly (as they) struggled to their goal in life.

But their dreams were shattered by death! No, not the normal kind of death, but death with such devastating circumstances: "Dying in a strange land, dying with no loved ones nearby, and their buddies too busy fighting for their own lives and not knowing who was dying."

Each time we found an isolated grave, how dearly I wished that I had known him so that I could, at least, write to his dear family.

From my early youth, I searched for one I could look up to, a model I could follow with pride, a standard bearer who would point me to the way I should go to add something meaningful to share in my journey.

Suddenly, these young war dead became my guide and standard bearers. Each time I hear a 3-gun salute, taps, or the mournful sound of bagpipes, mentally I go on bended knee and thank God for them who gave their lives that I might continue with my life. No amount of money will bring them back, but one thing I can do is to dream their dreams and carry the "torch of life" for them. All honor and glory due to me, if any, I offer to them who died on my behalf, so that I might continue, somehow, to fulfill their dream: "to build a nobler America."

In a world where the goal in life is fame, fortune, personal gain and recognition, it is good to meet people who can forget themselves and unstintingly pour all honor and glory to those who died to give us life and a dream of a nobler future. And so, it is a privilege, a very special one for me, to be a segment of the company who can forget themselves and rend all, to those who did not die "in vain:" the AJA WW II MEMORIAL ALLIANCE! Yes, the "Legacy Remains with Those Who Died."

A Special Note to my Island Comrades:

I was born in California and volunteered from Jerome, Ark Relocation camp and thus, my experiences stem from experiences in the continental USA. If you felt omitted, do forgive me. Some of my highest moments overseas were with you Buddha-heads and I was proud to be accepted by you. My long-time assistant was Raymond Tanaka from Kona (now Honolulu) to whom I owe very much.

## **FROM FRANCIS SHINOHARA (B) (the first of three parts)**

### **WORLD WAR II HUAKA'I AND MELE THE BEGINNING**

My incredible World War II Journey started with an OR&L train leaving the then depot at Iwilei. From the train window I waved goodbye to my mother who had arrived breathlessly to see me off. The train ride to Schofield Barracks and induction into the army occurred on November 15, 1941. Two songs popular then were "Hey Daddy, I Want a Diamond Ring" and "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire."

Japan bombed Pearl Harbor while we were home on a weekend pass. Fred came over to my home to inform me that we were to return to our post immediately. We reported back to Boomtown in Schofield Barracks and were directed to dig in facing the mountains. A short time later, we were told to face the opposite direction. As evening approached, we were bivouacked in a building near the entrance to the camp. An older corporal, probably a veteran of World War I was paranoid of poison gas. A couple of times during the evening he yelled "GAS," causing us to scramble for our gas masks in the darkness. "Where's my mask, where's my mask?" shouted someone as we rushed outside to disperse in the field.

We ended the December 7 attack night guarding the fire station. Orange flashes lit up the distant sky. The flare of the anti-aircraft fire was the forerunner of the terrible battles to follow.

Many of the draftees were transferred to the 298<sup>th</sup> Regiment. This National Guard outfit was defending the Windward Oahu beaches. Fred Kanemura and the first group joined G Company at its command post in the cluster of pine trees alongside Kalaniana'ole Highway. G Company captured a Japanese one-man submarine in the ocean fronting Waimanalo Beach.

The rest of us joined E Company with over a dozen machine-gun emplacements from the Kahaluu fishpond through Kualoa Point to Lai o kaio, just before Kaaawa. After a night's sleep at Waiahole School, I was assigned to one of two bunkers at the end of Johnson Road, just pass Waikane Store. A bunker on the beach was next to a small pond adjoining a luxurious beach home. In front of this bunker and in the ocean was a large swimming pool enclosed with wooden walkways. We were tense and alert while on guard duty. Two hours on duty and four hours off duty were the regimen adhered to by Corporal Urbatch, Santos and myself on our 24-hour vigil. As the days passed, the threat of an invasion became nil and we relaxed. In retrospect we had the beaches and ocean exclusively to ourselves.

Our closest neighbor was the Fukumitsu family. They welcomed us when we went to their friendly home for a hot bath. Occasionally, we walked up Johnson Road to a family across Kamehameha Highway and another family beside the highway for an evening bath. A thousand yards or so from the former poi factory and up Waiahole Valley Road lived the Mizunos. This gracious family unselfishly prepared baths for those at the command post on the grounds of the Japanese School. A ray of sunshine was a small white dog that mysteriously appeared to keep us company. The chow truck brought meals to us for an ideal existence.

E Company was a Caucasian Company with some soldiers of Hawaiian descent. The majority that joined the company was of Japanese ancestry. The natural welcome and complete entrustment to those of enemy origin on guard duty with loaded M1 rifles were the embodiment of many years lived harmoniously by the different races. The situation in Hawaii contrasted to the treatment of the Japanese-Americans on the mainland. The wartime necessity of defending these pristine Windward Oahu beaches with machine-gun emplacements may never happen again. Those of us who lived on the beaches will remember this rare duty.

It happened one early evening beside a bunker by the sea. The waves lapped against the shore. A soldier of Hawaiian descent strumming his ukulele sang "Ku'uipo I Ka He'e Pue One, I'm sending my thoughts back home to you..." The ghostly silhouette of the mountain and the beat of a nearby water pump were the background to this soulful melody.

We heard a catchy ditty while heading home on leave. "Why does a gander meander in search of a goose? It's Elmer's Tune."

Five months of guard duty on the Windward Oahu beaches ended in the spring of 1942. The 298<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was relieved and recalled to Schofield Barracks. A regrettable



incident occurred on our arrival at the Post. The firearms and rifles of the Japanese-Americans were confiscated. We marched to an assembly a few days later to the accompaniment of the band playing my favorite "Emperor's March." After an apology for taking our rifles away, the formation of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was announced. A short time later, the members dubbed the 100<sup>th</sup> the "One Puka (hole) Puka."

Our "Aloha Oe" to Hawaii was very lonely as we secretly sailed on the old ship, "Maui." A surprised dockworker was the only person to see us leave. While watching a pretty, postcard picture Waikiki and Diamond Head fade away, a few felt that this moment was their "aloha" to the Islands.

Days of rough sailing with many getting seasick were rewarded with a glimpse of picturesque San Francisco. Sailing under the awesome Golden Gate bridge, we docked at a pier in Oakland. With the moving song "Remember Pearl Harbor" ringing in our ears we boarded a Southern Pacific train. The train climbed the Sierra Nevada mountains into desert-like country and then a myriad of rivers and green fields. An educational and enjoyable train ride followed. After a brief stop at North Platte, Nebraska, we were sent on our way with friendly waves from those at the station. A bit of apprehension when we saw a section of the camp enclosed with barbed wire brought us to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

Our arrival was in early summer and we experienced fall and winter with our first snow at the camp. Captain Johnson, our company commander, created a small skating rink. Ice skating was a novelty for us from tropical Hawaii. Our 7-months of training in Wisconsin was memorable for the trees, vegetation, wild animals and natural environment which were foreign to us but somewhat pleasurable. At the camp, especially on Saturday evenings after a few beers, "Across the Sea" was frequently heard.

Across the sea an Island calling me,  
Calling to the wanderer to return.  
Bidding me come back to dear Hawaii,  
To those sunny isles across the sea.

This song was sung with emotion that a listener could sense the homesickness and the longing for the islands.

Most of our passes were spent in Sparta and La Crosse, a bigger city, but further away from camp. The people in these communities including the media were very friendly despite knowing we were of enemy descent. The host who invited us to his home introduced us to the game of cribbage. A Congregational Church in La Crosse invited us to their social. Heiji Fukuda, our supply sergeant and I were charmed by Frances, who was nice to us. The congregation sponsored a picnic supper at a wooded park. Sakae Tanigawa's friendship with a family in La Crosse spanned fifty-some years.

Sam Tomai, our company clerk, mentioned that we were eligible for furlough. This information triggered trips further away from camp. Jimmy and I visited Warren, a classmate, who was at a dental school in Kansas City. We crossed the border to the capital of Kansas at Topeka, where we enjoyed a fresh-water swim at a large public pool. We were delighted to see our familiar island flower, hibiscus, blooming in a park near the zoo. Larry Amazaki and Marshall Higa, my barefoot football teammates went to New York. Others visited Milwaukee and Chicago where streetcar rides, major-league baseball games, theaters and other entertainment were all free to servicemen.

"Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree With Anyone Else But Me," "White Cliffs of Dover," "You Went Away and My Heart Went with You," "Mary, It was Mary," were some of the songs we heard on passes. "One Dozen Roses" was heard amidst the singing and dancing on the riverboat as it steamed up the Mississippi River from La Crosse to Winona, Minnesota. "Let Me Call you Sweetheart, I'm in Love with You" was heard on the bus returning to camp.

Fourth Platoon Sergeant Mickey Nakahara's favorite song was "Yours till the end of December." Sgt. Takashi "Kit" Kitaoka was learning the words to "The Waltz You Saved for Me." Keichi Tanaka sang "You Are My Sunshine." Torao Ichimura sang "Manuela Boy." He then jokingly suggested at war's end, just as Manuela Boy did, we go to Aala Park to moi moi (sleep). Dick Hirano from Headquarters sang, "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie" beside a lake on an outing in the Wisconsin woods. Later, Ma-chan Yamada sang "Sleepy Lagoon" while trying to get rid of the pesky chiggers during maneuvers in Louisiana.



The members of the First Platoon will remember "White Christmas." This sentimental song consoled them while they were quarantined with measles and confined to their brand-new barracks during the Christmas holidays.

Somehow at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" blaring from a nearby post exchange, accompanied me on my way to the evening shower. Hattiesburg was the nearest town, but a visit to New Orleans was feasible on a weekend pass.

"The Jersey Bounce" bounced us to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. While readying to go overseas, "As Time Goes By" was the popular song of the time. An item issued to carry with us was mystifying—a mattress bag. Later, we were to realize its grim use.

We experienced One Enchanted Evening on the transport James Parker enroute to Oran, North Africa. Because this transport was a converted luxury yacht, the voyage was smooth and pleasant. We bedded down on the ship's deck. The pale light of the moon shimmered in the ship's wake as Slim Nakano sang the lovely

"Good Night, Sweetheart, till we meet tomorrow.  
At night, dreams enfold you, in each one I hold you.  
Tears and parting may make us forlorn,  
But with the dawn a new day is born.  
So I say Good Night, Sweetheart, sleep will banish sorrow.  
Good Night, Sweetheart, Good Night."

Slim later was awarded the Silver Star for destroying an enemy tank with his bazooka.

## HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER REPORT

by Kenneth Saruwatari

We lost another buddy. Seigo Kagawa of Kauai passed on. When I first joined the 100<sup>th</sup>, he took me in hand. He invited me to share his tent. We had four blankets on the ground and eight blankets to cover us. For a rookie, it was a grand gesture from a sergeant.

The chapter's year ended with a bang! Everyone seemed to enjoy our Christmas get-together. To those who helped before, during and after the affair, much thanks. Vivian Saruwatari and Dorothy Tamashiro handled the reservations. Margaret Higa and Elsie Oshita helped Tom Nosse with collections.

There were 27 families with 98 adults and 28 younger ones.

Robin Otagaki and his friends put on another terrific show. Many families brought goodies to our table, including Doris Aimoto, Pat Akimoto, Bob Fukumoto, Margaret Higa, Midori Hirano, Edna Ikawa, Ed Ikuma, Arthur Komiyama, Elsie Oshita, Janet Otagaki, Bea Shinoda, Gary Uchida and others I may have missed.

Sab Taba contributed two of his paintings for door prizes. Wally Teruya, as usual, came through with his goodies from Times Market.

Thanks, also, to caterer, Wally Wok. Much MAHALO to all those who shared the evening.

For the New Year, I propose a different meeting format. Let's try it. Come out for chit chat, brag about sons, daughters, grandchildren, keep up with Club 100 affairs.

JANUARY	No meeting
FEBRUARY 15, 2000	at 9:30 a.m. at Clubhouse – joint meeting of all veterans, wives, widows and friends. Saru will host pastries and coffee.
MARCH	No meeting
APRIL 18, 2000	at 9:30 a.m. at Clubhouse – joint meeting of all veterans, wives, widows and friends. After the meeting let's go to some place for a buffet lunch.
MAY	No meeting
JUNE 13, 2000	at 9:30 a.m. at Clubhouse – joint meeting of veterans, wives, widows and friends. We'll find a host for pastries, coffee.
JULY	No meeting
AUGUST 15, 2000	at 9:30 a.m. at Clubhouse – Full meeting of veterans, wives, widows and friends. Let's go to another buffet lunch.
SEPTEMBER	No meeting

OCTOBER 17, 2000

at 9:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse -- full meeting of veterans, wives, widows and friends. We'll find a good host for goodies.

NOVEMBER

No meeting

DECEMBER

date to be announced. Dinner or Christmas party.

Please put these dates on your appointment calendar. Come out and participate. Give yourselves a break from the sometimes monotonous daily chores.

#### **ABLE CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Tommy Nishioka**

To each and every one of you, I wish that you experienced a very merry Christmas and hopefully, when the clock struck 12 o'clock midnight, your wish and prayers for a good year will come through. As for my wife and I, we attended the midnight service at the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin for the midnight service. We attended this service for many years, like it is a tradition for us. As we drove home the welcoming of the New Year began and it was very hectic as the streets were littered with firecrackers and the skies were filled with rockets and flares that reminded me of war days where the tracer bullets filled the skies from the enemy. I don't like firecrackers and I sincerely hope that the Council will ban the burning of fireworks.

This may be my last article in the Puka Puka Parade because I really believe that I don't write good articles like the other chapter reporters do. I tried to come up with interesting articles, but I don't have the capabilities. I've asked the wives and widows as well as the daughters of our chapter to write for Able Chapter, but all I got was negative answers. So, if I don't have any volunteers in the near future, this will be my last article.

#### **BAKER CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Joe Muramatsu**

When I took over this job from Bernard, I didn't know whether I was jumping from the frying pan into the fire or from the fire into the frying pan. Bernard just willed the job to me, so here goes.

Baker Chapter's officers for 2000 are: President, Hajime Yamane; Vice President, Robert Arakaki; Secretary, Robert Aoki, and Treasurer, Riki Tsuda. China Yamashina will be our Nominating Committee. Other committee chairmen will be selected when the time arises.

January's meeting was held on January 15, 2000, with the usual crowd, with the die-hard poker players in attendance. That is with the exception of Takeo Azama, who underwent a liver operation. We heard that Joe Nakahara is doing all right.

Received a call from Francis Shinohara saying that he was sending some papers about his experiences at the war front. His papers will be including in increments in the PPP. Thank you, Francis. (Note: His articles are shared with all PPP readers on pages 7 through 9 of this issue.)

Many thanks to Jan Nadamoto (daughter of Isao and Nobuko) for her very generous donations to the Baker Christmas party. She not only loaned her laminating machine, but donated all of the necessary material so that the attendees could create their own personal identification and luggage tags. In addition to that, Jan donated some prizes and food. Thank you very much, Jan!

If you have any news that you want to share with us, please let me know. If you went to Vegas and broke the bank or lost a bundle, let us know, or if wanderlust took you to exotic places, please share your experiences with us.

#### **CHARLIE CHAPTER NEWS via the internet**

**by Warren Iwai**

Meeting: 14 members were present at our first meeting in the year 2000. Present were: our chiefs; Kazuto Shimizu, president; Toshimi Sodetani, vice-president; Hiromi Suehiro, secretary; and Roy Nakamura, treasurer. The other "little Indians" were Stan Akita, Chick Miyashiro, Oscar Miyashiro, Kiyoshi Uyeno, Hideshi Niimi, Takeichi Onishi, Kaoru Yonezawa, and Warren Iwai - plus one big Indian from Kona, Phillip Matsuyama.

One item of great interest was the anniversary party in Las Vegas in June. Many Co. C members are interested in attending, so the idea of setting aside one night for Co. "C" reunion was suggested. This idea will be pursued and we hope other former Co. "C" members from all the states will join us.

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month, with the following exceptions -- June, September, and December when meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday or (June 12, Sept. 11 and Dec. 11).

I recently went to Maui and met Johnny Miyagawa, Jack Gushiken, and Willie Goo. These are my buddies from the 2nd platoon. They have grown a little older but they are still kicking. Johnny and Willie play golf weekly. Jack hasn't been on the golf course for sometime but he will be back soon.

Yoshitaka Ushijima, from Kula Maui donated \$50.00 to the Club 100 and \$50.00 to Charlie Chapter. Thank you Ushi! I'm glad you're still around.

At this writing Chester Hada has been reported to be a patient at Tripler Medical Center with pneumonia. Gambare, Paisan! Chester's sister, Nancy Nakamura, reports that he is getting excellent care from the nursing staff.

Kentoku Nakasone who was ill just before Christmas has recovered and is on a trip to the Big Island.

LADIES CORNER: A luncheon is scheduled at the Ishitani's home on Saturday, January 22nd. Ten ladies are expected to attend.

## **DOG CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Helen Nikaido**

Happy New Year!

Dog Chapter Officers for 2000 are President Saburo Nishime, Vice President Richard "Doc" Hosaka, Secretary Mary Hamasaki, Treasurer Conrad Tsukayama and Assistant Treasurer Jitsuri Yoshida.

Your 2000 chapter dues (\$10.00) are now payable.

There were five members and two wives at the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting: Saburo Nishime, "Jits" Yoshida, Martin Tohara, Ken Mitsunaga, "Doc" Hosaka, Kay Harada and Helen Nikaido.

We learned that Richard Hara who has been on dialysis for the past sixteen years is confined at Kaiser Hospital since last December and is unable to walk. On January 7<sup>th</sup> I called Jane Matsunami to wish her and "Matsu" happy new year. She says they are getting along and she takes "Matsu" to Ala Moana Shopping center every day to walk and is kept busy taking care of him.

Talked to Stella Nakayama to see where she was headed for on her next trip. She'll be going on a cruise to Greece and Turkey for two weeks in February.

One Puka Puka 2000 Japan Autumn tour escorted by Kazuo "Opu" Hiranaka will depart October 5<sup>th</sup>, returning on October 19. Itinerary is as follows: Honolulu-Chitose Airport Hokkaido-Sapporo-Mt. Moiwa-Susukino-Furano City "The Heso or Navel of Hokkaido"-the locales of the popular TV series "Kita-No-Kuni-Kara" Ikeda City the wine and steak capital--salmon sluice on Tokachi River-Obihiro-Minami Chitose-Hakodate-Asaichi-Mt. Hakodate-under sea tunnel/from Hakodate to Aomori-Morioka-Miyako-Jodogahama-Kita Yamazaki-Rikuchi Kaigan-Ryusendo caves-Morioka-Tokyo-Honolulu. We will be having a meeting in mid-March. Will keep you posted when the date is set.

## **RURAL CHAPTER CHATTER (via the internet)**

**by Ted M. Hamasu**

We held our umpteenth Installation and New Years banquet on 16, January 2000 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The turn out of members, wives, S&D and their children was about 75 people. Although it was supposed to begin at 10:00, we waited until all of our invited guests arrived. It was about 10:30 when MC, Charles Nishimura pounded the gavel to gain attention and asked all to be seated. He welcomed all and wished them Happy New Year, Happy New Millennium and the year Y2K. He then called on the President for his Welcoming Address and introduction of our special guests, the President of Club 100, Don and his wife Kimi Matsuda and Stanley and his wife, Drusilla Tanaka. The ladies were presented with beautiful leis donated by Mrs. Yoshie Kubota, wife of Takao Kubota, with Walter Iwasa doing the honors. Thank you very much Mrs. Kubota.

Since this is a new millennium, we read a list of our former members who preceded us to the promised land. The first recorded death was in the year 1952, so I thought Rural Chapter must be in existence for about 50 years? After digging into old papers, I found that Lefty Mizusawa was one of the charter members and so I queried him about the Rural Chapter and according to his recollections, we were organized in 1950. Which means this years Installation and New Years banquet was on our Fiftieth Anniversary, our Golden Anniversary. I told Lefty that it was our Golden Anniversary and we could have had a big blow out, but he calmly said, "we can do it next year". Wow, so now we know how long our Chapter has been in existence. **FIFTY LONG YEARS! HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, RURAL CHAPTER MEMBERS AND WIVES. OMEDETOO GOZAIMASU.**

Ah, what a revelation, why didn't I think about it before, oh well, too late now. Shikata ga nai.

The business part of our banquet progressed smoothly, with Kenneth Higa officiating as our chaplain, holding a moment of silence followed by an invocation and than our luncheon. After the luncheon Kiyomi Kaneshige conducted the installation of the incoming new old officers and presented them to the membership.

The outstanding membership award for 1999 was awarded to Kenneth M. Higa for his contributions to the Chapter for the year. Congratulations, Kenneth.

After the business portion was over, Harry Kamikawa took over and went into the long awaited Bingo and lucky number games which everyone was waiting for. The committee made sure that everyone present received a bingo prize after which we changed to lucky number with the remaining prizes. Everyone was full of smiles when we ended the games for they have received at least one prize. We parted after singing Hawaii Aloha and Aloha Oe followed by an Italian style toast let by MC, Charles Nishimura.

I'd like to express our appreciation for the generous support we have received by our members, wives S&D and their children for the many monetary and goodies donated by you for this occasion.

The thank you list will be printed in the next PPP, so until than, take care, be healthy and happy until we meet again. Aloha Nui Loa.

The next meeting will be held at Westgate Shopping Center Office on March 17,00 from 11:00 AM. It is going to be an important meeting so plan to be there. Especially you charter members of Rural Chapter, guys like Lefty, Shiro, Saito, Kihara, Nagaki, Fujitani and others, we would like to hear your stories about the beginning of the Rural Chapter. OK. Oh, before I forget don't forget to bring your bento. See you there.

## **MAUI CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Tom Nagata**

Maui Chapter officers met at the Treasurer's home on Monday morning, January 17, to discuss the schedule for the coming year. One good news was that being senior citizens we can still go to the Maui County Parks for our family nights without paying the higher rates being imposed on the general public. Most likely our first family night will be a potluck dinner. Our first general luncheon meeting will be in March with the same assessment as last year. Due to declining attendance our picnic in August may not be held. There were 14 members last year. However, we will take a vote in our March meeting to decide on the picnic. Satoji Arisumi will be our Mothers' Day dinner chairman again this year. If possible, it will be a lunch and within the Wailuku area. Goichi Shimanuki will be our September Memorial Service chairman again this year. We will have a Christian minister conduct the service this year. Secretary Edward Nishihara will be mailing out the new schedule as soon as all the dates have been set. Do not misplace your schedule as this will be the only notice that you will have, with the exception of the PukaPuka Parade schedule of events.

Chapter President Stanley Izumigawa worked hard to produce 21 "kadoomatsu" for Maui Chapter members and widows who had signed up during the Christmas dinner party. We thanked him for his most generous gesture for not charging us anything. His son-in-law, Jonathan Ross of Haiku was a big help to him in cutting the two-inch diameter bamboos to the proper size. His daughter, Jill Ross, donated a box of bananas at the Christmas dinner party. Those Haiku grown bananas tasted fine, and we thank her.

## HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS

by Jimmy Maeda

Greetings To You For the New Year 2000 – The Year of the Dragon!

Roger Asaomi Kawasaki, long time Hawaii Chapter member and treasurer died on December 8, due to illness at the age of 79. He was a director, treasurer and office manager of KTA Super Stores. Funeral service for Roger was held on December 19, 1999, at Dodo Mortuary Chapel. Members of Hawaii Chapter stood as honor guards at the service. Our prayer of condolence to wife, Sayoko Kawasaki; daughter, Lillian Asato of Maple Valley, Washington; brothers, Thomas Kawasaki, Robert Kawasaki; sister, Mikiko Kaya and other relatives. Roger, we thank you for your “gift of friendship.”

The Christmas get together for members, wives, children and grandchildren of Club 100, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, Interpreters Club, AJA Veterans Sons and Daughters was a successful and enjoyable affair. The children and adults got enough presents to bring smiles. Our thanks to the AJA Veterans Sons and Daughters for hosting the Christmas get together. A great mahalo and thank you to all donors of food and merchandise.

The first Hawaii Chapter luncheon meeting for Year 2000 will take place on Thursday noon at the AJA Veterans Council Memorial Hall. Installation of new officers for the New Year will take place. Officers to be installed will be: President, Motoyoshi Tanaka; Vice President, Toshimitsu Kondo; Secretary, Eugene Eguchi; Treasurer, Joe Sugamura; Auditor, Hiromu Kobayashi. Joe Sugamura will be taking the place of the late Roger Kawasaki. We thank Motoyoshi for accepting the office of the president for Year 2000.

The exhibit “From Bento to Mixed Plate” will be showing at the Lyman Museum on Haili Street from January 22 to June 3, 2000. This exhibit was developed by the Japanese American National Museum with an exhibit team made up from both Hawaii and Los Angeles. The exhibit will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday. The show is educational and enjoyable to both old and young. You should make an effort to attend the exhibit while it’s here in Hilo.

### DIS ‘N DAT

Ray Nosaka

In this year of the Dragon, my mind is actively snorting out thoughts of things I would like to see happen in the club, but physically, I realize that I should be content just belonging to the “don’t worry, be happy club.” Just concentrate on taking good care of my body by exercising, good nutrition, and keep stress at the minimum. Won’t you join me?

Those of you who have signed up to stop over in Los Angeles on the way home from Las Vegas on June 22<sup>nd</sup> will be given the location of the name or names on the granite monument ahead of time so that no time will be wasted in locating them. Our docents at the Museum will be Mary and George Karatsu (Aki’s sister and brother-in-law) who are “old timers” there.

In this New Year, let us remember this quotation from Mark Twain: “Kindness is a language which the deaf ear can hear and the blind eye can see.”

**SPARK M. MATSUNAGA VA MEDICAL AND REGIONAL OFFICE CENTER** on the grounds of Tripler Medical Center – This brand new state-of-the art VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC) will be dedicated on May 31, 2000. The “center” is comprised of several different sites, but all located on the grounds of Tripler. The first phase of the Matsunaga center, The Center for Aging, was dedicated a couple of years ago. It is a stand-alone building on the lower west slope of Tripler, an intermediate care facility for aging veterans. The second phase is the Administrative Office of Department of Veterans Affairs, located in the former E-Wing of Tripler Hospital. Director H. David Burge’s office is located here, as well as the in-take office and FHA Loan office. Various veterans’ organizations, including the DAV and the State Office of Veterans Services have officers here, too. The third phase is still under construction, and is located at the rear of Tripler. This part of the complex will house the new Ambulatory Care Center, or ACC, where medical and dental exams and treatment will be conducted. Directly opposite this wing is a brand new multi-level parking garage. You have probably seen the bright blue signs on the freeway and the signage for the buildings and wings has been installed. However, there is nothing within the buildings to explain who Spark M. Matsunaga was or why it is significant that the VAMROC is named after him. This is why Club 100 has formed a Matsunaga Commemorative Plaque Committee. The committee has been working for more than a year and has taken its proposal for portraits and plaques and an exhibit/display case to the Board of Directors which appropriated \$4,000.00 for the project. When the VAMROC is dedicated in May, these portraits and plaques will tell all who visit there about the extraordinary human being, patriot, orator, poet, statesman, raconteur, US Army veteran, attorney, legislator, Congressman, US Senator named Spark M. Matsunaga.

## CLUB 100 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2000

ABLE.....	Saturday, February 26.....	8 a.m. ....	Lounge
BAKER.....	Saturday, February 19.....	1 p.m. ....	Lounge
CHARLIE .....	Monday, February 14.....	10 a.m.....	Board Room
DOG			
HQ			
HAWAII			
MAUI			
RURAL			
KAUAI			
BOARD .....	Friday, February 11 .....	9:30 a.m. ....	Board Room
S&D BOARD.....	Friday, February 18 .....	7:00 p.m.....	Board Room
GREEN THUMB.....	Monday, February 7 .....	10:00 a.m. ....	Lounge
KARAOKE FUN NITE.....	Friday, February 11 .....	6 p.m. ....	Turner Hall
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING...	Saturday, February 5.....	10 a.m.....	Turner Hall

The Office will be closed all day on Monday, February 21 in observance of President's Day Holiday.  
The clubhouse and lounge will be open as usual.

Deadline for articles for the March 2000 issue is Tuesday, February 15, 2000. E-mail articles to [sillanstan@aol.com](mailto:sillanstan@aol.com) or fax to (808) 946-0273.

The PukaPuka Parade collating will be on Thursday, February 24, at 8:30 a.m. Able and Charlie Chapters are responsible for providing the manpower and refreshments, but everyone else is welcome to help.

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***FEBRUARY 2000 ISSUE***

