



100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB

PUKA-PUKA

MONTHLY NEWS

PARADE

MAY 2003

ISSUE #03 - 4

REMINDER! SEND IN YOUR 61ST ANNIVERSARY REGISTRATION FORMS

THANKS TO PPP VOLUNTEERS

Our April issue was printed, collated and mailed without a hitch. Thanks to the PPP staff and the following volunteers for their much appreciated help: Bernard Akamine, Otomatsu Aoki, Alfred Arakaki, Robert Arakaki, Kunio Fujimoto, Ted Hamasu, Ed Ikuma, Larry and Regina Kamiya, Arthur Komiyama, Don and Kimi Matsuda, Philip Matsuyama, Masanori Moriwake, Guida Miyashiro, "Mugi" Mugitani, Joe Muramatsu, Saburo Nishime, Charlie Nishimura, Tom Nishioka, Ray and Aki Nosaka, Susumu Ota, Masaharu Saito, Leo Sato, "Moro" Sato, Hiromi Suehiro, Goro Sumida, Denis and Joy Teraoka, Masa Toma, Ricky and Evelyn Tsuda, Martin Tohara, Ukichi Wozumi, and Marie Yoneshige. The PPP staff consists of Robert Arakaki, Mary Hamasaki, Hiromi Suehiro, Evelyn Tsuda the chapter reporters and your editor, Joy Teraoka.

IMPORTANT

COLLATING WILL AGAIN BE ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH (5/29/03)

ATTENTION: PUKA PUKA PARADE MAILING LIST UPDATE

The PPP staff is updating its mailing list and would like your kokua. Please complete the form below if any of the changes noted thereon are applicable and mail it to us as soon as possible, in time for the next issue. Thank you.

FROM: (name and address shown on PPP label)

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MAIL FORM TO: Puka Puka Parade
520 Kamoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Stanley Akita

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. After a moment of silence, guest speakers, Steve Okino and Ed Yamasaki, were given the floor.

Steve Okino spoke about the mistreatment of Bruce Yamashita while Bruce was attending the Marine Corp Officers School to become a lieutenant.

Ed Yamasaki wrote about the 442nd, Co I, book he was responsible for. He announced that the book is being sold. Anyone interested can call the club. We have a few for sale.

After dispensing with the March BOD meeting minutes, the Secretary's Report and the Secretary/Treasurer's Report were read. It was reported that the apartments were fully occupied with no vacancies, and as for the clubhouse, a rain water leak was noticed in the newly built storeroom for the tables and chairs. Sus Ota has volunteered to look into the matter of the leak.

The matter of allowing wives and widows to become members was discussed, and the presidents of the chapters will be notified in writing to discuss the following to be brought back for the next BOD meeting to be acted upon:

1. Amending the by-laws to be compatible with the amendment made to the Charter regarding allowing wives and widows to become members.
2. To discuss waiving dues for the wives.

Stu Tsubota, chairman for the 61st Anniversary Celebration, reported that the registration for the 61st luncheon was down to a crawl and hopes the members send in their registrations faster.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The WHT Tours/Chase Travel based in Rialto, California, will be conducting a tour from New Orleans, Biloxi, Hattiesburg, Camp Shelby, Jerome and Rowher, Little Rock, Memphis and Nashville. The tour starts from Los Angeles; for the people of Hawaii there will be an additional air fare cost from Hawaii to LA. The name of the tour is the Veterans Memorial Tour. Anyone interested may call (909) 854-2315 or FAX (909) 854-2503 or write to WHT Tours/Chase Travel, 3905 N. Sweet Leaf Ave., Rialto, CA 92377.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE CLUB FOR DETAILS - WE DON'T HAVE THIS INFORMATION.

Lane Nishikawa from Los Angeles has started the movement to make a movie of the AJA of the "Lost Battalion" battle. Fliers will be going out for solicitations.

The 18th Annual Military Appreciation Month reception will be at the Battleship Missouri on April 25, 2003.

Lantern Floating Event will be at 6 p.m. May 26, 2003, at Ala Moana Beach Park's Magic Island.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS - PLEASE READ ON - THANKS

It has been noted that there are a few comments on the present 100th Infantry Battalion Scholarship Fund Drive.

It was pointed out by the Treasurer that our Scholarship fund has dwindled from an approximate value of about \$110,000 to \$58,000 after 9/11/02.

The Board was notified of a possible fund drive and the tentative fund drive letter was passed out to each chapter at a Board meeting, early 2002. The talk of a fund drive for our scholarship has been on-going for over a year.

For fund-raising info, see minutes of February 8, 2002, under Item 5-b. Note that Item 5 is Unfinished Business, so the subject of the fund raising must have been discussed at a prior meeting.

The Board approved to suspend giving out scholarship funds to prevent using the principal of the investment.

The talk of fund raising has been on-going for at least a year now. All the presidents were given a copy

of the Fund Raising letter a year ago. This is not something we thought of yesterday.

As far as the Scholarship Committee is concerned, as the fund raising subject was being talked about for the past year at least, the committee should have been concerned as to where the money was coming from to give away. No one from the committee brought up any suggestions, so I took the "bull by the horns" and started it moving.

Let me, at this time apologize for doing something that was not in accordance to how some members thought it should have been done. But remember, the success of any project undertaken will depend on the enthusiasm of the members.

Finally, as I have mentioned time and time again, if you have any comments pertaining to the Board's actions, we would appreciate it if you would put it in writing to be presented to the Board via your president, or send it to the club office.

One last item--It won't be long before the year 2004 will be right around the corner. This is to inform all concerned, including the Nomination Committee, to start the search for the next president for the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans.

THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE 442ND RCT AND MIS

by Joy Teraoka, Editor

Congratulations to both the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and to the AJA Military Intelligence Service veterans who are celebrating the 61st anniversary of their formation. As the "big brother" of the 442nd RCT, the 100th acknowledges with pride that it forms the first battalion of the regiment and is proud to be an integral part of the most decorated unit in military history.

The 442nd Veterans and their Sons and Daughters organized four days of outstanding events, from April 3-6, 2003. Although these events paid tribute to all the men of the 442nd and the surviving MOH recipients, special honor was given to one of their members--Daniel Inouye--MOH recipient, who so deservedly has won recognition as "a soldier's soldier, a senator's senator, and a heroes' hero." His outstanding service before, during and after the war underscore the extraordinary accomplishments he has attained during his lifetime.

After showing excerpts from a video montage of Inouye's life, produced by Heather Giugni, Dan mounted the podium to acknowledge the honor bestowed upon him by his fellow comrades. With sincere humility he noted that being honored by his brothers was the highest honor one could hope to get. In turn, he declared the Medal of Honor belonged to all of them. Eloquently, he spoke:

"I believe this medal belongs not to us (the MOH recipients), but to you . . . There is no such man as a one-person hero. We didn't become heroes singlehandedly. One becomes a hero because of camaraderie, because of the support and sense of duty to other soldiers, and because of what parents and teachers and culture have taught."

Inouye mentioned the early days of friction and resentment between the Mainland "Kotonks" and the Hawaii "Buddaheads." However, in dismay and wonder, those hostile feelings evaporated when the Hawaii boys were invited to dances in Jerome and Rowher, Arkansas. They were so stunned by the revelation that these Mainland soldiers volunteered from barbed wire, sentry guarded concentration camps in which they and their families were incarcerated that the Island boys were left speechless. The Hawaii boys questioned whether they would have volunteered under those conditions. It was a profound question that finally dissipated their differences and brought respect, forbearance, and friendship between the two groups.

We AJA in Hawaii are truly proud to have a person of Inouye's stature as a politician, a statesman, an orator and an intellectual who has come from the ranks of the 442nd to represent the people of Hawaii.

During the banquet, a sheer moment of "chicken skin" was shared by all when Ron Oba called to the stage a representative of each company hoisting its company's guidon and "like bouquets of white flowers blossoming across the Sheraton Waikiki ballroom," (*Honolulu Advertiser*, April 7, 2003, p. B2) its members in white shirts stood up at their tables until the next company was called. Then after the presentation of all the companies and units, Oba asked all the veterans of the 442nd (including the 100th) to stand and be recognized, eliciting thunderous applause. Now that was truly a spine-tingling, tear-jerking moment!

Although some claim it might be the "last bugle call to the regiment in Honolulu" for this veterans group, others look forward to their 70th get-together. With best wishes, we're all for that!

U.H. PRESIDENT HONORS AJA VETERANS AND MOH RECIPIENTS OF WWII

Hamilton Library of the University of Hawaii at Manoa recently opened exhibitions featuring *Beyond the Call of Duty: Honoring the 24 Japanese American Medal of Honor Recipients*; *The Legacy of Chiune Sugihara Photo Exhibit*; *The Japanese Language Schoolbooks Collection*; *Honoring the Grandfathers: Japanese American Immigrants in U.S. Department of Justice Internment Camps, 1941-45*; and *Experiences of Japanese Americans of Hawai'i During World War II*.

An opening reception was held on Thursday, April 3, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., to honor the AJA Congressional Medal of Honor recipients of the 100th Inf. Bn. and the 442nd RCT. Under a white canopy on the lawn fronting Hamilton Library, U.H. President Evan S. Dobbelle delivered the following speech in commemoration of the event

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

I feel honored to address you today as the University's Hamilton Library commemorates the veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who were honored with our nation's highest award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Twenty-four AJA soldiers have received the Medal of Honor. One in the Korean War, two in the Vietnam War, and twenty-one in the Second World War. This last number is staggering. Since the medal was created during the Civil War, it has been awarded to only 3440 individuals in all of our nation's wars. And never has it been awarded to such a large number of soldiers from a single American community, in a single national conflict.

What makes the story even more dramatic is that the Second World War recipients served in segregated units raised from a community that was cruelly and unjustly treated as their own sons served America in its armed forces. Many young men in the 100th and 442nd, particularly those from Mainland states, had parents and loved ones who were incarcerated as enemy aliens and as these brave soldiers fought on battlefields in Italy and France and opened the gates of Dachau, parents, sisters, and brothers languished in American concentration camps.

President Clinton, at a ceremony to honor AJA volunteers several years ago, said: "Rarely has a nation been so well served by a people so ill treated." His words contain an important lesson for us: Never again should American citizens suffer abuse because of their country of origin. Never again should sons of the country go to war while families at home are exposed to insult in their own land. Wartime concerns are no excuse for acts that defy our Constitution and best instincts as a people.

When I was a boy growing up in Massachusetts just after the Second World War, the story of America's successful struggle against fascism was very much part of my life and the lives of my friends. Many of the parents in my town had served in the war. My own Dad served as an army surgeon during the War and we children who grew up in this setting learned to honor our parents who served, their comrades in arms, and all those who sacrificed so much to bring about our victory in 1945. Our heroes were the heroes of this war: Audey Murphy, Richard Bong, Ira Hayes.

The Medals of Honor winners honored today are part of that same cohort of valiant soldiers. Three of them are with us here in the Hamilton Library and as I read their names I'd like them to stand so that they can be recognized with your applause. They are: Shizuya Hayashi of Company A of the 100th Infantry Battalion, Barney Hajiro of I Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and George T. Sakato of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The citations awarded to these men and their brothers-in-arms of the 100th and 442nd make gripping reading for what they recall, what they say, and what is left unsaid. I hope that those of you who have come here today to celebrate the sacrifices of these brave soldiers will read and remember these citations well. They capture moments in our shared history when tired young men, battling against terrific odds, accomplished great things for America. Stress and danger called forward great heroism, great ingenuity, and great sacrifice.

The Hawaii winners of the award came from Hilo, Waipahu, Waianae, Pearl City, and Honolulu, and they acquitted themselves with the highest valor on some of the toughest

battlefields of the European theater. As is often the case with those who win the Medal of Honor, a number of them did not come home and so our display today is also a remembrance of those who lost their lives for our country.

But in our ceremony today, in a larger sense, we want to pay homage not only to the medallists but to all of the men of the 442nd, the 100th Infantry Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service, and the soldiers of the 1399th Engineering Group who served this country so well during the war years. Many of them were proud graduates of this University and we're always happy to welcome them home to their campus again.

Every AJA soldier proved something through wartime services and in the years after the war they went on proving things as they raised outstanding families and worked to better the life of Hawaii in so many ways. Again and again these veterans went beyond the call of duty to open doors of opportunity for the young of the state as they continued the quest for democracy and freedom they began during the dark days of the war.

We are grateful for the contributions of these veterans and will continue to seek their counsel and will encourage them to share the lessons of their special history with today's young women and men at the University of Hawaii.

In closing, let me say that I am grateful to Diane Perushek of the Hamilton Library and our University of Hawaii Foundation for bringing "Beyond the Call of Duty" to the University of Hawaii. I would also like to salute the Japanese American National Museum for designing this display. A great university like ours plays an important role as a showcase for the history of the islands of Hawaii and a creative center that can serve to preserve and organize the precious heritage of Hawaii's past. This display reminds us in a striking and powerful way that our past is also part of America's past and that the sons of Hawaii have done more than their part to preserve our freedoms and way of life.

LOOKING BACK

by Joy Teraoka, Editor

SALUTE TO TAKEICHI "CHICKEN" MIYASHIRO

During the course of my interviews with other veterans, one name often came up as the men described their combat experiences. That was the name "Chicken" Miyashiro, uttered with admiration and respect for his dauntless courage and heroism.

Although the nickname "Chicken" gives the derogatory connotation of someone who runs away from conflict or lacks courage, by contradiction, the "Chicken" Takeichi Miyashiro of 100th Inf. Bn.'s C Company we are paying tribute to has the irrefutable reputation of a man of outstanding courage and valor.

How did he get such a moniker? There is no rhyme or reason to it, but a bit of illogic in his name--both his given Japanese name and his nickname!

In a family of four boys and two girls, "Takejiro" Miyashiro was the second son of Jensei and Ushi Miyashiro who came from Okinawa to work on the plantations of the Big Island. Their second son was born in Kohala. Because times were economically difficult for this family of six children, his parents considered giving Takejiro up for adoption. But to become the "first son" of the adopting family, they had to change Takejiro's name (implying second son) to Takeichi (first son). And even though his birth certificate still bears the name Takejiro, he has since been called Takeichi despite the fact that the adoption never transpired and he remained with his family.

The name "Chicken" is another rather illogical transition. There was another older fellow by the name Takeshi whom schoolmates referred to as "Chicken." For some reason people thought the names Takeshi and Takeichi sounded alike, so they began calling Takeichi "Chicken" also. Even some of his teachers seemed to make this rather odd connection, and the endearing name "Chicken" stuck! (That is the "charm" of Island nicknames--you know, "Boxhead," "Pinhead," and other names that turn heads when shouted aloud, like, "Eh, howzit, Pinhead?") But turning to more serious matters--)

As a child Takeichi started school in Honomakaku; however his family moved from one plantation to another and eventually settled down in one of the camps of the Honokaa Plantation. There he went to Honokaa School until the 10th grade. To complete his high school education, Miyashiro stayed at a boarding house in Hilo and finished the twelfth grade at Hilo High.

In his youth Chicken excelled in sports, playing football, basketball and running track. After Hilo High he played for the barefoot football league. (Unfortunately, because of injuries he sustained during WWII, he was never able to engage in these sports after he returned from the war.)

In 1934 after graduation he worked part-time for Matson and also for Standard Oil Company. During these depression years it was difficult to find full-time employment. In December 1940 he received his draft notice to serve for one year in the Army. However, the threat of war in the Pacific was growing, and no discharges were issued. With others from the island of Hawaii he was sent to Schofield Barracks on Oahu to train for three months. Although his group returned to Hilo, much to his chagrin, Miyashiro was the only one sent to Molokai. In Molokai he joined the 299th Infantry and was there when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7. During his service in Molokai he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Lt. Spark Matsunaga was also stationed on Molokai, and they became fast friends. Also, the warmth and friendliness of the Molokai people quickly made his training there enjoyable.

Not long after Pearl Harbor's attack, around 18 men from Molokai's 299th Infantry were sent to Oahu to join the Hawaii Provisional Army. On that fateful day, June 5, 1942, Miyashiro was among the Hawaii soldiers who sailed to the mainland to form the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate). After training at Camp McCoy and Shelby, Chicken went overseas as Sergeant of the 1st Platoon, Company C, initially to Africa and then on to the Italian boot at Salerno. During the course of the war, Miyashiro received injuries in several battles, but after recovery except after his last wound, he returned to continue fighting with his unit.

Chicken suffered his first injury during the battle of Hill 920, close to Colli. In the December 2001 issue of the *Puka Puka Parade*, Kazuto Shimizu wrote a tribute titled *Unsung Heroes* describing how platoon sergeant Chicken Miyashiro was ordered by an officer in charge to clear out a German machine gun resistance area that was impeding the advance of Company C. Miyashiro assessed it as a "suicide mission" because of its obvious exposure to enemy machine gun fire in broad daylight. However, following orders, Chicken and three of his men--Masao Ogawa, Wallace Oshiro and Morris Kihara--charged. Under dangerous assault from machine gun grenades and mortar barrages, Chicken ordered his men to withdraw. On the retreat from deadly mortar fire, Oshiro was killed and all suffered injuries. Each of them received the Purple Heart. Even though they received no recognition for valor or special praise, Shimizu believed they were "unsung heroes" who carried out their commitment to duty with courage "knowing that their lives were in jeopardy, they implemented military orders." (*Puka Puka Parade*, December 2001 issue, p. 7-8)

After his R&R to recover in Africa, Chicken returned to Company C just in time to witness the bombing of the Monte Cassino Abbey. He went on to fight at Anzio where he, Kazumi Hisanaga, and Robert Otake received field commissions to the rank of 2nd lieutenant.

During the big push toward Lanuvio, they marched in pitch darkness when someone tripped a mine that injured several officers--Lt. Kanemi Kanazawa, Lt. Ichiro Okada, and Lt. Jon Chinen. Miyashiro had been transferred to C Company's 2nd Platoon, and Lt. Kanazawa was Chicken's platoon leader. With Lt. Kanazawa felled by mine injuries during the night march, Lt. Miyashiro took over as platoon leader. At Lanuvio their unit regained full strength with many from the 442nd filling the ranks as replacements for those killed or wounded in action.

Fighting continued from Rome to Civitavecchia and on to Castellina where a big battle ensued. In *Ambassador in Arms*, p. 214. author Thomas D. Murphy describes this heroic action:

Singles had orders to seize high ground northwest of Castellina, which the 168th Infantry had not been able to take. In a surprise assault, just after dawn, Company C's 2d Platoon took a position overlooking the Castellina-Rosignano road. In this attack Lieutenant Takeichi Miyashiro led a squad against a farmhouse from which machine-gun fire had been harassing his platoon's left flank. Killing one of the gunners and wounding another, the squad occupied the house and manned its windows in preparation for a Jerry counterattack. When this came Miyashiro told his men to hold fire until the Germans were within ten yards. They did, and their delayed blast broke the attack. An hour later the enemy moved in again. Firing a BAR, the lieutenant cut down five Germans, and when his gun jammed, grabbed a carbine and kept shooting. The Jerries pulled off. After a longer pause, they tried again, this time after preliminary mortar and artillery shelling. Under four direct hits by 88's the heavy stone walls of the house began to crumble, and when 170's began falling close Miyashiro told his men to duck out. He stayed, and as the now confident Germans got close cut loose with another BAR. This time the remnant of the enemy group gave up for good. For his morning's work the lieutenant later received a DSC.

The following day as they were advancing from Castellina behind another company, Miyashiro was wounded in the butt by a shrapnel. The shrapnel exploded between him and his messenger with such violence that his messenger was killed instantly. Miyashiro was transported to a hospital in Naples. Three weeks later he rejoined his outfit at Leghorn in the vicinity of the Arno River and was back to fighting in Pisa, then as the 100th/442nd was sent to France, the men faced more battles in Bruyeres and Biffontaine.

In the thickly wooded forests of Biffontaine, the 100th advanced a great distance through "no-man's land" to attain their objective. Climbing to the top of a hill, they surprised the Jerries below who fled abandoning their weapons. Miyashiro's men and another platoon led by Ben Takayesu then attacked two houses where the Germans were ensconced. They captured about 28 German soldiers and medics. However, intense fighting continued from concealed enemy fire. Miyashiro was wearing two bandoliers across his chest which carried six clips each holding 8 ammos with a total of 104 bullets. Through the window shutters of a house concealing the German's position, Miyashiro received a shot that exploded a clip, tearing a hole in his left hip and also injuring his hand. The impact even flung Miyashiro's rifle from his grasp. He believed it was a miracle none of the pieces hit his belly, for surely that would have been fatal.

The next day an effort was made to evacuate Miyashiro and other litter cases, including Capt. Y.O. Kim whose hand had been wounded. Carrying the litter cases were about 28 German prisoners accompanied by AJA riflemen. However, they ran into another German patrol. In the confusion, when the German force overtook the party of wounded and German prisoners, four men--Ken Okimoto, Capt. Y.O. Kim, George Hagiwara and Richard Chinen--were able to escape the enemy and return to their units. Among those captured with Chicken were Company C's Stanley Akita, Kaoru Yonezawa, and Oscar Miyashiro. In *Remembrances*, p. 177, Ben Tamashiro describes the events that followed:

... Later, in taking the prisoners to the rear, in addition to those guarding them, the Charlie group included five litter cases and some walking wounded--12 in all. Chicken was also on litter. The prisoners helped to carry them. Along the way they ran into an enemy patrol. Suddenly, the captors became the captured. Even in this turn of events, the Germans continued to carry the Charlie litter cases.

At the German lines, the wounded were sent away by ambulance while the others went on a different path. Chicken went from one hospital to another for treatment, and finally received proper attention from a British doctor who was himself a POW.

Although becoming a prisoner of war was most demoralizing at the time, these men were exposed to a uniquely different experience. Lt. Sam Sakamoto of Headquarters Company also became a POW.

Miyashiro explained that at an evacuation hospital run by medics, a German doctor operated on him. Chicken noticed they just opened the wound, stuck some gauze into the hole then adhered some paper over it. From there he and other wounded were transferred to several different hospitals--from a French hospital in Colmar then to one in Halle, Germany. In Halle, he will never forget the horse drawn-wagon that took them to a school building for recuperation. There were no doctors there, but a nurse and two aides tended to the wounded. Upon removing Miyashiro's bandages, the nurse noticed his hip wound was infected with pus and he had developed a high fever. Immediately she contacted another hospital and Chicken was put on the horse-drawn wagon again and taken to Badsoden. (The kindly driver of the wagon had been a WWI German POW in England and was able to speak some English to him. Miyashiro was grateful to this German for treating him with concern and courtesy.)

Interestingly, the doctor who treated Miyashiro was a British POW captured in Africa. Although his specialty was ophthalmology, this Dr. Frazier had been assigned by the Germans to take care of other prisoners. Immediately upon Miyashiro's arrival, the doctor took x-rays of his wound then sent Chicken directly to the operating room for care. The next day Dr. Frazier performed another operation on Chicken, removing all the metal pieces that the German doctor had left in the wound. Fortunately, with penicillin and the skill of this British doctor, Miyashiro recovered from his serious injury. When Chicken was ready to leave the hospital, Dr. Frazier approached him with a little matchbox containing the metal fragments as a "memento" of the war. To this day, Chicken treasures these pieces and remembers with reverence the POW doctor who saved his life. In retrospect, this saga remains as one of the most indelible episodes of his life.

From Germany's Minegan Hospital for Allied POW officers, Miyashiro was sent to Poland's "Old Flag 64" prison camp as it was called. There he reunited with two Nisei officers, Sam Sakamoto and Hisa Shimatsu. Shimatsu was one of the first POWs, having been captured at Cassino. During their captivity they were told as prisoners, they would have to walk from Poland to Germany. Miyashiro's

doctor refused to release him, and somehow Sakamoto and Shimatsu managed to escape during the night, saving themselves from the ordeal. Then the Russians came just in time to liberate them in January 1945. Transported by trucks and boxcars, the POWs finally arrived in Odessa, Russia, on the Black Sea. An American ship bringing back Russian prisoners liberated in France arrived in time to enable an exchange with the American POWs. The ship then headed for Naples, Italy.

Although the war in Europe was still going on, Miyashiro did not return to his unit but stayed in a replacement center in Italy until he was sent back to the USA. His trip home took a circuitous path via Port Said, Egypt, then across the United States from Miami to Chicago, to places in California, and finally to the embarkation point in Seattle. By then the European theatre of war was over.

Upon his return to Hawaii, because the war with Japan had not yet ended, he was assigned to the 1525th Engineers Battalion. Finally, in November 1945, Miyashiro was discharged.

In 1950 he married lovely Lorraine Shiroma of Honolulu and found employment at Standard Oil Company. The Miyashiro's have three daughters—Nellis, Allyn and Sonya—and five grandchildren.

Upon asking Chicken whether his children were aware of his wartime experiences, like so many of the veterans, he admitted not sharing much of this information with them. One day they will surely want to know about his heroic accomplishments, so it is hoped that they will read this article about their father/grandfather. They will know then of the precious legacy he has given them—one of honor, courage, commitment, loyalty, sacrifice and freedom.

Lt. Takeichi Miyashiro, who endearingly is referred to as "Chicken," truly commands respect and honor. Indeed, he is another hero of the 100th Infantry Battalion whom we proudly salute



STANLEY'S SPACE

from Stanley Akita

A Russian, an American, and a Portagee were talking one day.

The Russian said, "We were the first in space!"

The American said, "We were the first on the moon!"

The Portagee said, "So what? We're going to be the first on the sun!"

The Russian and the American looked at each other and shook their heads.

"You can't land on the sun, you idiot! You'll burn up!" said the Russian.

To which the Portagee replied, "We're not stupid, you know. We're going at night!"



MEMORIES: FROM COLLI TO CASSINO

By Saburo Nishime

It was evening when the 100th Infantry Battalion rode up to the town of Colli from our rest area below Hill 600 near Santa Maria Oliverto. Col. Marshall, the commanding officer of the 133rd Regiment, heartily welcomed Capt. Fukuda to Colli. Col. Marshall, known for his waxed spike mustache, was one who believed in the 100th Infantry Battalion.

The Battalion started up the hill and somewhere, part way up the hill, stopped for a few days' rest and break. This was around Thanksgiving. During this break, the machine gun section of our second platoon happened to be in front of an Italian Farm House. It was not occupied at that time so it was a most welcome temporary shelter for our machine gun section because of the cold wet weather. This Farm House was mostly used by the Italian farmer when he worked his farm on this hill. Capt. Jack Mizuha came by and he approved our temporary occupation of the house, although everybody else was camped out in the cold wet weather.

For Thanksgiving, our Mess supposedly had a special treat for us, which was steak sandwich. As it turned out, the steak was too salty to be eaten. The story was that one of the Dog Co. cooks salted the uncooked steak. Later, another cook came by and, not knowing that the raw steak was already salted, added another dose of salt. That ruined the Thanksgiving dinner.

While we were still at the Farm House, one of the riflemen of F Co. came by on his way down to the medics in the rear. He had "accidentally" shot himself in his hand. When something like this kind of self-inflicted "accident" occurs from time to time, there is always the suspicion as to how that "accidental" wound came about.

Our machine gun section finally had to give up the comfort of the Farm House and move up to where our second platoon section was attached to Baker Company. While we were following along with B Co., we came across machine gun fire coming from the top of a steep hill. This machine gun, firing down upon us, temporarily held up our second platoon machine gun section and prevented us from following Baker Co. Capt. Mizuha came upon us and asked if we could find this German target to shoot at. At Capt. Mizuha's suggestion, Bolo Masaki and I set up our machine gun behind a rock, which was barely big enough to cover our "okole." Looking up through the short brushes covering the steep hillside, we couldn't see anything to shoot at. The German machine gunner, sitting at the top of the hill, could look and fire directly at us. The Germans must have been wondering what we were trying to do down there. Seeing the impossibility of our machine gun position, Bolo and I pulled back to a safer location. Meanwhile, Capt. Mizuha went forward; and the word soon came back that Capt. Mizuha had been hit by the same machine gun that was firing down at us. Capt. Mizuha managed to walk back on his own; and as he passed us, he said "Carry on, men." That was the last we saw of Capt. Mizuha in combat.

As soon as the German machine gun stopped firing, our second platoon machine gun section moved forward to catch up with Baker Co. When our section finally caught up with Baker Co., a few of the Baker Co. wounded had pulled back from the front line where it was engaging the enemy. One of the riflemen had the entire left side of his jacket torn up by a German automatic weapon. The rifleman managed to kill the enemy. As it was in a number of similar situations in the past, our machine guns could not be actively committed in the area where Baker Co. was in contact with the enemy. While with B Co. at Colli, our machine gun section was in a location along a stone wall; and the Baker Co. members came back to this area to take a break from the immediate front line.

When we first got to this area, we could look back and see the Germans high up on the hill. The enemy's interest was not with us. Bolo and some others took their rifles and started shooting at the Germans in the distant hill locations. After a while, Bolo gave up firing, realizing that the rifle firing was ineffective. The Germans on top of the hill were concentrating on other units of the 100th Bn. who were attacking from the other side.

From our location, it was difficult to know how the front line ran. Way below us in the valley roadway, we could hear and see the German screaming meemies firing on the unit of the 133rd which was attacking up the valley toward Scapoli. One morning, a platoon sergeant from Baker Co. came back to this rear area to get some relief. He described fighting off a large German counter-attack. One of his riflemen moved up to the forward slope to get a better advantage and, with his automatic rifle, took on the counterattacking Germans and just mowed them down. The platoon sergeant continued to describe the battle and said, "You know it was our own supporting artillery shell, falling short, that finally killed the rifleman who had killed so many enemies." The platoon sergeant went on to say that it was awfully lucky that his right flank held, beating back a large group of counterattacking Germans in that sector.

Mikio Hasemoto, KIA, and Allan Ohata, both of Baker Co., received their CMH for this action at Cerasuolo, Italy.

The area where Dog Second Platoon was located was fortunate that there was no artillery or mortar shelling. Nevertheless, there were other adverse elements we soldiers were up against. While in Italy, we always wore woolen clothing, summer and winter. We were issued a rubberized raincoat that kept sweating on the inside. Under that kind of condition, we were always wet inside when we wore the raincoat, so if it was not raining, we never wore the raincoat. The weather that winter was always wet and cold. Our leather shoes did not keep out the water in the cold weather. This resulted in a lot of us developing trench feet. I kept a pair of change socks next to my body to keep them dry. Some of the guys who took their shoes off for relief, etc., often found that they could not get the shoes back on. I remember one case where the Medics had to come and pick up a rifleman whose feet were badly swollen. The Medic recognized the rifleman and announced to everyone around, "Hey, look who I picked up - Crapeater!" All old timers would know who Crapeater was. This was the longest period I went without a shave, sporting a growth of heavy black beard. One of our officers took one look at me and remarked, "You look worse than that Hitler man." Too bad I don't have any snapshot showing how I looked in all my bearded glory.

The others in our platoon's machine gun section were with another company in a higher area of the Colli hills. The word that we got from those platoon members was that everything was a maze of confusion. The platoon section was led by a brand new lieutenant who never had previous combat experience. Not only the combat conditions but also the adverse Italian weather were just too much for this brand new officer. So we all presume that he took the best alternative - he "accidentally" shot himself in his leg. We never heard from this officer again. One unfortunate member of this machine gun section, Kiyoto Mori, took a direct hit from a mortar shell in his slit trench and was killed in action. Sometime later, I met up with Hisashi Kuwabe, who told me that his company had 21 KIA in the battle of Colli Hills.

Chaplain Yost was very much against bringing down the KIA members draped over the bodies of animals. So, always, a detail was organized to carry down all the 100th Inf. Bn. KIA members. Talking with Motoyoshi Tanaka, he said he was a member of a litter team in the hills of Colli and they carried the heaviest KIA member.

The French troops relieved the 34th Div. at Colli. A day before they took over, a representative of the French came by to look over the area they were to relieve the 100th Bn. He was shown a bouncing baby personnel mine that was sown in this area.

The 100th Bn. retired to an area near Alife for rest. I finally had a good chance to shave off my heavy black beard. Izuto Okamoto and I went on leave to a rest center in Naples. Izuto was suffering badly with trench feet and didn't have any chance to look around and about the second day, he went on sick leave and never returned to Dog Co. While in the rest area, I had one chance to go on a trip and took the tour to Pompei. My main recollection of my Pompei visit was the red light quarters. By the size of the beds, the people of this period seemed to have been pretty small. In the red light brothel, there was a covered painting of a male which the guide did not show to the mixed group (men and women). I happened to have a chance to look at it.

The following day after Izuto reported to the Medics for his trench feet, I went to the Medics for the same problem. The doctor hospitalized me but after several days, my trench feet got better and they sent me to North Africa to a convalescent camp, which consisted of quonset huts. Capt. Mizuha was still recuperating in that camp and he came over to see me. He commented, "Let's go back and raise hell with the Germans." I made it back but Capt. Mizuha went home and got a medical discharge. I never met him again.

Staying in the same quonset with me was Hideshi Niimi of Charlie Co. His comment about Colli was that the German snipers never miss. I also remember that Niimi received a Xmas package from his family in Hawaii containing pine nuts, which was supposed to be a delicacy in Hawaii. Today you don't see pine nuts in the stores in Hawaii. There was a Mexican soldier in our hut and he commented that where he came from, they call it Indian nuts and the Indians harvest them to sell. I don't remember Niimi sharing the pine nuts with us guys.

While convalescing in North Africa, Chicken Miyashiro was also there. In talking stories with him lately, I found out that we went back to Italy at the same time and rejoined the 100th Bn. at Cassino. Miyashiro received a field commission to 2nd lieutenant the moment he returned to Charlie Co.

From North Africa, we came back to Italy by ship or a large landing craft. Sailing through the narrow Strait of Messina between Sicily and Italy, all the ships pass through slowly in single file. The Italians in small boats were all out in the strait with all kinds of goods for sale.

I reported back to Dog Co. and spent the first night with our mess personnel. They were located in front of a battery of 155 artillery cannons. Every time the 155s fired, man, it really shook me up. The following afternoon, I went forward and had my first glimpse of the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino. The Abbey on the top of the hill made a lasting impression on those who first witnessed it. Dog Co. was then located on the side of a steep hill. The town of Cassino was located up forward and below our location, and Monte Cassino was located up on a forward hill. My 2nd platoon was located on this forward hill, below the Abbey.

I stayed on with Dog Co. headquarters as a runner. Others assigned to this unit were Lt. Pluite, who was in command. He was in command of Dog Co. until the end of the war and beyond. Martin Tohara was the 1st Sergeant and Alikoki was the regular company runner. Most of the shelling directed at us at this location was the German screaming meemie rockets. They seemed to be coming from somewhere behind the Abbey. Due to the steepness of the hill, the screaming meemies always seemed to skim just over our heads and all hit the road at the bottom of the hill. Alikoki was dispatched back below the hill to pick up goods for Dog Co. At the bottom of the hill, he came across two soldiers who had just been killed while standing guard over their unit's supplies.

Sgt. Harumi Mende came over one morning and informed us that the Abbey would be bombed. A squadron of B-25s came over and bombed the Abbey out of existence. Today, the Abbey has been rebuilt and is more beautiful than ever. I have my doubts that the Germans were even using the Abbey as charged by the Allies. Soon after the bombing, the British made an attack on the Cassino. The night the British were to attack, we were notified about the impending attack. The following morning, we found the whole area covered with smoke and the artillery was continuing to fire more smoke bombs. We received word that the British attack had failed and the smoke screen was covering the withdrawing British troops.

In the battle for Cassino, Masao Awakuni, one of the 100th Bn. bazooka specialists, knocked off his

second tank with his bazooka. Awakuni is probably the only bazooka specialist in the U.S. Army to knock off two tanks with a bazooka. For the first tank Awakuni knocked out with his bazooka, he was awarded the Bronze Star. A Bronze Star for knocking out a tank with a bazooka? That's asinine!! Among the oldtimers in the 100th Bn., Awakuni is the No. 1 hero and most deserving of a Congressional Medal of Honor. During the early years, the Club 100 asked Awakuni if he wanted the club to submit a request for an upgrade to CMH and he declined.

The remnants of the 100th Bn. finally pulled back from Cassino to a rest area near Alife. From there the Battalion moved to San Giorgio near Benevento; and here the Battalion received the first replacement from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Next: Memories from Anzio to the Leaning Tower of Pisa and beyond.

BASEBALL FIELD TO BE NAMED AFTER SGT. JOE TAKATA

All members and their families have been invited to attend the dedication ceremony at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, June 12, 2003, at Shafter Bowl located at Fort Shafter Baseball Field in Bldg. 150 (see letter below from Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, of the 25th Infantry Division).

Please attend the ceremony to show how proud you are of having served in the 100th Battalion and to show your gratitude to the Army for bestowing this honor.

Since the Army requires a list of attendees by June 2, please let the Clubhouse know if you plan to attend no later than May 26. Please wear your club shirt and carry your picture ID and vehicle documents if you are driving.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION (LIGHT) AND U.S. ARMY, HAWAII
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-6000
April 10, 2003



Office of the Commanding General

Mr. Stanley Akita
Club 100
520 Kamoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

Dear Mr. Akita:

On June 12, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., a ceremony will be held at Fort Shafter to commemorate the naming of the Shafter Bowl ball field in honor of SGT Shigeo "Joe" Takata. I understand that releasing the names and addresses of the Club 100 members may be impinging upon the Privacy Act and access to personal information. However, we would like to assure you that all members and their families are cordially invited to attend this dedication ceremony.

As you know, SGT Takata was a baseball player in the Hawaii Baseball League before joining the 100th Battalion, and the first American of Japanese ancestry to be killed in action in the European theater. A recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, it is felt that naming the ball field after SGT Takata is a fitting tribute.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could provide a list of attendees by June 2, 2003, to Ms. Marlene Barretto, DCA Administrative Assistant. It would be of great assistance to us, in planning for their accommodations for the ceremony. Ms. Barretto can be reached at 656-0037, by fax at 656-0039, or email at marlene.barretto@schofield.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Eric T. Olson
Major General, US Army
Commanding

RURAL CHAPTER CHATTER

by Ted Hamasu

The chapter meeting was held at Zippy's restaurant in Wahiawa on 21 March 03 from 11:00 AM with six members attending. After having our lunch, the prexy called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. After a moment of silence in memory of our comrades who left us, we commenced with our business.

One unfinished business was the absence of a vice president for our chapter. Since all our members are *makule* (aged) and some of them have given up driving, it is difficult to appoint anyone for the position. Hence we are still operating without a VP.

One of the ways that we can alleviate this is to have our sons and daughters join us at the Chapter level. So, we asked Mr. Yukio Tanji to head our Membership Committee as Chairman to recruit our S&Ds to join us. His telephone number is 621 8949. Please give him a call if you have questions. We need all the help we can get, so give him a call if you are able to give us a hand. Without any fresh input from members, we will have to take down our shingle which still hangs after 62 years. We also asked Mr. Susumu Ota to look for a place for our future Installation and New Year's Banquet. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact him at 622 4755.

One of the agenda items was the notification of a membership meeting on 29 March 03 to be held at the clubhouse to discuss the feasibility of having our wives and widows join the club as active members. We want this motion to pass so we can have more members who can attend the chapter meetings. To accommodate the membership we will try to meet at the most opportune time for all concerned.

Another item was the question of whether to ask our members and friends to assist us in a fund-raising drive for the scholarship fund. We invested about half of our assets into the stock market before it took a dive and now we are not in a position to fund any scholarships for our descendants. So, be thinking about donating and also to asking your friends and relatives for help. (Make your donations to S&D of the 100th Inf. Bn. for the 100th Inf. Bn. Veterans Scholarship Fund) so that it will be a tax deductible contribution for you at tax time.

Bob Jones' tour of Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin has been cancelled because not enough people signed up for the tour.

I called my old pal Michael Hamamoto to find out how he was doing. ~~He says that he is still doing fine~~ walking around in the house and sometimes he goes outside to stretch his legs. He sounds good and says he is trying to keep moving around before rigor mortis sets in. No mo' golfing for a while. *Gambare, Hama.*

KUDOS TO THE GRANDCHILDREN OF MR. AND MRS. MASAHARU SAITO

Ben and Corey Johnson are brothers and are seniors attending the Hilo High School on the island of Hawaii. Corey Johnson was recognized for his Outstanding Acts of Volunteerism in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. He received an award of \$1000, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, DC on 3-6 May 2003.

Corey is Lt. Governor of the Key Club of Hawaii, the highest position attainable in the organization sponsored by the Kiwanis Organization. Ben Johnson attended the 41st Annual US Senate Youth Program in Washington from March 1-8, 2003, and received a \$5000 College Scholarship from the sponsor, William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

The brothers also participated in the 10th Annual Hawaii Science Bowl and the Marine Science Bowl representing their school, and they placed third and second respectively.

Their parent is Mrs. Diane Saito. CONGRATULATIONS. Masaharu and Carol Saito are the proud grandparents of these two outstanding students of Hilo High School. CONGRATULATIONS. *OMEDETOO.*

BAKER CHAPTER NEWS

by Thomas K. Tsubota

Joichi Muramatsu, past president of 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans club for two years and also past president of Baker chapter for a year, could hardly hold a pen to write due to a painful ailment called *gout*. Joichi, news reporter for Baker Chapter, asked me at our chapter meeting, held on Saturday, April 19, 2003, to take over this time only as the reporter for the Puka Puka Parade due only a few days away. After Joichi's two terms as president of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans club expired, I personally

thanked him for his superb performance as president, and commended him as he tackled problems without frills and attacked them "shooting straight from his hip." With these qualities in Joichi, how could I refuse his asking, so I reluctantly accepted to write as best as I could.

THE MAYOR'S 37TH ANNUAL SENIOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

This Senior Recognition Program at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom was a huge success, starting at 9:00 a.m. "Be early to reach any senior citizen event," they say, and such advice almost always proves right. The bulk of the attendants were already seated in the large and beautiful Coral Ballroom before 9:00 a.m. I jokingly stated to someone that some seniors could hardly sleep thinking that they must wake up early to be on time.

It was my first experience to see so many "old futs" like me squeezed together in a large elevator, headed for the ballroom on the sixth floor. Amazingly not a single middle-age beautiful maiden was squeezed in among us.

Battalion veterans, namely Tokuji Ono of Baker Chapter and Martin Tohara of Dog Chapter, could not be present at this event for they previously had been scheduled to speak at a school. But I was happy to see their representatives, Bernard Akamine of Baker Chapter, representing Tokuji Ono and Robert Arakaki also of Baker Chapter representing Martin Tohara, receiving the "Certificate of Recognition" for our two honorees. Such recognition also reflects an added plus for the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans club and its members.

BAKER CHAPTER FAMILY NITE

Baker Chapter's Family Nite originally scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2003, has been cancelled, and the Family Nite is now scheduled a week later to a new date--Sunday, May 25, 2003, at 5 p.m. Desserts are welcomed. The reason for the new date is explained hereinafter.

Chef Robert Aoki stated that the main dishes for the family nite will consist of roast beef and misoyaki butterfish, but also includes other dishes that some may say are main dishes. More details will be published later. Chef Aoki said the cost of materials has increased, but adults are still \$8.00 per person as our treasury has lots of money to cough up to cover expenses. So come, you all, enjoy the food, the company and keep healthy and happy.

PASSING AWAY - MASASUKE TOMA

The sudden and sad news that Masasuke Toma passed away on Wednesday, April 16, 2003, has stunned his fellow comrades of Company B. No one present at the Baker Chapter meeting on April 19 could give specifics on the cause of death. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Marge and his family members. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on May 18, 2003, at Borthwick Mortuary, 1330 Maunakea Street (across from Hosoi Garden Mortuary).

This is the reason Baker's Family Nite was changed from the original date of May 18 to the following week on May 25.

Members of Baker Chapter considered Toma a "gentle giant"--always smiling whenever we met at our club or elsewhere. He was Baker Chapter president when I was secretary, and I came to know him well. At our family nites and Christmas parties, he always helped chef Robert Aoki in preparing the food. Toma taught me how to gingerly wrap the misoyaki butterfish in small individual wrappers of aluminum for chef Aoki to bake them in the oven. Masasuke Toma, a retired professional carpenter, taught me some techniques in the maintenance of apartment structures.

Toma, I miss you terribly, your smile wherever I met you. I'll be seeing you again one of these days--where or when?

CHARLIE CHAPTER NEWS

by Warren Iwai

Meeting: Our April meeting comes after the due date of this article so anything important will be reported next month.

Kazuto and Lynn Shimizu just returned from a trip to Japan to enjoy the *sakura matsuri*. Toshimi and Lillian Sodegami are heading for California to visit their daughter. They have a grandson in the naval academy.

Our 61st anniversary celebration is set for June 29, 2003, Sunday, 10:00 AM at the Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI. This is at the Ala Moana shopping center. **SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION BY MAY 15!** The application form to register for this luncheon is in the April issue of the Puka Puka Parade.

The fund raising for our scholarship fund is on. Over \$3,000 has been received from members and friends on Kauai and the mainland USA. In this group there were two guys from Co. C -- Sam Fujikawa from L.A. and Warren Tamura from Idaho. Our local C Chapter members will be receiving their letters from the Club soon.

Rodney and Katherine Baishiki from Belmont, CA were in town for the 442nd Veterans 60th Anniversary Celebration on April 4, 5, & 6, 2003. Katherine is the sister of Haluto "Junior" Moriguchi who was killed in action on April 5, 1945, in Italy with Co. C. Junior was the runner for our CO, Lt. Johnson. Katherine is very active with the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance helping to prepare CD-ROMS of KIAs. She was here to assist in the workshop on CD-ROM for the 442nd 60th anniversary reunion. I wish to thank Katherine for the CD-ROM she gave us on the men of the 100th. This CD-ROM has all the names of the men who served with the 100th and will be a helpful reference for our club office.

Masa Kawamoto, our first sergeant from Camp McCoy, has left his memoirs of the war. We will let you know more when we get to see it.

About a week ago I heard that Jack and Sue Gushiken had moved to the Roseline Place, an assisted living home on Maui. An obituary in the *Honolulu Advertiser* says that Jack Gushiken had passed away on April 12, 2003. Our sincere sympathy to Sue and the family. Jack was a great guy. He retired from the Maui Police Department with the rank of major and with Co. C, he was a sergeant in the 2nd platoon from Camp McCoy to Lanuvio, Italy where he was wounded for the second time. He was an active member of Maui Chapter for many years. We will miss him. I will miss him as a friend.

Well, that's all for now - see you at our next meeting on May 19 at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be served.

MAUI CHAPTER NEWS

By Tom Nagata

Jack K. Gushiken, 89, died on Apr. 12, at Maui Memorial Medical Center. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sue Gushiken and family. S/Sgt. Gushiken served in C Company of the 100th Infantry Battalion. He was three-term president of the Maui Chapter and retired from the Maui Police Department with the rank of major with 29 years of service. Services were held at Iao Congregational Church, Wailuku, and inurnment was at the Maui Veterans Cemetery in Makawao.

The members of the chapter will hold their Mother's Day lunch at the Wei Wei Bar-B-Q & Noodle House located at 210 Imi Kala, Rm. 201, near the Wailuku Post Office, at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, May 13. There will be a \$5.00 assessment for this lunch. Satoji Arisumi is chairman of this event.

Due to a change in plans, this year's Memorial Day program will be taken over by the Maui AJA Veterans Club.

F COMPANY NEWS

by Kenneth M. Higa

F Troop news flash! Get your calendars and circle the date, Sunday, September 21, 2003. The Fox Council held a powwow on Friday, April 4, and decided to hold the annual gathering-of-the-foxes for lunch at the Wisteria Restaurant. Join the gang for a time to eat up, to shoot the bull, to rekindle old friendships and to have a memorable time. Details as to cost, menu and time will be given in the next PPP issue. Neighbor island coordinators and Oswald Kuwabara of Florida will be contacted by Secretary Seiso Kamishita.

Since the latter part of February, I have been going to the VA Center for Aging for my weekly PT treatments. I get to visit Kengo, Robert, George and James (Kitashima of F Company). I was surprised to see him because the last time I visited James was at the Ka Punawai Ola nursing home in Kapolei. F troopers, go visit James and the other three and make their days at the center a more pleasant one.

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans



HEADQUARTERS:
520 KAMOKU STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826
PHONE 948-0272

AN INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS
OF THE
100TH INFANTRY BATTALION

CHAPTERS
HAWAII MALII
OAHU KAUAI
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

March 17, 2003

Dear Friend,

Nearly sixty years ago, we men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, all of us Hawaii-born Japanese-Americans, whom some of you may be related to or friends of, began an odyssey of mortal combat in Italy and France. With universal unselfishness, we were a band of brothers, and we formed Club 100 by donating \$2 out of our meager \$60-a-month GI pay.

From that acorn fund came our clubhouse and apartments on Kamoku Street, and the acorn grew into a sturdy oak. The bond forged in combat has kept us strong these many years. We invested wisely, and our assets grew!

Continuing the same spirit of selflessness, the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans (formerly known as Club 100) initiated a Scholarship Program many years ago. Scores of Hawaii's children, now grandchildren, have benefited from educational awards.

Then came that terrible day, September 11th, and our investments, along with so many others, felt the impact. Our Scholarship Program is endangered, and we need your help! Our goal is \$300,000.

For that reason, for the first time in nearly sixty years, we are appealing to you for your donations to keep the Scholarship Program solvent and active. Remember the self-sacrifice of our veterans and think of the youngsters who have been the beneficiaries of that sacrifice. Your generosity will enable us to continue assisting Hawaii's students. **Please give whatever amount you can.**

You probably know a friend or a family who may wish to help, too. Please share this with them! Please make checks payable to the *100th Infantry Battalion Scholarship Fund* and send it back in the self addressed envelope provided. Mahalo and aloha nui loa!

Thank you very much

President

(Stanley M. Akita)

1st Vice President

(Albert Turner)

2nd Vice President

(Shigeru Tsubota)

Secretary/Treasurer

(Albert Matsumoto)

If you haven't already donated to our Scholarship Fund Drive and you wish to do so, please make your check payable to the *100th Infantry Battalion Scholarship Fund* and mail it to:

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans
520 Kamoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Thank you

BOB JONES WISCONSIN TOUR CANCELLED

On April 10, 2003, Bob Jones sent a letter regarding the Wisconsin reunion tour he wanted to organize for the 100th veterans. With much regret, it has been cancelled. The following is an excerpt of his letter of explanation.

Dear Bernie, Ruth, Clarissa and Amanda:

With much sadness and great disappointment I write to tell you we've had to pull the plug on the October visit to Wisconsin. Our deadline for holding the airline seats at a favorable price has come and to date we had gotten only 5 deposits and reservations. We had explained to the veterans' club members that we needed 45 to travel at that price.

I suspect the reasons are many. The veterans are very old. This is the fourth year of a down market that has badly hurt many people's investments. There is the general anxiety about travel.

When I did the first Italy tour, 78 people signed up. For the second there were 45. But those were heady times and the men were a bit younger.

I'm grateful for the enthusiastic response we got from Sparta, McCoy and LaCrosse. It would have been a grand reunion and I looked forward to it with probably more excitement than any of the men who had been there. . . .

Again, to all of you in Wisconsin a giant mahalo for the preliminary work you did to try and make this happen. Bernie, I'm so sorry that I missed you in Honolulu!

with much aloha, Bob Jones

THANK YOU LETTER FROM LT. GEN. JAMES Y. CAMPBELL



United States Army, Pacific
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5100

April 4, 2003

Thank you for the pictures of the 100th Infantry Battalion's 57th Annual Memorial Service. It was an honor to be the keynote speaker of this memorable event and we will display the photos proudly. When invited, Carol and I jump at the chance to participate in such events where we get to spend time with America's great veterans.

Once more, I want to thank you and all the veterans of the 100th Battalion for your service to our nation, both then and today. You are heroes to us all.

Sincerely,

Thank you!


James L. Campbell
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding General

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans
520 Kamoku Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

COUNTRY LINE DANCING AT THE 100TH CLUBHOUSE

On Wednesdays in the main hall of the 100th Infantry Battalion clubhouse, you'll find the place literally rockin' and a rollin' to the rhythm of country western music. Sandy Zook, our instructor, has made dancing fun for us old-timers. The classes have been extended for another 10 weeks. Wednesdays are when we usually meet; however there a few Wednesdays when classes will not be held. Please note the schedule below. Guys and gals, come on down and join the fun!

Country Line Dancing

PLACE: 100TH INF. BN. VETS CLUBHOUSE

DATES: 5/14, 21, 28/03 - Wednesdays

6/4, 18, 25/03 - "

7/2, 9, 23, 30/03 - "

TIME: 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

NO CLASSES: 6/11/02 and 7/16/03

INSTRUCTOR: Sandy Zook

THE NISEI PROJECT—A UNIQUE HOMAGE TO NISEI VETERANS By Marla Hirokawa

A common experience for many Sansei is the indirect or inadvertent way we learned about our father's valiant WWII experiences. They don't like to talk about it. I first learned the details of my father's 100th Battalion experiences while working on a high school social studies paper.

It has since taken me 21 years—9 years after his death—to fully grasp all that he and his generation sacrificed and accomplished during WWII and to finally find expression for my gratitude. I did so in the only way I know how: through dance. In May 2001, I premiered "Nisei," a story told-in-dance of the struggles and victories of a Nisei soldier whose family is relocated to a concentration camp. My mother and sister were present at its premier in Brooklyn, New York where I now live and work.

After the premier, my sister Laurie Hamano and I conceived the Nisei Project, a plan to bring my company, Covenant Dance Theatre to Hawaii to perform "Nisei" during July 2003 for the honoring and preserving of the Nisei legacy. The tour will reach Oahu, Kauai, Big Island and Maui increasing awareness of this history and in part benefiting the Library of Congress Veterans History Project in Hawaii—a national effort to collect and preserve audio- and video-taped oral histories of America's war veterans. Arts-in-education programming will educate Hawaii's youth about this rich heritage that is theirs to cherish.

As Laurie and I embarked on this project, we quickly discovered many like us with a deep regard for these veterans and who became impassioned with our unique artistic homage. An enthusiastic committee, a distinguished Honorary Advisory Board, endorsements from the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT, MIS, Sons & Daughters of the Nisei Veterans, Veterans Administration, UH Veterans Forum, Hawaii State Dept. of Education, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and so many more have provided the stupendous support we need. Fundraiser dinners and corporate sponsorships from Bank of Hawaii, Central Pacific Bank, Continental Airlines, Hawaii Air Cargo, Robert's of Hawaii and Xerox Hawaii are helping to realize the project.

We all recognize we are living through the final chapters of this WWII generation and cannot let their story disappear with them. The Nisei Project 2003 answers this challenge by dancing it to life poignantly and proudly. I am grateful we can provide another way of honoring these heroes and expressing our deepest gratitude for all that we owe them!

Tickets and discounts for group and advance sales prior to June 30th will be available May 1st. For information on Island ticket sales and performances please call the following number: Nisei Project Honolulu Headquarters, ph. (808) 947-5702 or toll-free at ph. (888) 598-8115. Website address is <www.niseiproject.com>

A TRADITION OF HONOR DOCUMENTARY AVAILABLE AT CLUB OFFICE

A Tradition of Honor, the emotion-packed documentary about the 100th/442nd RCT and the MIS, co-produced by Yonseis Craig Yahata (nephew of Mitsuo "Spider" Yahata, Co. D, 100th Inf. Bn.) and David Yoneshige, was shown on April 5, 2003, at the Honolulu Academy of Arts Theatre. It is the first documentary created from the Go For Broke Educational Foundation's Hanashi Oral History Program's video collection of World War II Nisei veteran interviews. This video was shown during the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's 60th Anniversary celebration.

A limited number of these videos is now available for purchase at the 100th Inf. Bn. Vet.'s clubhouse.

AND THEN THERE WERE EIGHT, MEMOIRS FROM I CO., 442ND RCT

A newly published book entitled *And Then There Were Eight* by the veterans, the families and friends of I Company, 442nd RCT, under the chairmanship of Edward M. Yamasaki, tells the heroic and tragic story of battle experiences during the rescue of the "Lost Battalion," "not only of men from I Company, but also field observers of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 442nd medics, and survivors of the liberated 'Lost Battalion,' and the 141st Infantry Regiment." Although there is no central theme, Yamasaki explained in his *Preface*:

"There is, however, a common thread underlying the stories--an uncommon loyalty to country and to their comrades and families--and after the end of the war, an uncommon bond of friendship and devotion to one another that survive the passage of time and the separation of distance.

". . . Presented also are historical perspectives that reveal why the general population of Japanese ancestry in the Territory of Hawaii did not face the harsh treatments of their counterparts on the West Coast. . . History is revisited at a very personal level."

The book honors those comrades who did not survive to tell their own battle stories. Many of the narratives share aspects of the life-transforming experiences and reflections of the war experience that ~~have impacted the lives of these veterans. It is hoped that the reader hears or senses the sounds of grief,~~ pain, and laughter that evoke a greater understanding of "the impact of war and greater appreciation of what is entailed in living responsibly in a precious democracy such as ours."

A limited number of copies are available for sale at the 100th Inf. Bn. Vets. clubhouse. The book can also be purchased from the 442nd RCT Club, 933 Wiliwili Street, Honolulu, HI 96826. For details, please call ph. (808) 949-7997; fax (808) 949-1539.

HOME COOKING: A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT ALTERNATIVE

Go For Broke Educational Foundation Offers Easy and Unique Recipes From World War II Veterans' Kitchens.

Moms are very special people in our lives. They've done so much for us even sometimes remembering our favorite dishes. Though we occasionally show our gratitude, Mother's Day is an especially important time to remember mom, and do something extra special for her. With "More Veterans' Favorites," a wonderful cookbook created by the Go For Broke Educational Foundation, experienced or inexperienced chefs can prepare a special meal for that special woman in your life.

Individuals can purchase this great gift for moms or add to an existing cookbook collection. "More Veterans' Favorites," a follow up to the sold out "Veterans' Favorites" cookbook, features special recipes from the kitchens of Japanese American World War II veterans including never-before-seen pictures from veterans' scrapbooks.

For further information on how to order the cookbook, please call (310) 328-0907 or e-mail <esoldier@goforbroke.org>

Proceeds from the cookbook will help continue the Educational Foundation's programs including An American Story Teacher Training Program, Hanashi Oral History Program, www.GoForBroke.org Web site, and other media projects.

The Go For Broke Educational Foundation institutes educational programs focused on the heroism and

history of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II, as well as the forced evacuation and incarceration of Japanese American and civil liberties issues raised by those events. Currently the Educational Foundation's programs include An American Story teacher training workshops and curriculum development, Hanashi Oral History Program, and select media projects. For more information, go to www.GoForBroke.org.

A MOST UNLIKELY HERO, A DOCUMENTARY ON BRUCE YAMASHITA

Even though the AJA soldiers of World War II fought with extraordinary valor to eradicate the injustice and discrimination of racial prejudice, the reality of this ugliness continued in practice after that war even within our Government's military forces--specifically, at the Marine Officer Candidate School.

Bruce Yamashita, a third-generation Hawaii boy, wanted only to serve his country in the U.S. Marines. Steve Okino, writer-producer of *A Most Unlikely Hero*, describes how Yamashita ultimately challenged and changed formidable forces within the U.S. Marine Corps by standing up against the racial intolerance and injustices that faced minority candidates enrolled in the Marine Officer Candidate School.

In January 1989, Yamashita, a graduate of Georgetown University Law School and a delegate to the Hawaii Constitutional Convention, sought to qualify as a Marine Corps officer. However, from the very beginning, he was harassed by his sergeant who continued to make racial slurs and insults until on the final days before graduation, five candidates, all of whom were racial minorities, were denied promotions.

The documentary highlights Bruce Yamashita's experiences and the steps he dared to take in defense of fairness, justice, and equal opportunity that were being disregarded in some of our country's most powerful institutions. From the humiliation of Officer Candidate School to vindication on Capitol Hill, Steve Okino's documentary brings us this powerful story of one man's crusade to right a wrong. Yamashita claims with humility, he pursued this course to victory as a tribute to the *issei* and *nisei* who struggled before him, especially the veterans who fought and died to defend democracy and American values.

This documentary, sponsored by the Matsunaga Charitable Foundation, is in its final stages of production, but still needs funding and donations to cover additional expenses to complete the project. All donations for this program are tax-deductible. More information and updates for *A Most Unlikely Hero* can be viewed on website <www.unlikelyhero.org>. Or contact Steve Okino, 94-1263 Lumikula St., Ste. 2-B, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797, ph. (808) 677-4097.

"The soul is dyed the color of its thoughts. Think only on those things that are in line with your principles and can bear the full light of day. The content of your character is your choice. Day by day, what you choose, what you think, and what you do is who you become. Your integrity is your destiny. . . It is the light that guides your way." *Heraclitus Greek Poet, Philosopher.*



In Memoriam

Jack Kojin Gushiken	C Company	Passed away April 12, 2003
Masasuke Toma	B Company	Passed away April 16, 2003

Our deepest sympathy to their family members

The PukaPuka Parade is the monthly newsletter of the World War II 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans association (aka Club 100). Published at 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96826.

CLUB SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Amanda Stevens

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans

Eleanor Shigemoto	In Memory of Henry M. Shiyama (C, KIA)	\$50
James & Yoshie Tanabe	In Memory of Kaoru (C) & Mitsugi (F) Moto	\$50
Gerald E. Conner	In Memory of Lt. Cloudy Gray Conner, Jr. (KIA)	\$50
Helen Yukiko Noborikawa	In Honor of Stanley Akita	\$30
Roy H. Kitaoka		\$100
One Puka Puka Tour		\$100

Puka Puka Parade

Eleanor Shigemoto	In Memory of Henry M. Shiyama (C, KIA)	\$50
Kazuma M. Nishiie	In Memory of Sakae Maggie Watanabe	\$50
Harrison Hamasaki	In Memory of Masanao Otake (C, KIA)	\$25
Harrison Hamasaki	In Memory of Sakae Murakami (C, KIA)	\$25
Harrison Hamasaki	In Memory of Yasuji Uchima (A, KIA)	\$25
Harrison Hamasaki	In Memory of Hideichi Shimabukuro (C)	\$25
Amy Nakazawa		\$50
James & Yoshie Tanabe		\$15
Anonymous		\$75
Anonymous		\$25

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Scholarship Fund

Barry & Kinue Mizuno	(Makaweli)	In Memory of Kazuo Mizuno	\$100	
Edna & Robert Kubiuyuki	(Honolulu)	In Honor of Stanley Akita	\$50	
Patricia Imai	(Honolulu)	In Honor of Stanley Akita	\$50	
George & Myrtle Taoka	(Aiea)	In celebration of Stanley's Akita's 80 th birthday	\$70	
Hiroshi & Mary Jane Suyeoka	(Honolulu)	In celebration of Stanley's Akita's 80 th birthday	\$50	
Takeshi & Teruko Tabata	(Honolulu)	In celebration of Stanley's Akita's 80 th birthday	\$100	
Sam & Teruko Fujikawa	(CA)	\$500	Mary Y. Kashiwabara (CA)	\$200
Eugene & Ella Eguchi	(Hilo)	\$50	Heike Hasenauer (MD)	\$20
Edwin & Marian Nakano	(Lihue)	\$50	Tomoe Shimatsu (Kekaha)	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Tokuji Ono	(Honolulu)	\$100	Paul & Yoshie Yokoi (CA)	\$100
Masaki & Helen Oshiro	(CA)	\$50	Roy Yokote (CA)	\$100
Ralph Y. Fujinaka	(Hanapepe)	\$25	Wallace Takemoto (Kapaa)	\$100
Shimeyo Nakagawa	(Eleele)	\$100	Akiko Senda (Lihue)	\$50
Kazuo & Norma Senda	(Lihue)	\$100	John Senda (Lihue)	\$15
Chieko & Yasuo Iwasaki	(Hilo)	\$10	Eiko Muranaka (Lihue)	\$25
Ichiro Sam Sugidono	(CA)	\$50	Isamu Abo (CO)	\$30
Jack Hada	(Hanapepe)	\$100	Flora M. Senda (Lihue)	\$100
Bunkichi Matsuyoshi	(Waimea)	\$100	Yaeko Seki (CA)	\$100
Edward & Karen Toguchi	(CA)	\$100	Shigeki Marumoto (CA)	\$100
Albert & Utako Takahashi	(CA)	\$200	Ross Shimabukuro (Lihue)	\$20
Choichi & Doris Shimabukuro	(Lihue)	\$100	Miyoshi Fujimoto (Lihue)	\$100
Mark & Amy Nakazawa	(CA)	\$250	Warren Tamura (ID)	\$200
Jean Miyasato	(MT)	\$200	Seichi Hoashi (Kalaheo)	\$200
Tony & Kathy Miyasako	(ID)	\$100	Chizue Teshima (Hanapepe)	\$100
Choji & Shizuko Shimabukuro	(Eleele)	\$30	Yoshiko Shimabukuro (Eleele)	\$20
Dale & Penny Shimomura	(Hanapepe)	\$25	Tom & Gladys Tsuda (WY)	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hasegawa	(TX)	\$50	Mary C. & Daryl Doi (CA)	\$50
Kazuma & Yasuko Taguchi	(Hilo)	\$100	Joni Arakaki (Lihue)	\$25
Ben & Jean Tagami	(CA)	\$1000	Shigeko Yoshimura (IL)	\$50
Kei & Chisato Yamaguchi	(CA)	\$100	Harry & Harumi Sasaki (CA)	\$25
Tom & Georgette Yoshikai	(OR)	\$25	Kazuo Namba (CA)	\$50
Jeffrey T. Ono	(Honolulu)	\$500	Fusetsu Miyazaki (Eleele)	\$25
William H. Omoto	(CA)	\$100	Tokuji Yoshihashi (CA)	\$25

Thank you so much for the overwhelming, generous and warm support for the Scholarship Fund Drive. I will be documenting the location from which the donations came, so we may see how far-reaching this fund drive is. Also, thank you to everyone who has made donations to the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans, the Puka Puka Parade and the Sons & Daughters of the 100th Inf. Bn. as well.

Mahalo ☺

Stanley's Jokes

from Stan Akita

EXPOSURE

A Portagee lady is walking down the street with her blouse open and her right breast hanging out.

A policeman approaches her and says, "Ma'am, are you aware that I could cite you for indecent exposure?"

She says, "Why, Officer?"

"Because your breast is hanging out," he says.

She looks down and says, "OH MY GOD, I left the baby on the bus again!"

IN A VACUUM

A Portagee was playing Trivial Pursuit one night.

It was his turn. He rolled the dice and landed on Science & Nature.

His question was, "If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?"

He thought for a minute and then asked, "Is it on or off?"

An old man was sitting on a bench at the mall. A young man walked up to the bench and sat down. He had spiked hair in all different colors--green, red, orange blue and yellow.

The old man just stared!!!

The young man said sarcastically, "What's the matter old timer, never done anything wild in your life?"

Without batting an eye, the old man replied, "Got drunk once and had sex with a parrot. I was just wondering if you were my son."

WORDS OF WISDOM

1. If you're too open-minded, yhour brains will fall out.
2. Don't worry about what people think, they don't do it very often.
3. If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

LAST ONE! I PROMISE

There was a Portagee lady who was having financial troubles, so she decided to kidnap a child and demand a ransom. She went to a local park, grabbed a little boy, took him behind a tree, and wrote this note:

"I have kidnapped your child. Leave \$10,000 in a plain brown bag behind the big banyan tree in the park tomorrow at 7 A.M. Signed, Da Portagee"

She pinned the note inside the little boy's jacket and told him to go straight home.

The next morning, she returned to the park to find the \$10,000 in a brown bag behind the banyan tree, just as she had instructed.

Inside the bag was the following note. . .

"Here is your money. I can't believe that one Portagee would do this to another!"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY 2003

ABLE.....Saturday, May 248:00 am
BAKER.....Saturday, May 171:00 pm
CHARLIE.....Monday, May 1910:00 am
DOG.....Saturday, May 17.....9:00 am
HQ.....No Meeting
RURAL.....Friday, May 16Zippy's Wahiawa.....11:00 am
MAUI.(Mother's Day Luncheon).....Tuesday, May 13.....Wei Wei Bar-B-Q.....11:00 am
BOARD MEETING.....Friday, May 910:00 am
FAMILY SUPPORT WKSHP.....Sunday, May 25.....11:30 am
GREEN THUMBS.....Monday, May 5Lounge.....10:00 am
LINE DANCING.....Wednesday, May 14, 21, & 28.....Clubhouse.....9:00 am

NOTE: The next issue will be for June 2003. Deadline for articles will be May 20, 2003.
(Please submit articles on time or they will not be included in the issue.)

Puka Puka Parade collating will be on **Thursday, May 29, 2003, 8:30 am**. Able and Charlie chapters are responsible for providing manpower and refreshments, but everyone is welcome to kokua.

For PPP chapter news and articles: joykiku@hawaii.rr.com (no attachments to joykiku, please) or
vetsofthe100thbn@yahoo.com (attachments okay.)

IMPORTANT New e-mail address for club business, questions or correspondence:
vetsofthe100thbn@yahoo.com

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans
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MAY 2003 ISSUE

Happy Mother's Day

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