



by **JACKSON MORISAWA**

(The following is a continuation of the memoirs of TAKAO HEDANI, Section Sergeant, 3rd platoon Mortars of H Company. Part I of this series appeared in the last Go For Broke Bulletin.)

We left Naples on September 27th for action in France under the 7th Army and landed in Marseilles on Sept. 30th. At the assembly area, all units drew their combat equipment and clothing. The weather was very accommodating for the first three days. But later the rainy season came along without mercy.

The 2nd Battalion rode in trucks for three days to the assembly area to begin the Battle for Bruyeres on October 10, 1944. We traveled on trucks for over 500 miles.

On Oct. 14, 1944, we moved into position to liberate the town of Bruyeres. We hardly had hot meals, but we managed to eat good C rations. We followed the leading E & F companies, encircling the town of Bruyeres. We gathered in an assembly area and sat for lunch under the bushes just outside of Bruyeres. For the last three days the weather was cold and the rain came down without mercy. As I sat under a tree to munch on my C ration, I noticed a bunch of "shiitake" clustered on the bark of a hard wood. I took out my canteen and cut the fresh mushrooms and put them in a watered bouillon soup. The boys watched me eat the warm soup, but most of them thought I was crazy eating poisonous mushrooms. After about an hour later I was rejuvenated by the warm soup and ran around in preparation for the assault on Bruyeres. The boys realized that I was OK. About 4:00 P.M., I wanted to have some more of the warm bouillon soup for dinner. I had to travel quite a distance to get those fresh mushrooms. The morning of

the 15th we received orders to secure the town of Bruyeres. While the entire 3rd platoon was marching towards the town of Bruyeres in single file formation, the enemy fired a volley of harassing artillery fire. One of the enemy shells hit a lonely pine tree top. The flying fragments of the shell hit Pfc. MASAO F. SHIGEMURA from the top of his left eye down to his left jaw. He was two persons ahead of me, so I could hear him yelling "AH" and he fell flat to the ground. 2nd section S/Sgt. MASAYUKI OTAKE protected the wounded Pfc. SHIGEMURA's face with the base plate of the 81MM mortar. I ordered the 1st section to march into Bruyeres as fast as possible. Pfc. SHIGEMURA died instantly without uttering a word. The entire 3rd Platoon marched into the town of Bruyeres without any further mishaps. There were about 50 houses in the small town. That night we slept wherever we could find a dry place.

Orders came down for us to come back to the town of Bruyeres. The Regimental objective of Hills A, B & C were secured by 9:30 A.M. Hill D was recaptured by the Jerries and they threatened to stop the supply chain established by the 2nd Battalion supply section. Since there were no reserve rifle company nearby, the 3rd Platoon with 45 men were ordered to stop the German attack. Everyone grabbed a rifle and went to Hill D without any enemy information. I instructed the boys to take cover and wait for the opportune time to fire at the enemy, while I made a right circle about 30 yards away from the group. Strangely, S/Sgt. ROBERT T. KURODA swung 25 yards to my right alone. He had no cover or concealment from the enemy. The pine trees were 20 to 30 feet tall so visibility was good for 50 yards. The Jerries kept their machine guns quite active. Sgt. KURODA's right flank was unprotected but he was calm and very much alert to the dangerous situation. I noticed that he fired at a German soldier, who fell to the ground dead. A machine gun opened up on Sgt. KURODA, but he was on the ground aiming at the machine gun nest. His fire power was effective and the gun and crew were silenced. I crept

about 5 yards on my belly towards the enemy. A German rifleman was aiming at us, so I immediately fired my M-1 rifle. There was a thud and the enemy fell down. In the meantime, Sgt. KURODA was shot by a German sniper. I heard him moaning for 1-5 minutes but could not get close to him because there were no soldiers covering me. A German soldier came down about 5 yards to see how bad Sgt. KURODA was wounded. I fired at him, killing him immediately. I knew relief was coming if I remained there for a couple of hours.

Then about 1:00 P.M. another Jerry came out alone from the bush and tried to shoot me. Then I heard S/Sgt. MASAYUKI OTAKE yelling, "HEDANI, watch out!" By that time I had my M-1 rifle aimed at the Jerry. OTAKE and I fired simultaneously and the poor soldier fell down dead. I stood up quickly and walked towards friendly forces.

I must have looked pale and nervous. The 81MM Mortar Platoon boys looked at me and did not say a word. Just about the same time, a platoon of F Co. boys joined us so we had now a good sized fighting force. Fortunately the platoon leader of F Co. was my friend S/Sgt. AKIRA "BUDDHA" HAMAGUCHI. He and I discussed strategy, and I agreed to take the right section for H Co. and the left section was taken by F Co. We all had a bandolier of M-1 ammunition. With the signal to attack, the soldiers would fire from the hip and hit the ground while the others advanced forward, leap frogging each other. Somehow the boys were fired up and charged the enemy without a moment of rest. About the middle of the assault, the boys got "heated up" and started to yell out "WAH" - "WAH" everywhere. During the assault not a single shot came from the enemy positions. We marched through three machine gun nests in our sector. Dead Germans were all over. The wounded were taken care of by the First Aid group, while able bodied prisoners were marched to the rear area. The enemy force was totally defeated. I estimated 100 enemy soldiers dead, wounded or taken as prisoners. The battle was over about 2:30 P.M. When I returned to the H

Co. area, I was exhausted because of the tense moments I had endured. The rest of the soldiers were equally fatigued.

About 4:00 P.M. in the afternoon when the situation was quiet, Chaplain HIRO HIGUCHI went to see if any friendly troops were left wounded in the battlefield. He then came across Sgt. KURODA's body, with a shot in the throat. He also estimated that over 50 German soldiers dead on the battlefield. I noticed that not a single officer from H or F Cos. participated in the attack. Again I should say the AJA soldiers were very courageous and united in a solid fighting unit.

Early in the morning of the 10th of October we were ordered to move out as riflemen to repel the attacking Germans on Hill D. About 8:00 A.M. in the morning I saw S/Sgt. TURK TOKITA, his right arm in a sling, going back for further treatment by the medics. I bid him good luck and gave him the direction to the main body.

The town of Biffontaine was captured by the 100th Battalion on October 23rd, but the unit was stretched out in enemy territory for about 2,000 yards. Ammunition, rations and First Aid supplies were critically short. The 2nd Battalion was ordered to rescue the 100th Battalion without delay. We had just showered and dressed in clean clothes and dry socks. The orders came down to attack the enemy position confronting Biffontaine. As soon as we moved into position the 100th Battalion was safely rescued.

The front line was fluid. The enemy had the advantage of knowing the terrain and the roads. Early on the morning of the 24th, H Co. had orders to move and help rescue the 1st Battalion of the 141 Infantry regiment of the 36th Division. At the hastily built forward Command Post, Major General JOHN DAHLQUIST and his Aide-De-Camp, Capt. LEWIS, saluted us and wished us well. Capt. LEWIS was killed by an enemy sniper later. The General looked stern and determined to have his Lost Battalion rescued. We marched about 2,000 yards and rested on the mountain road. About noontime, when we had our C rations to munch on, orders came down for us to organize a rescue squad to get P.O.W.s

from G Co. on our left flank. Every unit was committed so it came down to the Mortar Platoon to furnish the necessary manpower. The rifleman was eager to get back to his unit. The 3rd Section of the 3rd Platoon took the assignment. The sky was gray and the ground was wet. We marched for two miles into the left flank of G Co., 2nd Battalion, which occupied a strategic hill, and dug in for the night. I still recall the last 200 yards to our objective. I was bringing up the rear end when suddenly Pfc. JAMES GANEKO, with flushed face, said, "Houdini, leave me behind. I am no use to the outfit and I will die here." His utterance was very sincere and truthful. The footing was very slippery from constant drizzling. The climb was extremely difficult and hazardous. Without a word I put my right hand on his combat pack and started to push him up the hill. We all reached the objective hill about 2:00 P.M. Then we got combat wire and tied each German separately. We started down the hill with our prized prisoners of war in column. When we reached our platoon area, the friendly forces were waiting for the P.O.W.s.

The 3rd Platoon of H Co. was used as a rifle unit up to October 29th, when the Lost Battalion was rescued. The days and nights of the 24th to 27th were covered with mystery and anxiety. On the right side of our unit the 232nd Engineers were clearing minefields and building roads. There was a big gap between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. The Mortar Platoon was used as a filler for these gaps. We advanced about 500 yards and dug in for the night. On the morning of the 27th we reached our objective and helped rescue the 1st Battalion of the 141st Infantry. What really surprised me was that they looked like new recruits with shiny shoes and well-dried winter clothing. Their rifles were in spic-and-span condition. I just ordered our men to position their guns in whatever clearing the occupied area provided. I hurried up the hill to look for a good observation post. Advancing about 2,000 yards in the thick pine forest, I came across elements of F Co. riflemen. Again, like on "Banzai Hill," I met S/Sgt. "BUDDHA" HAMAGUCHI. I also met Sgt. SADAO CHAGAMI from Aiea, a

radio operator for the forward observer of Cannon Co. I placed my C.B. about 100 meters back from the forward Observation Post. I zeroed in my guns to the right ridges to repel enemy self-propelled guns and tanks, but hit directly on the ridge that faced me. An enemy sniper killed an F Co. rifleman right in front of me, making my position extremely untenable. I quickly ordered my 81MM Mortars to fire on the likely enemy position, about 200 yards down the slope. I directed about 50 rounds of 81MM Mortar shells on the likely enemy gun positions. About a minute later the German wounded called out "Medico," "Medico." Obviously the enemy was hurt and calling for help. I ordered each of the 3 guns to fire for effect another 10 rounds each at the same target. The enemy was confused and appeared to be in panic and disorder. The tree burst of the 81MM Mortar shell was plainly too severe for the enemy foot soldiers. Somehow, they stopped yelling for medical aid and attended their wounded by applying bandages and first aid, to quell further commotion. I could hear only the shuffling and movements down in the enemy position. Two days later, when we went down into the valley, we noticed enemy Band-Aids and first aid kits all over the underbrush.

On the 28th of October, through the combat wire, I heard the gunner yelling, "There will be K Co. boys coming up the valley so don't shoot at our own boys." The entire K Co. led by Sgt. KOIZUMI comprised of only 9 men. I ordered Pfc. HISA KANAGAWA to direct them down the ridge to the friendly occupied position. Sure enough, the enemy pounded the hilltop with artillery shell without mercy. Added to the artillery shell from the right flank, two enemy tanks from 500 yards began shelling us. Pfc. KANAGAWA and I kept ourselves in a deep foxhole for 4 hours with overhead shelter until about 5:00 P.M., when the enemy tanks started to retreat. During the time of enemy tank attack, we continuously used wire communication to direct 81MM Mortar shelling into the likely enemy tank position. Within 2 hours, HISA and I

smoked a pack of good old cigarettes without food or water.

That night two of us slept in the foxhole with our rations and raincoats. Next morning, when I woke up and tried to put my steel helmet on, I noticed a shrapnel hole squarely on the front of my helmet. I sent back the helmet with hole for replacement. Somehow the Co. C.P. boys spread the rumor that I was killed once in Italy and again in France. There were rumors that I was killed in action.

The enemy tanks did not return the next day. For three days we held our positions and strengthened our defense position in the meantime. The Jerries certainly had enough ammunitions of all sizes. They kept pounding our defensive position. There were casualties, but no fatal ones. The enemy was determined to inflict as many casualties as possible. The F Co. boys dug in deeply to avoid unnecessary casualties.

On November 3rd we received orders to go down into the valley. Our entire platoon stayed in a farmhouse, mounting our 81MM mortars to fire towards St. Die, a strong defensive enemy position. But we had no forward observer for the Mortar Platoon. The front line infantry men were about 2,000 yards forward from the gun position. We had to stretch combat wire to furnish fire power to the isolated G Co. Platoon. The final 500 yards were open fields without cover and concealment. Pfc. JAMES GANEKO, carrying the combat wire, followed me to the forward slope of a tiny hill. As soon as we hit the reverse slope of the hill, the enemy started to fire their small arms weapons. I felt a little sting on my left toenail. I looked down and saw a wooden bullet which penetrated my rubber boot. A slight black and blue appeared, without any wound. I did not claim a Purple Heart for such a small scratch. On the way back to join the infantry soldiers there were two dead Germans left on the roadside.

When I got my combat wire well settled with our guns, I immediately called for fire on the enemies, who were hidden in forest confronting us. About 100 rounds were poured into the enemy position. Suddenly I could hear the enemy calling for "Medico." The more I heard the

Jerries calling for help, the more I threw 81MM shells into the enemy position. The radio operators of the 522 Field Artillery and the attached 4.2MM unit, plus the 36th Division Field Artillery, were by the afternoon well coordinated into the defensive setup. The combat wire was the top operating media for secrecy and accuracy.



by **JERRY ISHIMOTO**

21 Jun Chapter Mtg.

Only 10 present? Hmmmm. Others must be recuperating from whatever ailments and still others trying to recoup at Las Vegas. Unlike the City or State, Treas. BIGGIE NAKAKURA is still using black ink. No budget shortfall, no need to lay off any members. The Chapter coffer even received a boost when TAD TOKUDA, L. A. Reunion Committee Chrmn. returned the 2 G's which Baker Chapt. donated to support the 522nd reunion. TAD stated that there was ample funds to carry on their fabulous reunion activities. He also stated that their L.A. Baker and Charley Chapters had donated 3 G's toward the Japanese American Museum and suggested that this Chapt. do likewise. Donors of 3 G's and above will be given permanent 'Donor Wall' recognition when the Museum opens it's new Phase II bldg. in 1996. After some discussions, the members decided to discuss some more. If you had not received your refund of the 100.00 deposit for the LA reunion from Panda Travel, see STAN KANESHIRO before the statute of limitation runs out.

522 FA Bn along with MIS detailed to man telephones at the HVB to provide information re: Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of VJ Day. Most of the HQ Btry personnel are scheduled to be on duty on Wednesdays starting on 26 Jul. 95. The volunteers are: JOE OBAYASHI,

BIGGIE NAKAKURA, BOYAN HIGA, DON SHIMAZU, HIDE NAKAMINE, FRED HIRAYAMA, STAN SAKAI, EDICHIYAMA. Give them some 'atta boys' which the evening paper didn't. They printed a picture of ED, STAN, and DON but the caption listed some other names. A breach of a cardinal rule in the news business which says to 'print anything about a person but spell their names correctly' . . . something like that.

July 19, 1995

Chapter Family Luncheon/Meeting at Shogun Restaurant. 45 members, spouses and widows attended including guests TED and LOVETTE YANAGIHARA. They are no strangers to Baker Chapt. for they traveled to Europe with the 522nd and are members of the 442nd Hula and Ukulele Club. RICHARD KUBA is more of a stranger for he makes only rare appearance such as this. YUZURU MORITA and NOBUO TAKAMORI made the long trek from Pearl City and Wahiawa. Good to see SHOSO KAGAWA up and about...albeit slowly under the watchful eyes of KAY. KISE MIYAMOTO took time out from her busy schedule of caring for the elderly— to relieve her stress and to build her stamina. Those on authorized leave were: JANE UEOKA because of an operation on her eyeball. The better to see you, my dear. HAROLD UEOKA is also wearing shades after a cataract operation. ELLEN KUNIHIRO sidelined after having the steel rod removed from her leg which was injured three years ago. Now she won't set off the security alarm at the airport. MARTHA INOUE laid up due to a fracture of her spine. Up and about vertically now with a back support.

Wow! So much food! Hog Heaven. Three tables laden with soup to nuts. All you can put away which is right down the alley for the ones who skipped breakfast or ones with hollow legs. The price is right and free parking is thrown in but limited to alas, only 3 hrs. That put a screeching halt to the socializing. But nermine that. Everyone enjoyed this outing so much, thanks to BOYAN, Chrmn. of the Kau Kau Kommittee, a motion was made to have more of this.

Sooo- with a red, felt marker in hand, circle your calendar on this date- 18 Oct 95 - and since you will surely forget what the circle is for, put this notation that it is the date for the next Family Night. Encore by popular demand.

Etceteras, Plus

Welcome to the 'Order of The Knife'. TED TSUKIYAMA may now enter any discussions about their operations and show his scar after undergoing surgery to remove spurs from his back. Now he has no spurs that jingle, jangle, jingle. If that weren't enough. He also had an operation to correct his trigger finger.

MARTHA and SAM HIRONAKA are recent devotees of tripping the light fantastic. Having joined the Manoa Chapter of the Hawaii Ballroom Dance Association, you will find them doing the ONE two three or Two three fouuur— one, at the Manoa Rec. Ctr. or kicking their heels at the ballroom above the Ala Wai golf clubhouse. On the other hand or foot as in this case, MIKE HARA a longtime aficionado of this pas-time must have retired from this pursuit for he has not been seen gliding smoothly on the dance floor lately.

Deepest condolences to the kins of CLARENCE MATSUMURA HQ Btry of L.A and TED KAWAHARA, Baker Btry of Maui who have left us to join the Big Formation up there.

HIDEO NAKAMINE who attended the Camp Shelby Monument dedication ceremony stated that placing of flowers in front of the monument was part of the ceremony. He carefully hand-carried the dendrobium orchid from home which was placed at the monument by ROBERT KATAYAMA in memory of the 100/442 members killed. He also says he met a Mr. R. TAGUE at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans. Mr. TAGUE stated that he served as a Lt. in 522nd HQ. Btry. but his name does not jog any memories. Ring any bells anyone? Too bad cause HIDE has an excellent snapshot of the hotel exterior but did not focus on Mr. TAGUE.

SCORECARD by Rocky
5 Jun 95 HCC

The booty for Low net goes to MITS with a net 62. Yes. A net 62 for 18 holes. Whatchutot? Only nine holes? Yeah, because some guys can't even shoot that on one nine. The TOKU /TOSHI combi was #1 for the two-man best ball. BOYAN who teamed up with MITS' low score pocketed a few bucks while MITS made ukumillions. What's leftover went to the combi's of STAN K./JOE S, TED/KON KON, TOKU/BIGGIE, DON/LARRY. TOKU donated his winnings back to the club. The Club thanks you and hopes you win all the time. Be nice to your wife and you others too will win.

CP's on the Par 3's: #4 DON, #8 KEN, #13 GEO, #15 TOM

9 Jun 95 HCC

LARRY is another low shooter with net 62. How you figgah? Check their handicaps! That 62 was good for the Monthly Ace and Low Net. In addition, his low score was good for first for the two-man combi with Y.T. Ukupila money. Make mine Miller Light. As stated before, if your game is junk, hope that you're teamed up with a winner. Heh! heh!. Combi's of ROCKY/HAROLD, GEO/MITS, STAN K/TOM, KEN/BIGGIE and BOYAN/JOE U enjoyed the payday. Others enjoyed the nice weather. Was it nice? I forget.

CP's on the Par 3's: #4 KEN, #8 Y.T., #13 BOYAN, #15 STAN K.

17 Jul. 95 HCC

A day to shoot all your might for it's for the Monthly Ace, Two-man combi and Club Match Play. Ace of the Month went to TOKU. He didn't shoot a 62 but nonetheless a respectable 66. The two-man combi of ROY F and AKABO slipped under the wire to nose out the other combi's of DON/BIGGIE, BOYAN/STAN K, KEN /Y.T., TOKU/KON KON. The axiom about teaming up with a low scorer doesn't always work, KON KON. You have to help a little too. MITS/WALTER closed the payout window. In the Match Play, there were some hard-fought matches while some were duck soup. LARRY had a lark when JOE U went AWOL. BOYAN sank STAN S. 6 and 5 while ROCKY hammered HAROLD 7 and 5 with his footwork. That effort strained his back and is currently sidelined.

DON bashed BIGGIE 2 and 1. FRANCIS stomped STAN K 1 up. WALTER—his Samurai clubs proved more lethal than MITS' to win 1 up. KEN won his match 1 up when his opponent's #@*!! stupid ball decided to take a bath on the 18th hole. ROY F and AKABO ended up in a dead heat and had to resort to the 'tie-breaker method.' The envelope please—and the winner is ROY F.

CP's on the Par 3's; #4 TOKU, #8 ROY F, #13 TONY, #15 LARRY.

7 Aug. 95 HCC

Take a break from Match Play and play for Low Net and Two-man Best Ball. GEO. M emerged as king of the fairways with his net 65. BIGGIE teamed with GEO to tie the combi of LARRY/KON KON for first and split the loot 4-ways. The teams that followed in the diminishing money prize are LARRY/KON KON, DON/ROY F, BOYAN/JOE O., TONY/TOKU, STAN K / AKABO, TONY/STAN S.

CP's on the Par 3's; #4 LARRY, #8 Club, *13 DON, #15 Club. Hey, Club make money.

21 Aug. 95 HCC

Ace of the Month with a sizzling net 58 is ROY FUJII whose trip to the pay window has been quite frequent lately. Being on a roll, he whacked WALTER 6 and 5 in match play although WALTER's net 67 wasn't too shabby. Oh, well—he got to share the wealth in the Two-Man Best Ball combi. DON Y clouted KEN 2 up while BOYAN lassoed LARRY to a loss with the same score. ROCKY got rocked by FRANCIS' five pars in a row from the first hole and was roundly roused 7 and 5. 15 strokes behind ROY F/WALTER came FRANCIS/ROCKY, closely followed by JOE O./ROY O., TEIJI/KON KON, and BOYAN/LARRY.

CP's on the Par 3's: #4 JOE S, #8 ROY F, #13 STAN K, #17 TONY.



Rural Chapter NEWS

by ED IMAMURA

The dedication ceremony for the renovated Wahiawa District Park Swimming Pool located in the FRED WRIGHT Park complex was held on Saturday, July 15, 1995. The original Wahiawa War Memorial Swimming Pool was built by the City in July 1949, in memory of the Servicemen from Wahiawa who were killed in action during World War II.

The dedication ceremony, which was attended by about 60 people, was sponsored by the Wahiawa Lions Club. MR. HIRAM DIAMOND served as the Emcee for the program. The Reverend GESTON of the Wahiawa St. Stephens Episcopal Church opened the program by blessing the new swimming pool. Shortspeeches were given by FREDERIC SOHL,

the City and County Supervisor of District Parks, Senator BOBBY BUNDA, WALTER IWASA, Prexy of Rural Chapter Club 100, and by ED IMAMURA. speeches were given by FREDERIC SOHL, the City and County Supervisor of District Parks, Senator BOBBY BUNDA, WALTER IWASA, Prexy of Rural Chapter Club 100, and by ED IMAMURA. The names of the nine 442nd soldiers out of 21

Wahiawans who were killed in the conflict are inscribed in the stone plaque. They include: MASA HARU ENDO, HARRY HAYAKAWA (later with 100th Bn.), KIKUCHIRO IKEHARA, KUMAO IWAHIRO, MITSU HARU KUBOYAMA, RICHARD SUWA (later with 100th Bn.), YOSHIO TAGAMI, MITSUO TANJI, and JERRY YAMAUCHI.

442nd Rural Chapter members and wives who attended the service were: Prexy GARY YAMAGUCHI, JOHN CHINEN, RAYMOND KATAOKA, KENICHI SAKUMOTO, NOBUO TAKAMORI, ED & AMY IMAMURA with their grandson KYLE, BETSY YAMAMOTO, and ROSALINE YANO.





by **K. TANIGAWA**

This meeting on June 9 was hosted by President QUANTO WATANABE and RICHARD NAKAMURA. They provided all kinds of munchies, crunchies, and bonies, all goodies.

Discussions are continuing on the upcoming observation of the 50th anniversary of VJ Day. It seems that all the previous talk about President CLINTON "tiptoeing" around this issue of fear that he might ruffle the feathers of the Japanese people has subsided. After all, the Japanese people were the prime beneficiaries of that victory.

Also belatedly, we heard of the passing of MICHELLE, wife of KAZU TOMASA, after a brief illness. Another passing is that of HISAKO HIGUCHI, the wife of the late Chaplain HIRO HIGUCHI. More on this in the next issue.

Present for this meeting were: Hosts QUANTO WATANABE and RICHARD NAKAMURA, KAZU TOMASA, SCULLY SHIMIZU, LIPPY HIGUCHI, HERB ISONAGA, MASA YAMAMOTO, MORISO TERAOKA, MIKE SUGAI, TOSHIO HAYAMA, BILL THOMPSON, BOTCHAN OKEMURA, LARRY ISHIDA, KATOON TANIGAWA, and BOB UYEDA.

July 9 saw 20 hungry individuals at the Pagoda Restaurant Buffet and what food! An ample salad bar which included sashimi, teriyaki mahi, and every salad green imaginable. Also, fried noodles, tempura (all kinds), roast beef done to a turn, etc., etc. We are sure that no one went away hungry, or even thinking about food at the end of the feeding frenzy.

The Pagoda restaurant publishes a paper called "Pagoda Fish Facts" which states that there is a 15-year old ulua in the pond that weighs 80 pounds - now that is what I think is

prime sashimi. It also states that the oldest koi in the pond is 80 years old! And that the oldest koi in Japan lived to be 214 years old.

Partaking of all the good food in the piscatory emporium were: MASA YAMAMOTO, QUANTO WATANABE, BILL THOMPSON, BOB UYEDA, BOTCHAN OKEMURA. TOSHI & GRACE HAYAMA, JANE & RICHARD NAKAMURA, LARRY & VIOLET ISHIDA, JIMMY & MITSUE SAKAMOTO, TOKU & STELLA KANESHIGE, KATOON & TOSHI TANIGAWA, and HERB & SUE ISONAGA.

News from SUS YAMAMOTO, via BILL THOMPSON, on the Camp Shelby gathering informs us that the attendance included MR. & MRS. NOBORU TOGIOKA of California, MR. & MRS. ED SASAKI of Texas, MR. & MRS. TOM HAGA of Colorado, MR. & MRS. TOM ICHIKAWA of Owego, NY, MR. & MRS. MACKAY of Texas, JACK TAGAWA, and of course, SUS and MRS. YAMAMOTO of Maryland.

SUS also says that the November convention in LA for the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII will have Department of Veterans' Affairs honcho JESSE BROWN present. The tab will be \$50 a head for a table of 10, but \$75 on an individual basis.

August 11 saw the final meeting for the quarter, with attendance by KAZU TOMASA, TAKASHI OKEMURA, QUANTO WATANABE (Boss), MASA YAMAMOTO, RICHARD NAKAMURA, SCULLY SHIMIZU, HERB ISONAGA, KATOON TANIGAWA, LARRY ISHIDA, TOSHI HAYAMA, and hosts BOB UYEDA and MORISO TERAOKA, who put out a spread that is hard to beat. But then, I don't think that anyone would even dare to rival Chef MORISO.

Again, VJ Day was the topic discussed, with TED MATSUO, a former Medic attached to 2BN explaining the March Order of the Parade, with all the intricacies inherent in such projects. The silver lining of the whole affair is OUR contribution to the endeavor, as HERB ISONAGA, MORISO TERAOKA, RICHARD NAKAMURA, KAZU TOMASA, and LARRY HASHIMOTO will

be carrying the banner for HQ2BN. Bravo!
The rest of us will remain at home and cheer.
Pau...



by Harry Tokushige

Recently Judge LANCE ITO told his jurors, "I have some good news and bad news" - pause - "Let me give you the good news first." Well this issue has some "happy and sad news." Like the judge, let's start with the happy news first.

A Healthy 80th for GILBERT TAKAMORI

A surprise 80th birthday party was arranged for GILBERT by his family on August 19, 1995 at Honolulu Country Club. The following Able Battery members and their spouses were able to participate in this surprise birthday party. They were: AYAME & TOSHIO TANIGUCHI, BETSY & TOM MAYEDA, GLORIA & YOSHIO TAGUMA, HARRIET & TADASHI TOJO, TOSHIKO (HENRY) MATSUOKA, ROYCE HIGA, ROY KAWAFUCHI, ROBERT MIKAMI, and HARRY TOKUSHIGE.

At 128 pounds and a full head of hair, GILBERT looked very good! Just like in the Army. I often wonder how he keeps himself in such excellent shape. I believe the answer lies in the following two words which mean the same thing but have two different meanings depending on who uses it. The words are "gold brick" and "assertive leadership." Both words mean "you don't want to do the work personally." When a Private shirks it, he is a gold brick, however when a Sgt. doesn't want to do the work personally, he orders the Private to do the work and this is called "assertive leadership."

Taps

The 3rd quarter took a toll on the First Gun

Section. We lost our super truck driver, SABURO FUJII and our diligent crew member, JOE HATTORI.

SABURO FUJII retired from the FAA and lived his retirement years with his wife JANE. He passed away on June 15, 1995. Services were held at Borthwick Mortuary, Honolulu, and were attended by TOKIO "JACKMAN" TANIGUCHI while the inurnment was held at Punchbowl National Cemetery and the chapter was represented by your corresponding secretary.

JOE HATTORI retired from Lucky Stores and lived his retirement years at Walnut, CA with his wife FLORENCE and granddaughter MIDORI. He passed away on August 14 after battling cancer for 4 years. He was the inspirational leader to all Californians attending reunions and a diligent worker in providing all the fresh fruits during our reunions.

Probate

Now that there is a rush to the "Pearly Gates" by our members and spouses, I am taking the liberty of presenting to you my non-legal version of "Probate: What it is, Advantages, Disadvantages, and How to Avoid Probate." Hopefully, this will help you intelligently discuss this subject with your legal advisors.

When the decedent's assets are recorded only in his/her name as "single owner" (with or without a will), the decedent's assets and debts must go through the probate process.

"Probate" is a court-supervised collection of the decedent's assets, payment of his taxes, other debts, and the distribution of the remaining decedent's assets to beneficiaries and heirs.

The advantage of this process is to provide for a "clear title" to the "new owner" for assets such as real property, stocks, bonds, and bank accounts. It will also resolve competing claims to the decedent's property.

There are three major disadvantages of the probate process:

- 1) Cost
- 2) Delay
- 3) Publicity

The cost of going through probate is approxi-

mately 5% of the gross probate estate. Assuming you own a home and some stocks and bonds worth \$300,000 at the time of your death, your cost will be an estimated \$15,000. In addition to this cost, the average process time to clear probate is one to two years. While the court is processing the probate, all papers related to the probate are "public record" and anyone can get access to them. Also public notices will be printed in two separate newspaper notices for 3 weeks each.

Can we avoid probate? Yes!!! The key is how you own assets. Life insurance and retirement

plans naming a beneficiary are exempt from probate. Assets held in joint ownership, either as a joint tenancy or tenancy by entirety (JTWSR) will pass on to the surviving joint owner without probate. Finally, property held in Living Trusts will escape probate.

In summary, please remember that property, other than life insurance and retirement plans, which are recorded only in decedent's name as owner, must go through the probate process even though decedent's will designates who shall receive the property.



522 Reunion - L.A. Kats Miho, Peter Fukusawa, Joe Hattori, Jim Kurata, Henry Hamataka, & George Ozaki

Kauai Club News

by **MARGARET OSHITA**

First, giving credit where credit is due, apparently through a mix up that was not our doing, in the last Go For Broke Bulletin under the Kauai

Club News, the first four paragraphs from page 35 to page 36 were written by YURIKO TASAKA. Thank you YURI and Go For Broke Bulletin staff, for making MARGARET look good.

One thing our Club is good about is never missing our quarterly meetings with some kind of dinner affair. For our second on July 19 (nowadays, with everyone retired from their careers, if doesn't matter that the day is a weekday, for we can sleep in the next morning), we again went to the new Veterans Center and again it was a pot-luck dinner. Don't for a minute

think that only the wives do the cooking - there are a few better-than-the-ladies cooks among the guys. Boy, are they appreciated! Some time was taken to discuss the articles in the Hawaii Herald by its editor MARK SANTOKI, as he quoted MS. C. KOBAYASHI MACKEY's dissertation, "Dispelling the Nisei Myth." By this time, you have read our response to the Hawaii Herald.

By the time this goes to press, there will have been some from this Kauai Club who attended the Memorial Service and parade on September 2 in Honolulu, commemorating the end of World War II. Notable among them was TSUKA MURAKAMI who represented us to greet and escort the President of the United States, BILL CLINTON. May there never be another war that will involve American families.

While we have not had to say final farewell to any veteran-member recently, our Vice-President, WHITEY KURASAKI, lost his wife HAZEL to death on August 6 due to illness. She was part and parcel of the core of this club as we met quarter after quarter and had become a loving member. Her presence among us will be dearly missed.

Those on our prayer list for comfort and healing are NORMAN KIMURA, TOKI TOYAMA, HENRY UCHIYAMA, and VIOLET (PAUL) OKUMURA.



by BRUNO YAMADA

Mini-Reunion

This issue should reach you before we depart for Las Vegas on October 21. Anyway, departure time from Honolulu Airport is 9:15 p.m. on United Airline #196. Most of us should be at the Four Queens Hotel & Casino around 10:00 a.m. The others should be coming at different hours on

Sunday, October 22. Although RICHARD & NANCY OSHIRO will be a day later, WINIFRED TAKEKAWA and ASAYO NAGUWA will be filling in. Let's give them a hand at the Royal Pavilion.

Condolences

The KASHINOS from Seattle informed TERRY ARATANI that ELSIE MORIHIRO (GEORGE) passed away in late June after a long illness.

JIM YAMASHITA also brought sad news from Southern California. WILLIAM MORITA from Southern California passed away from a heart attack on June 19. He was a very active member and an ardent golfer.

Travel Adventure also received a call from MRS. BILL TERAGAWA that BILL passed away on August 8 after suffering from a heart attack during a fishing trip. Our deepest sympathies and condolences to GEORGE MORIHIRO, SADA MORITA, and JUNE TERAGAWA and all of their families. It must have been a big blow to all the fellows in Seattle and Los Angeles.

Sick Call

WARREN FENCL, who is the president of Chicago's I Company, regrets that he and MILDRED cannot make it to Las Vegas in October due to his erratic health condition. He wishes everyone good luck and thanks everyone for his last visit in June. His advice: Do not go for broke in Las Vegas.

GEORGE & MARGARET OSHITA from Kapaa inform us that good news comes from YUKI & ASA NAGUWA that MONTY MURAKAMI is progressing well at the care home in Hilo. He is receiving physical and speech therapy. MARGARET sees hope that MONTY will be more comfortable, even if it takes some doing and some time. Gambare!

Good News

TSUNEO SHIIGI of Hilo, who has been suffering from Parkinson's disease for some time, and his wife ELLEN will now have upgraded seats (First Class) for their flights to and from Las Vegas. After appeal was made by TERRY

ARATANI and KAREN HORIMOTO, ELIZABETH NISHIOKA offered her United Airline bonus coupons. We thank ELIZABETH NISHIOKA for her unselfish act. MASA NAKAMURA was the first to offer his upgrade coupons, but they had certain restrictions. Anyway, both were terrific gestures.

Another bit of good news was printed on the front page of the August 9 Honolulu Star-Bulletin as I Company's TOM HARIMOTO appeared above the caption "Homecoming was Sweet for 442nd." The beautiful picture was taken from his high rise overlooking the Ala Wai.

The inner pages depicted TOMMY in his 1st Sergeant's uniform taken in 1946 when he was chosen by Lt. Col. ALFRED PURCELL to carry the regimental colors during the Washington parade and the Iolani Palace Homecoming. Nice going, TOMMY, we are all proud of you!

Late News

SUGURU TAKAHASHI's better half BETTY suffered a massive stroke on July 4. After spending a few weeks at the Maui Memorial Hospital, she was transferred to the Hale Makua Health Center. Take good care of your precious wife, SUGURU. There'll be many more reunions.

SADAICHI KUBOTA with son ALAN, daughter-in-law DEBBIE, and two grandchildren were honored in the National Report of the New York Times (6/19/95) during the Camp Shelby Reunion in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. They were among the nearly 400 members of the 442nd and their families who returned to Camp Shelby where SADAICHI went into combat training 50 years ago.

Another second platoon member from Seattle, SHIRO KASHINO who had six Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, and a Bronze Star, did not attend the Shelby Reunion but got a full page of coverage in the Seattle Times on August 1. SHIRO's daughters, DEBBIE McQUILIKEN, KRISTINE HIRAOKA, BEVERLY YAP LEE, and other sons and daughters of the Seattle area are unwinding the past from the parents and letting the public know what really happened 50 years ago.

"Honor Bound: A Personal Journey," a docu-

mentary about the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was aired on Seattle's KCTS, Channel 9 on August 19.

Many of SHIRO's wartime memoirs are also depicted in THELMA CHANG's I Can Never Forget and DR. DOROTHY MATSUO's Boyhood to War.

Four beautiful letters from BERT AKIYAMA, VICTOR IZUI, ED YAMASAKI, and JIM YAMASHITA complete Item's Items for this issue. Thank you everyone and hope to see you at the reunion.

Bert Akiyama

Now to cover the 100/442 Homecoming and Reunion at Camp Shelby... Suffice to say, that this excursion was extremely nostalgic and heart-warming and the thought of returning to Camp Shelby after an absence of 50 years was something everyone was looking forward to. The mood and anticipation that permeated through the air was like tonic, and everyone reacted positively to the program ahead.

Things got off to a rousing start on Friday morning, as we departed Gulfport, Mississippi in a caravan of nine tour buses with a police escort that would lead us the entire 125 miles to our motels in Hattiesburg, non-stop. This platoon of traffic officers were efficient and hard-nosed, as they stopped all traffic at intersections to allow us to fly past all red lights and breeze through town after town, all the way to Hattiesburg. The local citizen's must have wondered who in the hell was in those buses!

By the stroke of good fortune, we were blessed with excellent weather all during the reunion, not anything like it could have been for Mississippi. In between scheduled sessions, there was ample time for visiting and greeting friends, and from what could be observed - everyone was having a great time.

The dedication of the 100/442 Memorial was very impressive. Important dignitaries gave speeches, the veterans with their families were attentive, the weather cooperated, the aircraft fly-overs were a nice touch, along with the 21-gun salute. The Memorial is first class and is a

great tribute to the men of the 100th/442nd.

The Shelby Homecoming was made special by the presence of a number of dignitaries - a US Senator, Japanese American Major General and a Lieutenant General, and a Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

The main banquet on Saturday evening was delightful in every way - the dinner was superb, the ladies were beautifully dressed, the program well prepared - with appropriate dinner music all evening with live bands.

I Company was represented by a select group - not so much in great numbers but were long on energy and enthusiasm. In attendance were HENRY OTSUKI of Livermore, CA; VICTOR MICHI IZUI of Northfield, IL; ART & TERI IWASAKI of Hillsboro, OH; NOBO & ROSE IKUTA of LA; GEORGE & ESTHER BUTO of Torrance, CA; SADAICHI KUBOTA of Hilo (SADAICHI brought along his son ALAN, and his wife and their two small children); and BERT & HARRIET AKIYAMA of Aurora, CO.

Sunday morning concluded the festivities of the homecoming and reunion at Camp Shelby. At the conclusion, everyone departed for either home or on a number of extended tours that were available.

As the reunion came to an end, the total of nine tour buses departed from Camp Shelby. An interim of 50 years has elapsed since all of us last set foot on this military post. To be truthful there was not much that a familiar territory, since all of the convention activities were held in an area quite a distance from where our barracks were situated. And there was no free time to visit the town of Hattiesburg, some four miles away.

So we took leave of Camp Shelby on Sunday, a place that will forever be etched in our hearts and in our minds, as the preparation point for our overseas combat experiences that ultimately paved the way for the significant progress of the welfare and well-being of all Japanese Americans.

In conclusion, as Camp Shelby faded in the background and our tour bus headed for New Orleans, leaving behind perhaps for the last time the confines of Shelby, it is with deep

nostalgia that we say, "Thanks for all the wonderful memories!"

Victor Izui

June 23, 1995

Dear BRUNO,

WOW! Did we get the VIP treatment, or did we get the VIP treatment? I know many were kind of skeptical of returning to Hattiesburg and Shelby. Remembering 1943, I even kicked myself for signing up, but I am really glad that I did, and that goes with the rest of some 300 to 400 who showed up. Nine full busloads, escorted by some 7 - 10 Mississippi State Police on motorcycles, non-stop from Gulfport to Hattiesburg, then city police escorts throughout our stay in town, and Shelby MP escorts within Camp, with Guardsmen giving you the Highball and through the two days. Can't say much for the catered meals, but the special events and ceremonies were great, even the parade. And beaucoup TV and news coverage. What a difference from 52 years ago!

Couldn't recognize a damn thing. All the wooden buildings and hutments are gone, replaced by more permanent structures. But the pine forests and the red dirt are the same, bringing back flood of memories. Hey, remember the D-series maneuvers with the 69th Division in that cold, wet, winter in swampy southern Mississippi? The 69th was commanded by Gen. CHARLES BOLTE. Towards the final phase of the series, 442 was the "red" force, and LtC. SHERWOOD DIXON led 3rd Bn. on an all-night, sleepless, forced march through streams, snakes, chiggers, etc. to get behind the "blue" force. At dawn he led the noisy "Banzai" charge down the hill to capture "blue" regimental CP with motor pool and embarrassed commander and his staff intact, and that commander was none other than LtC. ALFRED PURSALL! At 34th Division reunions, Gen. BOLTE often told stories of how 442 ran circles around his division. That all-night climb of 3000 ft. mountain to get behind the enemy at Gothic Line for a dawn pincer attack sure reminded me of DIXON and his all-night, forced march and "Banzai" charge.

We never got downtown, but had the big banquet at the greatly enlarged Univ. of Southern Mississippi. When SQUEAKY and I roamed around the then tiny campus, it was a small college with enrollment of only a few hundred. The coeds we talked to were more curious about us, the first Japanese they had laid eyes on, surprised that SQUEAKY was a fisheries grad and I was an almost grad.

...Wished more Hawaii Item could've come. You would've really enjoyed it! No kidding!

Best to ELLEN and Itemites,
VIC

Eddie Yamasaki

I spent a few days in Los Angeles on my way back from a sudden business trip to Florida (missed Hurricane Erin!) and had get-togethers with Southern Cal. I Company guys and gals. They all send Greetings to Itemites in Hawaii.

First had dinner with only EDDIE BOY YAMAGUCHI and TOMOKO, with others not being available due to short notice. Reminisced about our service years and our reunions in Tokyo while I was there. We agreed, repeatedly: we miss a lot of the really ono pupus and dishes served in even out-of-the-way, small, Japan restaurants - the freshness, the cooking, the delicate taste of fresh seafood, vegetables, herbs, etc., just not available in 'ol USA.

JIM YAMASHITA and MARIAN returned from a grand reunion of the extended YAMASHITA family (around 90 attended!), held over several days in Las Vegas. Just in time to return my please-call message left in his answer-phone.

He said let's have dinner together, along with FRED & BEA MATSUMURA and NOBO & ROSE IKUTA. To my surprise, a whole bunch turned up at the Ting Sing Restaurant in Gardena; besides the MATSUMURAS and IKUTAS with son CHRIS, TAK & MARY SENZAKI, RICHARD & SETS SHINTO, JIM & SAKI KAWAMINAMI, GEORGE & ESTHER BUTO, and TONI SAKAMOTO.

Before dinner started, it was "golf talk" with FRED paying off JIM a \$2 IOU; at the same time, both complained that TAK's iron shots were too

damn good.

Beautiful photo albums, with clippings and programs, of the Shelby Homecoming were brought along by GEORGE and NOBO, so I got a good review of all the ceremonies and festivities, including full VIP treatment that honored the 442nd RCT.

GEORGE talked about getting the "New York Times" reported to zero in on SADAICHI KUBOTA, only to find Grandpa SADAICHI and family featured with photo in a lengthy "Times" article on the Homecoming. BERT AKIYAMA, "appointed" Item correspondent by JIM YAMASHITA wrote up a fine one-page review of the historic event.

RICHARD SHINTO, as S. Cal. chapter president, reminded all of the regular meeting coming up on August 6.

Earlier that day, JIM had taken me on my first visit to the Japanese American National Museum to view "Witness: Our Brother's Keepers." It tells the story of Jewish-Americans and Japanese-Americans who suffered such severe discrimination before and during WWII, and who found a meeting ground at Dachau, where 522nd men "witnessed" the horrors of the Holocaust.

The graphic display tells a balanced, moving account of the losses, indignities and hardships suffered by Issei, Nisei, and Sansei in their removal from the West Coast and Sand Island and their incarceration in ten different "concentration camps."

The message came thru: "Never forget and never let it happen again."

Jim Yamashita

Dear BRUNO,

I Company Southern California lost another member, BILL TERAGAWA (HQ. Platoon). I have enclosed a program of his funeral services which were held last night. You can see by the cover he was an ardent fisherman. During season every Tuesday morning, his fishing club, S. Cal. Sporters, would have a fishing charter. Week ago Tuesday after bringing in two albacore, BILL had a fatal heart attack. He was 86 years old. At least he died doing what he liked to

do most.

BILL had been missing the chapter meetings lately, but, as if he came to say good-bye to the boys, he showed up this month. The meeting was held at the Japanese American National Museum so we went out for a bite at Oiwake restaurant in J Town nearby. He was looking good and the last words he said to me was, "JIM, you know when you are getting old - when you have to pass off (pole) when you get a hookup."

I Company is going to miss him. He furnished the sashimi we had at Las Vegas and was looking forward to get some again this year. At the earlier reunions, BILL was the one who arranged for fresh fruit, which he had trucked directly to the airport. Not only for I Company, he did for several of the other chapters too. He was the produce buyer for Pioneer Supermarket.

I notice he had signed up for Las Vegas this year. In a few days, I will call up JUNE to see if she still plans to go. I will let TERRY know if she wants to cancel out. I hear there is still a few on standby yet. I guess you heard SADA is taking her daughter MARGARET, so she did not cancel in spite of BILL's passing.

I guess in Hawaii you're having your 50th celebration on September 2nd. I am sending you details of our doings. It is too bad we did not know far enough in advance to tie it in with our mini-reunion. By their record, VIC & MICHI IZUI have already signed up to come. I notice KAREN is listed as one of the contacts for travel from Honolulu. If she has any "I" members booked, let me know as we have several tables reserved for us at the main dinner and the USO show.

BRUNO, keep up the good work. I know it was tough following MINO, but you are doing a good job in keeping up with the Item news.

Take care, be seeing you,
JIM



by HICHI MATSUMOTO

Get Together

At an earlier chapter meeting, our Great Leader CHARLEY IJIMA appointed by pointing finger at them, you (MILLIE HONDA), you (wife MARGIE), and you (JANET MATSUMOTO) going be in charge of the chapter's get together on Sunday, June 25, starting at 1100 hours at our clubhouse. CHARLEY's style very effective, he no ask, he tells. Ordering people around is right down his alley. Before retiring from the Honolulu Fire Department as Battalion Chief, he had ukupaila guys under his supervision.

So, just as instructed, you, you and you took care of everything...just about. They got the place, set up the program, hustled the food and running of da bingo games. WALTER MATSUMOTO volunteered his services to crank out the numbers. KIYO KIMURA, every now and then would slide his okole in and give with some of his latest jokes. Dis KIYO no yatsu yo, his reputation is such that get some wahines start laughing before he even opens his trap. Very reliable JOE SATO saw to it that the all important well didn't go dry.

Our G.L. got things underway by welcoming and thanking one and all in making time to come out and dat pau called on HENRY NAKAMA to bless the food which we were to partake. Arega sunde before turning over the remainder of the afternoon to him kara appoint sareta tri-chairwahines, he made it very clear to everybody that chapter meeting night is still the same—second Friday of the month at the clubhouse.

The popular bingo games which is a must nowadays wuz "juiced" like and couldn't have had a better way to start. The first two games were won by da ZENGAMIS, BARNEY & BERNICE. Da miyoji Eigo ni translate setara, paper money.

Had other two time winners from the same family too. Whatever cards were sold (\$1) to the members and wives plus money appropriated by the chapter's treasury comprised the prizes. Daibun atta but never enough to satisfy everybody. Noticed that, for some anyway, playing several cards is a thing of the past and mukashi no koto. Some of us yoyatto managed with uno solo. Had guys constantly calling for repeat the number again, please. Dem stink ear guys should clean out their mimikuso.

This get together smoked out more people than anticipated. The chapter being in a generous mood picked up the tab. People, we had 'em from A (ANDO) to Z (ZENIGAMI).

Can't recall when was the last time so many widows came out. They could be in da tsure and bin sae areba dete kuru group. Give LEATRICE NAKASHIGE a gentle pat on her bahine for being the day's chauffeur. LILY MURAKAMI must have enjoyed, the day not even over yet inquired: When the next one?

Many thanks to the numerous people that contributed pupus and the likes. Dunno who brought what because as they come, anybody shirazu ni go dump 'em on da pupu table. HELEN TAKANO contributed several pies, that we know because we picked her up.

Our Super-Seniors, GILBERT KOBATAKE, WALTER & HAZEL MATSUMOTO arrived at the clubhouse at the designated time but nobody around. Funny kind to omote HAZEL made some phone calls and learned that they were early by 24 hours. A day early is better than a day late anytime.

HOWARD HIRANO looking some good after undergoing major surgery recently. Food-wise he can eat just about anything. But beer which he kinda likes is taboo for the present time. He's slimmed down considerably to his pre-opu days. Hey, kangaete miruto, him and partner YUSO IWANE, da two guys dat went wow'em and knock'em dead with da hara odori dance at the 50th Anniversary Reunion chapter night. That was their first and last. Today, without even holding their breath, they can very easily slip into their old army uniforms.

Da akamai people that took advantage of the "free" ride: ELEANOR ANDO, TEIJI & MICHIKO CHINNA, TOMMY & EDTHYE HIRAO, HOWARD & APRIL HIRANO, MITS & MILLI HONDA, CHARLEY & MARGIE IJIMA, BOB ISHIKAWA, EDDIE & BETTY KANAYA, EDDIE & TSURU KAWAMOTO, MARY KAWAMOTO, KIYO KIMURA, GILBERT KOBATAKE HICHI & JANET MATSUMOTO, WALTER & HAZEL MATSUMOTO, GRACE MITSUKA, LILY MURAKAMI, HENRY NAKAMA, LEATRICE NAKASHIGE, MONTE & LILY OKAMOTO, BESSIE ONO, JOE & JANE SATO, HELEN TAKANO, PAUL & BETTY WATANABE, MASAO & YVONNE YAMASAKI, LILY YASUHARA and BARNEY & BERNICE ZENIGAMI.

Chapter Meeting— June

The feasting continues...with gusto. LILY OKAMOTO, all everything of the just pau 232nd Engrs/Band Chapter Reunion in Las Vegas is not home free yet but doing da atojima now. At this meeting night, she was busy distributing the pictures TOM MASAMORI took at the Reunion. The professional that he is, TOM made everybody not look only good but younger too. This jewel of a woman (LILY), she no sono mama pass out the pictures received from TOM to da shashin chumon seta people but took the time to identify and type the names of everybody in the group picture... aint she something.

"You know, I going start the meeting lilibit later than usual...let em (everybody) eat up first. That way no more too much monku when guys get their opu full." That words of wisdom was from our conscientious daitoryo.

Chapter Meeting — July

Toki doki dete kuru EDDIE KAMIKAWA showing up was a pleasant surprise. He telling of the unfortunate incident he encountered during the early days in Camp Shelby was something rarely experienced by anybody.

RODNEY YAMASHIRO was invited to participate as 442 representative in the Memorial Day service at Haleiwa. Been doing it for more than

a few year. Also had an invitation to Aiea's but shoganashi had to kotowaru. Cannot be at two different places at the same time.

Chapter Meeting — August

Chapter President CHARLEY IJIMA couldn't make it to the August Board of Directors Meeting, so instructed his VP KIYO KIMURA to take over and he couldn't make it either, Zannenna. So shikata nashi was forced to scrape the bottom of the barrel and came up with Da Inquisitive Reporter. Like they say, somebody/anybody is better than nobody any time.

Knowing our Taisho and Vice Taisho for some 50 years, give or take a couple, they not the type that would take advantage or pass da buck. . . . much.

The business portion of this meeting had a new twist, co-chairmen. The pinch hitter for the pinch hitter who attended the BOD meeting chaired the BOD meeting portion and CHARLEY "I," the chapter part. They konpande chaired and it worked out just fine.

The September 1-3, 50th Anniversary Celebration of the end of WWII was the evening's main topic. TED MATSUO (442 Exec. Board Member) was on hand to plug da pukas, answering any questions pertaining to the Sept. 2 parade. He is one of those members that does so much for da kurabu no tame His wife DOROTHY (author of Boyhood to War) tsurote kita.

Junior Engineer

WARREN HARUKI, president of GTE Hawaiian Telephone has been installed as chairman of the 4,000 member Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, a one year post.

The above article with a picture appeared in the Honolulu Star Bulletin. He is the son of BARBARA & ROSCOE (deceased) Haruki of Kapaa, Kauai.

Holo Holo Kaa — Panama Canal

Been sometime since the last cruise (to Alaska) went cruising again with our frequent traveling companions, YOSHIO & CLARA SHIBUYA of Fox Chapter. The complete package for dis

yukaina cruise, now nambo datta, anyway wuz so dazkine, no matter what, no can afford not to take advantage. Even da bimbonins the likes of us managed, somehow.

Flew non-stop to Chicago from Honolulu and on down to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where we boarded the Crystal Harmony (built by Nippon Yusen Kaisha. Her sister ship, Crystal Symphony will be making her maiden cruise anyday now or has already) that were gonna be our home for the next ten days and nights. Never occurred to us that Puerto Rico's time zone is one hour ahead of New York and our port of debarkation (end of our cruise) Acapulco is equivalent to our, now was it mountain or central time. Anyway, what's one hour, when you're retired.

Crystal Harmony, 241 meters long. According to our trusted soroban, it translates to 790.68 feet long. Like who da guy said: You kin look it up. A beautiful luxurious floating hotel with everything you want/need and other yura and mira never thought or imaginbe stuffs too. For instance, you like get away from the hustle and bustle of activities on deck, game rooms, lectures, etc., and take things easy like, no strain, go get a tape of your liking from the ship's film library, plug 'em to your TV and hitoride yukkurini you can watch 'em in your stateroom, the good kind TV (color), no roll, no flicker. For your convenience, ice box mo aru.

Food, mottainai, bambai bachi, boy. How wasteful. Meals, you can have it in the dining room or on deck, served boo-fay style. Or when you agu from the fancy not accustomed kine gourmet food, you can treat yourself to something more to your liking, go have dinner at the Kyoto Restaurant (Japanese food). Has an Italian Restaurant too. Kyoto Restaurant was very popular and had to make reservations at least 24 hours ahead. The nightly mid-night snack was 11:30 pm. When it's all paid for, somehow you manage to find space to store it.

Went ashore to shake off the sealegs at St. Thomas, St. Barts and Aruba to do some shopping at the tourists traps. Everywhere you go the same, the store keepers hustling for your money.

St. Thomas is a so-so town with the main drag running from here to there with several side streets, no more than a block or two long. With three cruise ships with counting ours making it four ships stopping there at the same time, the town was flooded with people, jamakure like arikos and everybody eager to spend, spend, spend. Aruba (15 miles from Venezuela) was a nice town of what we saw. Just a short walking distance from the pier...and what, the first thing that caught our eyes, had a McDonald and Burger King, sugu neki to one another, making you feel at home. St Barts wuz like Sitka, Alaska, had to ride a motor launch if you wanna go ashore.

The ship's guests (800 plus) men and women alike dressed casually during the day for breakfast and lunch. But for dinner, watch out, they no fool around, they duke'em up in their finest.

Coming from all parts of the world, the ship's top officers were all mixed up, racially that is, Da Hawaii guys would say chop suey mitaina. Our akamai kotonk aikane MAS SAKAGAMI of Seattle prefers, nishime. Get more ingredients gena. Had several Japanese officers from Japan and the highest ranking was the ship's executive officer. Waiters in the dining room, most of 'em were from Europe. Our table (sitting ten) alone had a Hungarian, Austrian and Slovak. Akamai guys, always greeting our group (all from Hawaii) with a cheerful Aloha and da shaka sign. Deck waiters and deck hands were Filipinos. Stateroom maids from Scandinavian countries. All of them very polite and helpful.

The popular and always crowded casino was operated by Caesar's Palace. Word wuz dat the machines wazatto were made looser than atarimae to lure the wanna be millionaires.

Dining (you don't say eat on board ship) one night at the popular Kyoto Restaurant, a young Japanese ship officer was invited to dinner by a Japanese millionaire and his wife from Japan, owner of a chain of hotels back home in the old country. Anyhow, when the officer arrived at the restaurant's front desk, he was greeted by, must be the maitre'd, a clean cut nice looking young haole guy. The way he went bow (da maitre'd

yo) was more Japanese than the Japanese officer, is exactly how Kiyō Kimura ga yuta toori ni. Stand at attention, bow from the waist with both arms at the side and both hands enryonashi ni grabbing a handful of your oshiri. Of da yarikata, da maitre'd, one could easily mistake him for a Nihonsodachi. Kiyō appears to be one carefree, nonkina, happy go lucky sonova gun and he is every bit so, but listening to him, you can pick up lotta tameni naru things. You know, he's been around.

Free golf clinic on deck, in the morning and afternoon by a professional by the name of something something. The name not ringing the bell, asked guys around: Ever heard of him...drew only blank stares. A patient and good listener, thought we picked up some much needed pointers but nani dokoroka, modotte go try, no can execute...what the use. "CHOW" SHIBUYA an avid golfer never miss one class, said something like: I think I get 'em now. Plays on the regular basis but never heard from him da game good ka. Like they say, Rome wasn't built in a day. For da wannabes with money to burn, the pro gave private lessons, he no yosha charging something like \$40 for half an hour...ouch. Like a typical pro, he talked a good game.

Panama Canal, 110'W x 1000'L, height of a lock gates, equal to a eight story building. Mention Panama Canal, ten of ten people asked, you get the same answer, an engineering feat. Completed in 1914. What boggles the mind, not much heavy equipment at that time plus all the Tarzan like time jungle, they had to contend with. The average time going through the canal from the Atlantic side to the Pacific side takes approximately nine hours. Need to pass through nine locks, four on the Atlantic side and two and three more on the Pacific side. Cost the Crystal Harmony ONLY \$82,000 to use it. Passenger ships get top priority and not first come first served. Took about ten years to build at the then mega mawaru yohna \$387 million. Manini compared to our 3-4 miles H-3 Freeway, \$1.3 billion and counting. On December 31, 1999, U.S. will transfer the canal to Panama. We never even scratch the surface. Go see for yourself, well

worth the money and time. A must for all engineers.

Visiting Acapulco, the very first stop is to see the world renown high cliff divers (one of their main attractions). The divers careers last for about ten years at the most. With the constant pounding they take with each dive/jump, the fingers, toes, etc. the numbness increases. The skull too. Probably the term, "numb skull" originated there. Man alive, just seeing them perched way up there make you halulu. There must be better ways to make a living.

You enjoy everything on a cruise. But what makes it all the better is once fune ni norikonde unpack, you no need to repack until the end, you ga fune kara oriru made.

When going shopping (actually being bag boy for da wife) at the countless tourist traps and da nodo kawaku too, for self preservation "forced" ourselves to have a few cold ones instead of their water, bambai pilikia.

Our flight arriving late PM at L.A., our last stop before heading for home from Acapulco, wuz on da tsukare and himojii side so went across the street from our hotel enjoyed a late snack at a Burger King. After days and nights of fancy kind food, da whopper went taste some good. But still yet, nanchu temo, ochazuke ni katen.

According to a recent survey by travel agencies, Crystal Harmony is the most popular and patronized cruise ship today.

Sick Call

BLANCHE KIMURA wasn't feeling up to par konaida so was hospitalized for several days at St. Francis Hospital. As of this writing she is home taking it easy. She has round the clock service/attention, not by a nurse but an oishasan, her husband who is a "T.V.doctor". Her kidneys are giving her bad time.

MORRIS "MO" MIYASATO has been steadily losing weight for a period of time so wanting peace of mind went for a checkup but the doctors couldn't find anything wrong. The way he feels, he no more the fight to play golf, which is very unlike him. He is a landmark at Leilehua Golf Course. He is taking good care of himself,

relaxing and resting at home. Get well real quick, "MO," for sure your Leilehua golf cronies must be aching to recoup some of their previous loses.

DOC KAWAMOTO had his koshi operated on. Was bothering him for sometime. Resting at home with the very best care a man possibly can get. For the time being, golfing got to be put on hold. On the good side, the operation won't hinder his karaoke singing because he has a studio of his own at home, built according to specifications, sound proof and all. For him sound proofing is a must, bambai neighbors going throw stone at his house...da kine booming voice he get.

All of you, sannin tomo yohjin sete neh.

A Memorial

EDMUND YUKIMASA EZUKA passed away July 5, 1995, after a lengthy illness. His beloved 232nd Engrs/Band members and many of the 442 boys he knew called him "EZOOK." His Navy Fire Department friends and fellow workers from which he retired from with the rank of captain, he was known as "ZEKE." Kid/growing up days in the McCully neighborhood, he went by "YUKIMA." Just a handful called him by his Christian name, EDMUND.

If our memory is still in tact, ED was an early draftee and already in the army stationed at Schofield Barracks when the 442 Regimental Combat Team was formed. He already was a non-com when he arrived at Camp Shelby with all the volunteers. He was made a squad leader and held the rank of sergeant, 2nd squad, 2nd platoon and the platoon leader was 1st Lt. GILBERT KOBATAKE. Today, of his squad boys, only GARY KAWATE is known to be around. His style was typical local. Never did let the three stripes go to his head. Never took advantage nor abuse the rank. He was an easy guy to get along with but very firm when need to be.

He not being the GI type, at times just for the heck of it and wanting to get his "goat," guys would call him Sgt. EZUKA, which didn't sit too well with him. In return he wouldn't say anything but giv'em the stink look.

Sgt. EZUKA probably had the toughest job of all the squad leaders in the company. His boys were more on the hyperactive side than the others. Sure, some times his mouth wuz on da pilau side and he was no slouch spitting out dem expletives. After all, he was a sergeant (and a darn good one) in the best #@\$& Army in the whole world.

Just two of the better known and well remembered incidents of just how kolohe his boys were: Incident #1: When da sashimi that was set aside for safekeeping by the cooks for the company's Aloha party (before breaking camp prior to heading for overseas) went mysteriously disappear from the mess hall. Case was never solved but fingers were pointing to you know where. Incident #2: When the shooting war was over in Italy and awaiting for further orders while stationed in Florence, a place called The Tobacco Factory, the long awaited beer ration was issued, everybody having their quota. Anyway, the following morning (after the usual all night beer bust), some of the 3rd platoon boys were overheard saying something like, "Eh, we never drink all the beer last night, how come no more nothing left." The 1st and 3rd platoon boys had similar style nothing wrong with leaving some for another time. The 2nd platoon boys, maybe no more tomorrow. Fingers again pointing in the same direction.

A pretty good way to describe his squad boys. When they fight (not among themselves but the enemy) they fight like hell. When they drink, until all gone. They were "Da Dirty Dozen," rough but lovable guys.

Holding a defensive position and taking it easy like in Southern France (during the Champagne Campaign) orders came from higher up to deactivate a minefield in the mountains back of Sospel. Then Sgt. TEDUYENO, Corporal FELIX MATSUMOTO and Sgt. ED EZUKA got the unpleasant assignment to do the dirty job, to deactivate the planted mines. Nearing completion of securing the minefield, something went haywire to cause several mines to blow up. TED and FELIX were fatally wounded. ED's life was spared. Many a time when reminiscing of that

unfortunate incident, ED would comment "Eh, I living on borrowed time, boy. He was the kind leader you trusted, had faith in and follow, no questions asked. He never babied anybody and treated everybody the same, the way he wanted people to treat him. Once said, probably the most scariest of his combat experience was riding on a tank going into battle. Clingin for dear old life on the outside, just like sitting ducks.

He was an active member of the 232nd Engr/Band Chapter. Was a past president and also served in other capacities, did a good job too. A regular guy, enjoyed having a few cold ones with the boys at chapter meetings, get togethers, 19th hole after a round of golf...good or bad. He enjoyed playing golf and more than held his own. Played regularly at Makalena Municipal Golf Course with pals BOB ISHIKAWA and YUTAKA MIYASHIRO (deceased). Playing in the 232nd Engrs. Golf Club Tournament, found himself in the same foursome with DOC KAWAMOTO. Scolded him, "You one eye doctor, eh, how come you hit somebody's ball."

He was a square shooter. Crossing him was no, no. It was a privilege to have known him and having him as a friend for so long. Remember, been over 50 years so details in some areas could be distorted.

Deepest sympathy to wife ETHEL and family.

A Memorial — MASARU KOTAKE

MASARU KOTAKE passed away on July 15, 1995. He suffered a massive heart attack on July 5th and passed away at the hospital ten days later without regaining consciousness. He was 72 years old. The heart attack was so severe, had he pulled through, he would have been a vegetable. In a way, it was a blessing in disguise. He was in the 1st Platoon and the platoon leader was 1st Lt. WALTER MATSUMOTO he worked and retired from the city government...a draftsman in the sewer department.

We remember him as a quiet, reserved but very alert person. Not a holler type wanting attention but kept a low profile and preferred to remain in the background.

He was one of the boys that took advantage of accepting MACK NOGAKI's of Seattle invitation to go claming at Bainbridge Island, during the 1964 Reunion.

Probably the last time we met up with him was by accident, at Sea World in San Diego. Seated in the bleachers watching, Shamo The Whole show, felt a tap on the shoulder, turned and looked, was him. He wasn't too much into the chapter's doings.

Deepest sympathy to wife GLADYS and family.

Condolence

MINNIE, beloved wife of YUSO IWANE, passed away August 19, 1995 after a prolonged illness. Besides husband YUSO, she is survived by two sons GLENN and PATRICK and a daughter, DEBBIE. All three of them good kids. And five grandchildren, all boys.

MINNIE, like YUSO, was born and grew up on the Island of Kauai. Was on the quiet side but could mingle with ease in any crowd. Attended functions, Chapter/Mother Club regularly.

Deepest sympathy to YUSO and family.



by HENRY KUNIYUKI

Noted author PEARL BUCK once quoted: "The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible - and achieve it, generation after generation." This quotation personifies the family of our permanent Chapter Secretary, TAKAMORI and KIKUYE MIYAGI. The Livorno Livenews again features TAKA's family with much emphasis on his only son's accomplishments.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team's legacy is in the hands of our Sons & Daughters Chap-

ter. With prospective member MICHAEL TAKAO MIYAGI available to carry on their legacy, the older 442nd generation need not worry. MICHAEL is well established as a professional electrician employed by the City and County of Honolulu's Building Department since 1979. Prior to his City employment, MICHAEL was with Wasa Electric for a period of six and a half years. MICHAEL married DEBORAH KWAI YOON LUM on September 2, 1978. Livorno Chapter members were invited to MICHAEL and DEBBIE's beautiful wedding ceremony held at Nuuanu Congregational Church. Their gala reception was held at the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Currently, they are the proud parents of BRANDON MORIO, age 16; JODIE MEI LIN MARI, age 13; and RYAN MICHAEL KIKUYO, age 7. DEBORAH, as reported previously, is employed as an executive secretary by the Campbell Estates. Since the four bedroom fee-simple home they purchased in 1979 is located at the Waipahu Estates, DEBBIE need not commute a too far distance to her employment at Kapolei where the Campbell Estate headquarters is now situated. BRANDON is a smart, three-point average junior at Maryknoll High. His sister JODIE is a seventh grader at the UH Lab School. Their youngest son RYAN is a second grader at Kapolei Elementary. BRANDON's strict parents have told him that he must maintain his three point or better average grade in order to be permitted to have a driver's license. BRANDON has been doing community service every Sunday morning hours as a student volunteer at Queens Medical Center. Having served thereat for quite sometime, BRANDON is supervising older volunteers. He also assists his dad who does electrical work for friends on weekends. Having had the pleasure of MICHAEL doing electrical repair work at the Chapter reporter's home, his electrical expertise is highly recommended. Ambitious MICHAEL, as a weekend electrical contractor, should be able to pay off his home mortgage before too long. MICHAEL and DEBBIE took their youngsters on a dream vacation trip to Disney World for one week, followed

by a historical visit to Washington D.C. for another seven days. DEBBIE's parents, MR. & MRS. NORMAN LUM accompanied them on this memorable trip this past June. DEBBIE's dad, NORMAN LUM retired as a machinist from Pearl Harbor Shipyard, and thereafter was employed as a Road Planner at the City & County of Honolulu's Public Works Department.

To refresh you all regarding TAKAMORI and KIKUYE, both are now happily retired and busy looking after their three grandchildren. Since their older grandchildren BRANDON and JODIE attend schools in Honolulu, they arrive early at their home to nap and partake in breakfast before busing to their respective schools. TAKA has been helping our 442nd Veterans Club doing touch-up painting at the request of our House Rules and Management Committee and the Sons and Daughter's Archives and Learning Center. A replacement trooper assigned to Charlie Company, he extended his service by one year after cessation of hostilities in Europe. His re-enlistment was rewarded with a pass to both Rome and Switzerland. Prior to the 442nd Regimental Colors return to Hawaii, TAKA was shipped home to Schofield Barracks and assigned to an AA outfit thereat on February of 1946. He ended his Army career after guarding Japanese prisoners of war, about 5000 strong, at a location which is now the Kalihi Shopping Center. After his honorable discharge from the Army, TAKA settled down with KIKUYE KANESHIRO on March 25, 1950. Prior to World War II he served as a deckhand on the Inter Island steamers. When the war started, having Coast Guard papers he volunteered to serve in the Navy without success. He also tried to volunteer for the 442nd when the call for volunteers was announced but was turned down due to his Merchant Marine's 3-A draft classification. He resumed his Merchant Marine career as his discharge and marriage. He was employed as a kitchen helper aboard the American President Line ships, the General Gordon, President Wilson, and President Cleveland. He thoroughly enjoyed 17 trips to the Far East. TAKA ended his

career as a maintenance painter for the Sheraton Hotel's Pacific Division after 21 faithful employment. He and his family are entitled to a lifetime benefit of complimentary rooms at the Sheraton chain of hotels. KIKUYE retired after 12 years as a manager of the Seaview Apartments, owned at that time by Chapter member, MORIO MORI. Since their retirement, the TAKAMORIS have been traveling extensively. Livorno Chapter appreciates TAKA's faithful service as our "Executive Secretary!"

Arrivadeci!



by **HAROLD FUKUNAGA**

The writer was fortunate in receiving two write-ups from FRED IDA and MARY KARATSU (Los Angeles), thereby making it easier for himself. Many thanks to both of them.

Fred Ida's account

The Reunion and Homecoming at Camp Shelby is a fond memory for the 375 attendees, majority of whom were from the Mainland. Unofficially, I estimate about 75 were from Hawaii.

Since DOLORES had never visited New Orleans, we arrived at the Headquarters Hotel, the Monteleone, situated in the center of the French Quarters, four days ahead of the group. We went the whole tourist route by going on tours to the Audubon Zoo, the impressive Aquarium of the Americas, ferry rides, casinos and even toured the swamps.

New Orleans' French Quarters changed very little over the years, because city ordinances prohibit changing the fronts of shops. I searched for the Puppy House, which we patronized during the war, but my efforts were in vain.

On June 15, all of the attendees began to arrive and each group was greeted by four employees of the Hattiesburg Convention and

Visitors Bureau and they stayed with us throughout our entire stay. The lobby of the Monteleone was full of veterans and families, prompting a hotel guest to ask, "Are you all related?"

June 16 saw the group board nine buses and the caravan proceeded north to Gulfport, where we lunched as guests of the Grand Casino. For the next 1 hour and 20 minutes ride to Hattiesburg, we were escorted by the State Highway patrol and the Gulfport Police. This meant that we were going through red lights at intersections and causing traffic jams all along the way.

G Co. all rode on Bus No. 2 and were assigned to stay at the Cabot Lodge in Hattiesburg, which turned out to be the best of the 4 motels situated in the same area.

All of the programs for the 2 days went right on schedule. We were served lunches on both days in a big tent in the vicinity of most of the activities. The food was prepared by the GI's and both lunches were the same—same salad, same fried chicken and same dessert. Many of us felt for sure that we were being served left overs.

As usual, our own Senator DAN INOUE did us proud and so did other Nisei appearing on several programs. They are: HERBERT SASAKI, general chairman and brother of HARRY, a G Co. vet, Lt. Gen. (R) ALLEN ONO of American Savings Bank fame, Major Gen. (R) JAMES MUKOYAMA, Jr., and of course, ROBERT KATAYAMA, representing us "buddhaheads." Not to be overlooked is JIMMY MAKINO of G Co, who was recognized as a member of the Committee. HENRY YOSHITAKE represented the California and mainland contingent.

Months before this Homecoming, there was some talk of either President CLINTON or VP Gore or Chief of Staff may be in attendance but none showed. Instead, we had the 111th Army Band, Hawaii National Guard perform at all of the programs. They did a wonderful job. There were also a whole bunch of TV people covering the festivities. YUKIO OKAMOTO was one of the many interviewed on CNN.

DOLORES and I hired a cab to take a look see

at old Hattiesburg. We found it a ghost town, with all of the town and business moved to the highway, which by-passed the town. We couldn't even find the old bus station or the White Kitchen restaurant.

G Co. people attending were: MARGURITE & RAY SAKIGUCHI, DOROTHY SUGIURA, MARYCHIKUMA, MAETAKAMURA and FUJIO TASHIRO, all from Denver; FRANK & DOT KURODA, Detroit; STAN SERIKAKU, Chicago; YUKIO OKAMOTO, San Jose', TED TAKENAKA, Reno; MINOR & LILY MIYASAKI, Richmond, Ca.; JIMMY MAKINO and LARRY & GLADYS GIMA, L. A.; SAM & MARY OGAWA, Paul, Idaho; and FRED & DOLORES IDA.

The festivities finally came to an end with a memorial service on Memorial Lane in Shelby, where the 442 monument stands—only vivid memories remain of a wonderful few days spent at Shelby as we boarded our respective busses to go our own way, as we vowed to some day return where they made us feel as heroes and Southern Hospitality abound.

The attendees list included SAM OGAWA and LARRY GIMA. Here are thumbnail sketches of them.

SAM is a retired farmer, residing in Paul, Idaho. He used to grow wheat, beets and of course, potatoes. He sold his farm, except for his home and now lives a life of leisure. Not long ago, he had a knee replacement and is just now acclimating to his new knee. He sends his regards.

LARRY GIMA is a Kahaluu boy (same as STAN SERIKAKU). He was a contractor here but moved to LA and went into the produce business. He retired 10 years ago—most of us really don't remember him, because he joined G Co. during the last push in the Massa area.

A Bombshell—We were told by HERB SASAKI that Capt. VOWELL has lived in Hattiesburg for 50 years. He is completely deaf and lives with his son. We understood that he was in Shelby on the Saturday we were there. Some of us thought we should pay a courtesy call, but there were some emphatic NO's, so we just let it be.

BILL & MARGARET YOKOCHI relocated in

May to Whittier, Ca., where their daughter JAN and family resides.

Most of the Hawaii attendees of Shelby ended up in Vegas. The Four Queens Hotel looked like a 442 Reunion. I need to report that on the 23rd Keno game on a set of 25, DOLORES hit the jackpot, by using her birthdate and our anniversary. Let's just say that the pay-off was big enough that we had to sign a W12 for the IRS. Since she hit it early, we spent much time at the Factory Outlets, Meadow Mall and Boulevard Mall.

There are a number of C Chapter members that may be seen at Kahala Mall. On Monday, July 17, we almost had a quorum.

We all had coffee, hosted by SHIGEMI, a big winner at the last G Co. poker game. Present were: BOBBY MIYATA, HENRY HORI, SPEED TANNA, TAKETO KAWABATA, SHIGEMI ISHIZAKI and Fred IDA. Occasionally, RAY HANDA and TAKESHI ONUMA roam the hallways of the mall.

FRED IDA tagged along with TAKESHI ONUMA on his annual fishing trip to the Shelter Lodge, 20 minutes by boat from Juneau. Big Kings, Silvers and Pinks and huge Halibuts were caught. SPEED made room in his freezer for part of the catch, but is still waiting. Is he waiting for ONUMA or FRED?

It was the hottest day in Chicago and many elderly were dying, but ROCKY MATAYOSHI, STAN SERIKAKU and FRED IDA met and had dinner at the Far Eastern Restaurant on Diversey St. The highlight of this dinner was ROCKY pulling out of a cooler—three heads of lettuce, broccoli, one cucumber and one zucchini; all homegrown. He could be called the HENRY HORI of Chicago. HENRY is G Chapter's best farmer who grows everything in his backyard.

FRED IDA reported at the annual meeting that a proposed European Tour is being developed, whereby the places where G. Co. went will be visited. It's planned for next fall.

Mary Karatsu

On July 2nd, G Co. met at Paul's Kitchen in

Monterey Park for lunch and then adjourned to the FUKUZAWA's home for the meeting. Those in attendance were: TETS & DOROTHY ASATO, BONES & SHIZ FUJIMOTO, JUNE & DOREEN FUKUZAWA, TAKI HANDA, TOSH ITO, GEORGE & MARY KARATSU, MARY KAWABATA and sister SUE NISHINAKA, ROY & FUMI MACHIDA, JIM & MASAYO MAKINO, DOROTHY NAKAGAWA (JIM had minor surgery), TOM & SACHI NAKAMOTO, GEORGE & MARY NAKATSU, EDDIE & MARIE OTSUKA, and KAY SEKINO.

We welcomed LARRY & GLADYS GIMA who attended their first meeting—apparently they have lived in the area for some time and they happened to meet the MAKINOS at church and JIM persuaded them to attend. Poor GLADYS was royally welcomed—she got stuck in the bathroom and it required our engineers to figure how to get the door unlocked (such an initiation!).

We understand that FRANK & DOROTHY KURODA from Michigan were in town recently, as well as HIRO TANAKA from Chicago. We ran into the SAKAGUCHIS from Denver at the Japanese American National Museum several months ago—it's always good to see familiar faces.

Members were reminded that the Association Annual Dinner Meeting will be on Sept. 9th at the 442 Hall, and that our annual Vegas junket is set for October 13-15. Looking ahead - the mini-reunion with the Hawaii "G" group is scheduled for March 22, 1996 at the Fremont in Vegas.

On a sad note, we were sorry to hear of the recent passing of KOYA KURIHARA, who lived in Long Beach.

Wartime Experiences of Ralph Yempuku

RALPH went into the Army about 2 or 3 months later than the rest of the guys who volunteered and were sent to Camp Shelby in April 1943. According to RALPH, he volunteered at the same time, but was rejected because of an old knee injury. He enlisted the help of his friend, Capt. JACK BURNS of the Honolulu Police Dept., to convince the Army that he was okay, in spite of his old knee injury. He was given a

chance to train with an Army Ranger group in Schofield. Fortunately, the person in charge of this group was a friend of his. After he cleared this test, the Colonel in charge asked him to pass another test. He was told to stand on desktop and jump from it to the floor, which he did without any problem. He was approved to enlist into the Army.

When he arrived in Camp Shelby, the rest of the guys were already in basic training. He was assigned as a platoon leader of 2nd platoon in G Co. Because he received his commission through the Univ. of Hawaii ROTC program, he was rusty. He needed to train the recruits in various phases of military training, so he needed to study the Army Manual the night before in order to do a decent job. He stayed up into the wee hours of the morning every day in order to be ready to instruct the recruits the next day. He memorized sections of the manual each night.

He remembers an incident while they were out in the field. After a long hike of about 10 miles, he saw two guys by the pup tent that they shared. He told them how tired he was after the long hike, because he was much older than the recruits. The two guys, whose names were MURAKAMI and SHIDAKI, told him that they were much older than him, so RALPH had to shut up and realize that there were some guys much older than him. These two were in their 30's, while others were in 20's or late teens.

Because a number of Nisei officers came into the service through the ROTC program, they had to go through a refresher course at Ft. Benning, Georgia after the basic training. RALPH was in this group and the program was called the Officer Training School, as contrasted with the Officer Candidate School, which is made up of enlisted personnel, who are trying to become officers. Because he had memorized the contents of the Army Manual, RALPH breezed through this training.

At Benning, he was approached by an elderly and distinguished person from Washington, D.C. His name was Dr. BUCHANAN. He reviewed the Nisei officers' files and asked them if they would like to volunteer for an important mission.

After checking out his fellow Nisei officers at the school, RALPH decided to volunteer. They found out that organization was the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which needed military personnel who knew the Japanese language. He was conditionally accepted, subject to a background clearance. RALPH and the others returned to 442 after the training. After a brief time, they were notified that they were accepted and were given orders to join the OSS. The other Nisei officers accepted were CHIYOKI IKEDA, JUNICHI BUTO and RICHARD BETSUI. Some 442 enlisted personnel were also accepted. At this point, their names were changed. RALPH was Lt. TSU, IKEDA was Lt. CHICK, BUTO was Lt. JUN, and BETSUI was Lt. DICK.

They went through rigorous training at Camp Savage, Minnesota on Japanese language, customs, history and geography in classes which lasted over 10 hours per day. RALPH said that after he finished the course, he could give you the name of each prefecture and their capital and geographical landmarks. They were trained for an eventual parachute drop into Japan and setting up anti-government guerrilla operations. Their training also included knowing how to operate the radio, how to assemble the parts and disassemble them, so that they could use the radio for clandestine purposes. They were also sent to Catalina Island for close combat training for about 4 weeks. This training also included conditioning through climbing up the mountains, and survival training which required them to go for days without food or water.

After that training, they were considered fit for action. They were placed aboard a train and sent to Miami, Florida. They were not allowed to get off the train at any of the stops on the way to Miami since their organization was such a hush hush group.

They were placed on a plane at Miami and flew East, stopping at the Azores, Casablanca and other places before arriving in New Delhi, India, where the OSS was headquartered. They were split up there and RALPH and four enlisted personnel were assigned to Burma, while IKEDA and a few enlisted personnel were assigned to

China. BUTO and BETSUI were kept at the headquarters in New Delhi.

RALPH was assigned to a battalion of Kachin guerrilla troops in Burma operating deep behind enemy lines. The battalion size was only about 150 men, as contrasted to a much larger number in the U.S. Army. There were about half a dozen CIs assigned to each battalion. These Kachins were fierce tribesmen located in the Northern Highlands of Burma. The Japanese had infiltrated parts of their territory and tortured and beaten the men folks and raped the women in their conquest. Many of the Kachins were killed so they nurtured a very deep hatred for the Japanese.

RALPH explained that North Burma is one big impenetrable jungle and the whole operating areas were dense, with no roads, only trails. As a result, whoever controlled the trails, controlled the villages and the area. Their mission was to gather intelligence and harass and attack the Japanese forces from the rear. The Kachins were used to ambush the Japanese troops on the trails and villages. The Burma Road, which was used to transport men and supplies from China to Burma, was ambushed by Kachins quite regularly and extensively.

The American commander of the battalion that RALPH was in was not too confident that the Kachins would not accidentally shoot RALPH by mistake, thinking that he was a Japanese officer. Therefore, the whole battalion was assembled in formation and RALPH was paraded along with him and it was made sure the every Kachin recognized RALPH as an American officer. In addition to that lineup, the CO told RALPH to make sure that he was with Americans at all times.

The OSS had the idea that they needed Japanese interpreters in Burma, because the Japanese prisoners-of-war could be interrogated but RALPH said that very few prisoners were captured, because the Japanese soldiers were expected to die, if they were not victorious. They were not expected to surrender, because this would bring shame to their family and country. Instead, they should kill themselves, before sur-

rendering. RALPH interrogated four or five prisoners, who were too sick or injured to retreat. The number of Japanese prisoners who surrendered were very few.

RALPH came across a number of "comfort" women who were used by the Japanese troops for sex purposes. Some of them were Koreans and some were Burmese. They were housed in a building which identified itself. Signs were posted on the building that privates were given a certain time of the day, while the non-coms had another time and the officers another time. The reason these women were captured by the Kachins was because the Japanese troops, in their retreat, could not take them along.

After the Japanese retreated and evacuated Burma, the Kachin guerrilla troops were disbanded. About then, there was a rumor that 5,000 Japanese troops were in a certain valley and were ready to surrender. RALPH questioned the report because that many Japanese troops would never surrender while the war was on. Headquarters checked the report and lowered the head count, but wanted RALPH to parachute into that valley and convince the Japanese to surrender. He was reluctant to go, but figured that orders were orders. Before he was ready to proceed, headquarters decided that the rumor was false, so they canceled RALPH's parachute jump into the valley.

His next assignment was China. They had a convoy of vehicles and RALPH drove a jeep. It took them about 10 days to reach their destination, Kungming. They had to post perimeter guards every night to prevent the Chinese troops (our allies) from stealing our supplies and equipment. At Kungming, OSS had a jump school and they all started taking jump training. They also started taking lessons in Mandarin language.

In early August, Japan surrendered. Higher headquarters reported that there were a number of prisoner of war camps scattered in China and nearby. They were concerned that the communication about the end of the war would not be received by some of these installations so they requested volunteers to parachute into these areas and inform the Japanese about the

Emperor's capitulation. RALPH volunteered and he was assigned to parachute into the area near a POW camp on Hainan Island, near Hong Kong. RALPH and a group of about eight others parachuted on Hainan Island. Fortunately, the Japanese were aware of their surrender and the end of the war.

This POW camp was mostly occupied by Dutch and Australian troops. RALPH was shocked at the condition of these prisoners. They were all skin and bones and resembled the Jews from Dachau.

Their conditions were so bad, that some died every day that RALPH was there. Prisoners built small rat traps, so that they could eat the rats if they could catch them. Most of the prisoners were tortured, beaten, and starved. More than half of the POW's died in the prison camp. Until today the Japanese will not admit to the atrocities committed by their troops during W.W.II.

British warships came and evacuated the POW's. RALPH got on a British warship and went to Hong Kong. While there he witnessed the surrender ceremony. He recalls that this took place at the Peninsular Hotel and he watched the ceremony from the verandah of the hotel. The interpreter for the Japanese General, unbeknownst to RALPH, was his brother DONALD. DONALD saw RALPH looking down at them, but didn't say anything because he didn't want to embarrass RALPH.

After the incident in Hong Kong, RALPH and his group returned to Kungming, where he met a Nisei friend who was assigned as an interpreter to the British army. He had interrogated Japanese POW's in a camp just outside of Hong Kong. He asked RALPH if he had a brother. RALPH said he had a brother in the Japanese army. This interpreter told him that he saw a person in the POW camp who looked just like RALPH. At first, he didn't want to approach him because he thought that RALPH was engaged in some undercover mission. But the curiosity got the better of him so he asked the prisoner if he had a brother named RALPH, to which he replied, "Yes, I saw him the other day in Hong

Kong. "

RALPH then went to Shanghai, where one of the OSS headquarters were located. He wanted to go to Japan to look for his parents, who were supposed to be living near Hiroshima. He was told that if he extended his tour of duty for one year, they could send him to Japan and be assigned to the CIC (Counter Intelligence Corp.). So RALPH extended his duty and was sent to Japan. His search for his parents took him to Hiroshima, where he saw the devastation from the atomic bomb. He finally located his parents on an island off Miyajima. He saw his younger brother, PAUL, who was too young to be inducted into the Japanese army. PAUL is now the Publisher of Hawaii Hochi and Hawaii Herald in Honolulu. RALPH had three other brothers, who were conscripted into the Japanese army. They were not back from wherever they were operating while in the army. Several years later, RALPH found out that they returned to Japan from POW camps in China and Manchuria. His parents told RALPH that they thought he was dead, because the Japanese propaganda news reports stated that all of the Japanese Americans were used as cannon fodder, by having them precede any American attack, so that the casualty rate for the American troops would be reduced substantially. Another propaganda story told of a shoe falling out of a B-29 bomber passing over Japan with a note saying that Nisei were being treated very badly, and the person wanted the Japanese people to know about these cruel treatments of the Nisei.

RALPH remembers one assignment in the CIC while in Japan. He was sent to Kyushu to check the mountains in the region. He found a huge number of "Baka Bombs" positioned in the mountains defending Japan against the anticipated American invasion of Japan through Kyushu. They had many caves dug into the mountains with ammunitions, weapons, and equipment. After seeing all of these invasion defense preparation, RALPH felt that the American forces would have suffered disastrous casualties if the invasion had been launched, because he knew how the Japanese fought and

that they were willing to be killed to protect their country and the Emperor. He speculated that about 500,000 Americans might have been killed in the invasion, based on the way the Japanese fought in Okinawa. They would have preferred to be killed instead of surrendering. In turn, if the invasion had been launched, he estimated that about a million Japanese soldiers and civilians would have been killed. With that kind of casualty rates anticipated, he stated that the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justified, in jolting the Emperor and military higher ups that it was useless to prolong the war. He realizes that the number of casualties from the bombs was very high, but the alternative would have been much worse and disastrous.

RALPH finally served his year in Japan and returned to Hawaii and was discharged here. He explained the reason for his family being in Japan while he remained in Hawaii. They had lived in Kahuku, where his father was a Buddhist minister and Japanese school principal, while his mother was a Japanese school teacher. His father suffered a stroke but recovered. About that time, in the early thirties, the Japanese army was fighting against China and talking about the Co-prosperity Sphere of Asia. This cloak was being used as an excuse to invade Southeast Asia for raw materials, especially oil.

RALPH's father decided that he wanted to take his family back to Japan. RALPH told him that he preferred to remain in Hawaii and continue his college education so the rest of the family left for Japan while RALPH remained in Hawaii. He was able to work odd jobs and finish college. After his graduation from the University of Hawaii, he remained at the UH as an instructor in physical education and Assistant Graduate Manager. He also was in the ROTC program for four years, so that when he graduated, he received his commission as a 2nd Lt.

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and started World War II, RALPH joined the Hawaii Territorial Guard and then the Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV). But this is another story.



by Allen M. Nakamura

In an effort to comply with Editor ED GOTO's "Don't go overboard," I thought deeply of cutting short YOSHIJI AOKI's lengthy personal Camp Shelby journey, but after reflecting on the time and effort that he had put in to the article, I refrained from doing so. For different reasons, the article "Humanity in Action," a masterpiece by Dr. KENNETH INADA, a Distinguished Service Professor, the highest recognition awarded in the state of New York University System, is submitted for this issue because of the nature of the subject. Dr. INADA is a former resident of Hawaii now living in Buffalo, New York.

The articles on the 4th of July Parade, the Care Free Evening at Natsunoya Teahouse and other chapter activities will be in the next issue to hold in line with editor GOTO's message.

Humanity in Action

by KENNETH INADA, Ph. D

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the end of W.W.II brings back long forgotten/suppressed memories of our experiences and exploits in our tender years which are both bitter and sweet. The brutality, cruelty and senselessness of a war have well been documented by the media and in various writings and photographs, perhaps by now an overkill of a sort.

My first taste (or sight) of battle came while walking in single-file column on the road to Bruyeres. Near the town, I saw a pale hand, elbow down, lying on the roadside like a broken piece of a vase. It was obviously the result of a direct hit by an artillery shell or a barrage of shells and I momentarily cringed and wondered what happened to the rest of the body. As the battle progressed, I would subsequently encounter more gruesome scenes, especially during the nightmarish yard-by-yard struggle to

rescue the lost battalion of the Texas 36th Division.

My particular story on humanity in action is focused on the activities after Bruyeres was liberated and we advanced on the left side of the town, clearing machine gun nests and bunkers along the way. I still remember seeing the landmark water tower on the high hill to the right. We advanced steadily and came to the edge of the rather thin forest and overlooking a green ravine where a single track rail ran from left to right, passing near a clump of farm houses. We learned later that the houses were used by the Germans as unit headquarters. We dug our foxholes quietly since the Germans were not aware of our presence.

The next morning was a beautiful Sunday, the sun out and the verdant Vosges Mountains displaying its best in the cool Autumn setting. Then suddenly from the left we heard a bouncy whistling of a song. Someone passed on the word that it is coming from a young German soldier on a bicycle, pouch slung across his shoulders together with his rifle, and riding leisurely in the middle of the track. He was apparently conveying a message to the headquarters in the farm houses. There were at least two platoons of us at the edge of the forest facing the tracks barely 50 yards away. He would likely be a clay pigeon. Someone offered, "Let's get him when he's right in front of us." To which the platoon sergeant, I believe, added, "Wait until I give the signal." We waited with rifles at the ready and within seconds the command came, "Fire!" As expected, all hell broke loose with a thunderous volume of fire. I pressed my trigger but my eyes were riveted on the German. He got off the bike, flung it away with his rifle and took off toward the farm houses like a scared jackrabbit and to safety.

We all burst out in laughter. None of us had any serious thought about gunning him down in cold blood. Perhaps, another situation may have prompted us to take yet another more brutal action but this time we had not the slightest thought of harming him. Our shots were all around him, not at him. A big bang, to be sure,

but a hollow one. I felt good inside for sparing this soldier and so did everyone else, I'm sure.

After this incident, it seemed that the enemy was on the run. Our artillery began to shell at will on the dense mountain forest across the tracks. The firepower was awesome. After a day or so, we could easily see the bald areas of the mountain where the huge trees had toppled in pronounced ways. As there were signs that the enemy was in full retreat, we were signaled to cross the tracks in pursuit. As we entered the forest, we immediately came under heavy fire from the well-hidden machine gun positions. Our squad concentrated on one of them half-way up the hill. We succeeded in routing the occupants who fled up and over the hill, except for a wounded soldier still in the bunker. Meanwhile, the squad was within 10 yards of the dugout and ready for the final assault, but the wounded soldier began to cry for help in German, his voice revealing excruciating pain. Within seconds, a huge German sergeant appeared from the hilltop clearance and ran and jumped into the dugout. He immediately lifted the wounded buddy on his back, piggyback, and went up the hill, step by step, and disappeared over the hill. We were all lying flat on the ground, trigger at the ready, and observed an uncommon scene. None in the squad had the heart to destroy an easy moving target. The piggyback trudge up the hill took several minutes but it felt like eternity. I looked at my buddies on both sides and we were engrossed in mere silence, a silence with complete understanding of the human situation. Like gallant samurais imbued with bushido, we could not strike an enemy in the back. Could it be that we were trained to fight a thousand battles but still held in reservation an expression for that one finest rare moment? I often wondered about the nascent power we possess.

These two events, only days apart, have haunted me throughout my life. This is the first time I have written about them. Some who were witness to them or to similar incidents in other occasions, will undoubtedly recall with anxiety that such things do happen despite the ugly

downside of the war. For me, there are also the upside of the war, the experiences that make you become a real human being. These experiences I do relish and think that they are the foundations for human relationship that crosses cultural differences of whatever kind. The war matured us in unexpected ways, nourishing us in richer and profound ways, but we have been notoriously reticent, not speaking out like veterans all over the world. But the silence too is a matured one that adds character to any culture.

Camp Shelby Homecoming Reunion by YOSHIJI AOKI

Though we knew that the response to the Camp Shelby journey will be almost nil from Hawaii, BETTY and I decided early on that we'll be going. BETTY's brother was in Company F of the 442nd, and he probably was the first casualty of his company as they were moving up to occupy Sassetta and Suvereto on our right flank, as you guys may recall. Curiously, I was wounded on the same day.

Anyway, BETTY's brother SATORU had written that his days at Camp Shelby were very happy. Coming from a small plantation town on Kauai, he was overwhelmed with the friends he made and the goodwill of several families in Hattiesburg. BETTY wanted to make a sort of pilgrimage to honor the memory of her brother, and I was touched by her feelings. Also, since we hadn't been to Disney World, we figured this would be a good chance since we probably won't be going that way again.

Sometime prior to leaving, JUN YAMAMOTO wrote to ask if I could get 2 leis for friends from France who would be attending, enclosing a check. I mention this because his gesture turned out to be a most moving one, as it turned out. I made arrangements with a neighbor who owns a flower shop, and she suggested a certain type of dendrobium lei, with specific instructions on how to keep it fresh during the night. JUN explained that he couldn't go as he was heavily involved in the Los Angeles Museum Reunion in November, where they expect at least 3,000

participants. That, plus the fact that there was the Bruyeres Reunion, undoubtedly cut down on the Camp Shelby attendance, which eventually topped off at 370, with very few from Hawaii.

To get along with this thing—the leis—on our first morning in New Orleans, while having breakfast, BETTY said that the couple at the adjoining table looked French, and the man looked kind of familiar. By incredible coincidence, these were the people the leis were for. The woman was MONIQUE CARLESSO from Paris, and she was accompanied by PIERRE MOULIN of Bruyeres. You guys with good memories may remember PIERRE, who remembered every detail of his reunion in Hawaii and especially his being a guest of Company L at Natsunoya Teahouse. In fact, they asked specifically to be included with the Company L contingent, figuring they'll be more of us going.

The leis were duly draped, Hawaiian-style of course, and for the rest of the Homecoming, for every occasion, day and night, they wore their leis. They were even wearing their leis when we said good-bye. Curiously, they were the only ones with leis until the very end of the Homecoming. At the very end, leis from Hawaii were presented to all the dignitaries, which they wore for all of 5 minutes. Personally, I didn't think that was very good timing. MONIQUE will be coming to Hawaii in August, and she has our phone number, but I'm wondering how we're going to communicate because PIERRE was the interpreter at Camp Shelby.

Another chance encounter happened on a stopover at the Dallas-Worth Airport. Because of an unscheduled stopover in Los Angeles, we had a rather lengthy wait at Dallas. We started talking to a couple seated next to us from Kula, Maui who was traveling with the small Maui group. They knew every L member on Maui that I mentioned, so we already had instant rapport. Talking about church and other things, they had even come across a stalled Rev. HIRO HIGUCHI on the slopes of Haleakala with a group of our youth from the church, and this couple, HIROSHI & EDNA ARISUMI, took them back to Kahului so they can make arrangements for their stalled

vehicle. They also met BEN & GLORIA TAMASHIRO of "Harry and Myra" fame while doing a play on Maui and got to know them. The TAMASHIROS are our neighbors! About that time, I figured God must have some kind of hand in this, so I asked about their plans after the homecoming. Without giving you 3 guesses, they were also going to Disney World! It later developed that we were the only couples going to Orlando and we're staying at the same resort hotel yet! So before Homecoming had started, good things had already happened.

Now, what was this article supposed to be about? Well, the first day was spent in New Orleans with all the registering, etc. We had a free night, so we're supposed to do the town. BETTY splurged on soft-shelled crab, but I was under doctor's order (especially in New Orleans), to stick to a bland diet, and NO DRINKING! Personally, I thought the French cuisine was vastly over-rated. BETTY said that Dungeness crab tastes better. But I was surprised, and envious, to see the amount of drinking going on in the street and the sidewalk bars going full blast. Pricing everything, the tourists have nothing to complain about Hawaii. We called it a short night because of the long travel time. We did take a short walk so we could say that we walked Bourbon Street, especially since it was right next to our hotel.

Camp Shelby at Last!

The following morning's bussing took a while because of the narrow streets, but I must say that Corliss Travel arranged everything in an impeccable fashion. When we reached Mississippi at the town of Gulfport, we had a convoy of 6 motorcycle state troopers to escort our 9 buses for the 1-1/2 hours to Camp Shelby and Hattiesburg, clearing all the side streets and damn all the street lights. Hattiesburg now seems more like a stopover for those traveling Interstate Highway 10, and there are scores of motels, and we needed 5 of them for our group.

Before I forget, I'd better mention the other Co. L members there. We had BEN & FUDGE KITAGAWA, DON & SUMI SEKI, JOHN &

GRACE KANDA, from Seattle way, and SHIGERU & RUBY KIZUKA from Sacramento. At one of the gatherings, the KIZUKAS called out to me, but I couldn't recognize them initially because they weren't registered with Co. L but with the Sacramento group and traveling with them.

Our first spin around Camp Shelby was a revelation, and not just because we had this motorcycle escort at all times. The camp is now the largest national guard training site and depot in the U.S., and all the equipment and buildings are state of art. Betty kept asking if I remembered anything, but after 52 years? Oh yes, I did remember the pine trees—they're just as impressive as ever.

Our first night's dinner was held in a huge tent pitched adjacent to what is now called "Memory Lane," where there are other memorials besides ours, which was still draped for unveiling. The 69th Division has one and I learned that they first went into action in Germany on March 25, 1945. There were also a couple of outfits who erected memorials also. Our meals at Camp Shelby were all taken at the tent, and the majority of time was taken with acknowledgments, welcome speeches, and the usual stuff.

It was good to see some Hawaiian flavor with the presence of the 111th Army Band of the National Guard, and the color guard of the 100th/442nd Unit. The band's playing of the "Go For Broke" song was a hit at every gathering.

I'd like to cite some personal impressions because I didn't take any notes, and my short-term memory is a mess. With all the pomp and circumstance, some of the speeches were very moving and easily worth the price of admission. Senator DAN INOUE's speech at the unveiling was very moving, and I truly felt that he really outdid himself. Our retired Lt. Gen. ALLEN ONO said that he wanted to put on his uniform one last time to show his stars, because without our sacrifices and efforts, he would never have gotten them. He also asked everyone to write down their experiences, just as GENRO KASHIWA has been urging us to do. I had a chance to talk further with him on one of the