

INSPECTION AT CAMP SHELBY—Col. C. W. Pence, commanding officer, inspects the "Combat Team" from jeep in first formal review of the 442nd Infantry, U.S.A.—Photo by U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Manu McEhin

WITH HAWAII'S AJA BOYS AT CAMP SHELBY

MISSISSIPPI

by

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*From ROBERT MIYATA OF Co. G.
442nd Infantry*

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FOREWORD

At Camp Shelby, Mississippi, are a large number of young Americans of Japanese ancestry, organized in the 442nd Infantry Combat Team. . . . They are youths who volunteered in Hawaii for this duty, and were sent from Uncle Sam's mid-Pacific territory to the Mississippi camp for training. The Honolulu Star-Bulletin sent a member of its Washington staff to Camp Shelby to write a series of news stories about the young men—their training, their development as prospective fighting-men for Uncle Sam, their work and their play. . . . Mr. Terry was for several years a member of the news staff of The Star-Bulletin in Honolulu. His story of these "AJA's" at Camp Shelby is told in 15 chapters.

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CHAPTER I

The 442nd at Their Camp Home

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 10.—This is the home, temporarily, of the 442nd combat team, that remarkable United States army unit whose membership is composed of American citizens of Japanese ancestry, the majority of them from Hawaii.

Camp Shelby, itself, an enormous establishment, lies on a flat, pine dotted plain that stretches across the lower part of Mississippi south to the Gulf of Mexico.

Dawn was just breaking when we arrived here this morning and got our first view of the place where boys from Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, the Big Island and Kauai are living and undergoing training for combat service.

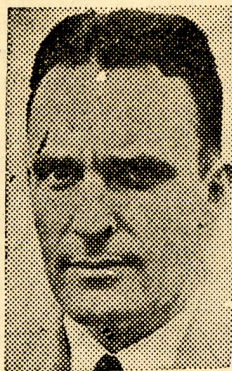
We arrived after an 18 mile automobile trip from the neighboring town of Hattiesburg, accompanied by Col. Charles W. Pence, commanding officer of the 442nd combat team, and Maj. Oland Russell, public relations officer. During the automobile ride, Col. Pence gave us our first authentic information about the combat team from one of its own members.

"They are doing well. They're doing fine," the colonel said. "Their spirit is tops, and they are learning fast. The heat bothered the Hawaii boys at first."

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As time went along we were to learn that Col. Pence has pride in the men he commands, and, even though much training lies ahead and ultimately the experience of battle, he already has faith in the combat record they will establish in the future.

The day's activities were just getting under way when we arrived



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at the hutments of the 442nd inside the boundaries of Shelby. Reveille had sounded, and the men were on their way to their mess halls for breakfast, at 6:30 a. m.

After breakfast and until 7:30, the men's time is their own—their own, that is, if there is any left after they have made their cots and straightened up their hutments.

At 7:30 they begin drilling, and keep it up until 11:30. Lunch is at 11:45. Drill resumes at 12:45 p. m. and continues to 4:45, when the men clean their rifles, care for any other equipment they have used, and prepare for retreat.

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With payment of respect to the colors at retreat at 5:30, the day's work normally ends. Supper is served at 5:45. Nearly three hours of summer daylight remains for outdoor sports. Lights in the hutments go out at 9 p. m., but in each company's "day room," or clubhouse, lights are permitted until 11 p. m.

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After breakfast, and on our way into the field to watch Hawaii boys undergoing military training, we met Lt. Norman Gilbert, athletic officer of the combat team.

"We have some pretty good talent in the outfit," he said. "We hold the Camp Shelby baseball title. There is a man from Pearl City here—Lefty Matsuo Higuchi, who really knows how to pitch. Understand he used to pitch for the Hawaii All-Stars. Nobody around here can touch him. We won 12 out of 13 games."

He told us that Richard Chinen of Honolulu, one of the cleverest lightweights Hawaii ever produced,

is coaching the boxing team. Some of the boxers are Kenji Nobori and Henry Oshiro of Honolulu, Wallace Nagao of Kauai and R. Chinen of Hilo, all former title-holders in the islands.

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A few minutes from the hutment area by jeep brought us to an area where men of the 232nd engineering company were working on a camouflage net. In the group were Richard Matsumoto of 508 Kaiwiula St., Honolulu, squad leader and formerly a draftsman with C. W. Dickey; Private Hitoshi Inouye, Honolulu; Private Mike Otake, also of Honolulu; Private Toshimi Kato of Wailuku, Maui, and Private Kosuke Yamashiro of College Walk, Honolulu, bugler.

Mike Otake is married and has a son whom he has not seen. Mike volunteered for combat duty shortly before the birth of his boy.

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Capt. Pershing Nakada, a mainland AJA, is the commanding officer of the 232nd engineers.

"I've got a smart lot of men in my company," he said. "They're right on their toes."

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Nearby were more men from the islands, under command of Lt. Walter Matsumoto of 838 Lukepane St., Honolulu. He commands the first platoon of the engineering company, and is company transportation officer.

Walter, a graduate of the University of Hawaii, won his commission in 1936, while in the university. Prior to the war, he was an engineer in the city-county bureau of plans, under Walter Mowrey.

Back in Honolulu Walter has a wife and a son, age 16 months. They will be interested to know that he looks perfectly fit, thinks his platoon is the best in the army, and shares the high spirits of his men.

We piled back into our jeep. The driver was Private Archie Murakami of Honomu plantation. He is a graduate of Hilo high school.

Nearby we found a group of men receiving instruction in stringing barbed wire. They were working under the eyes of Lt. Gregory Ikeda of 1040 Kinau St., Honolulu. Gregory was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1939 when he was with the ROTC unit at the University of Hawaii.

He has come a long way from Honolulu, both in miles and in his activities. Not so long ago he was in clerical work. Now he is the confident commanding officer of the ammunition and pioneer platoon of the 2nd battalion of the 442nd infantry regiment.

"One thing about my platoon," he said. "They are very willing. They learn fast. The heat bothers them some. But their morale is high. They are a fine bunch of men."

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Back at combat team headquarters a familiar figure came out from one of the buildings.

"Remember me?" he asked, grinning.

It was Earl Kubo, formerly of the Honolulu police department.

"He scored 25 consecutive bullseyes at 200 yards on the range," Murakami said. "That's the best anybody in the 442nd has done."

Kubo is attached to the service company at regimental headquarters. He says he likes army life.

Almost without exception, the war and army life has given Hawaii's AJA's their first sight of territory outside the islands. Earl is one of the exceptions. In 1938, while on the Honolulu police force, he brought two prisoners to the mainland.

CHAPTER II

Tackling War Problems

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 10.—“Now let me ask you a question,” Lt. Charles W. Tayman, ex-All American footballer of Texas, said.

Lt. Tayman is commanding officer of the anti-tank company of the 442nd infantry regiment.

“Let me ask you a question. There is a 37 millimeter anti-tank gun within 50 feet of where you are standing. There is another within 20 feet. Where are they?”

We looked, hard, and took our time about answering. We not only couldn't see any guns; we couldn't see gun crews, either.

Lt. Tayman looked pleased. We headed into the thicket, and finally saw the wicked little muzzle of a 37 millimeter gun barely visible through the leaves. Nearby was another gun.

“That's what you call camouflage,” the lieutenant said.

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We pushed through the growth, and found six Hawaii boys—six boys who had learned their lessons well in camouflage—a matter of some importance in a combat team that is playing for keeps.

Branches hung low over their gun, and over them. Stuck through the net on their helmets were twigs, leaves and grass. They looked like grinning Indians.

There was Makoto Miyamoto, who used to be a truck driver at Paia, Maui; Akira Fukunaga of Lahaina, Maui; Achihiro Hirano, Ewa crane operator, nicknamed the Bear; Takayuki Sasaki, ex-carpenter from Pahoa, Hawaii; Yuki Toyana, electrician from Puunene, Maui, and Kosaburo Hata of 1420-A 10th Ave., Kaimuki, formerly a clerk with the Honolulu Gas Co.

Their gun commanded a road—and any tanks that might move along it.

“This is a big country,” Fukunaga said. “Plenty big.”

“We went down to New Orleans on pass,” Miyamoto said. “Nice place, but used to be much better.”

We decided the men must be adapting themselves rather rapidly to their new environment, since they could toss off an opinion like that about New Orleans when they had never seen the city in their lives before.

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“Now that you have seen something of the mainland, where do you want to live when the war is over?” we asked.

We got a unanimous six way reply! You can guess it!

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Lt. Tayman led us off to another gun. “Here's my six second gun crew,” he said.

Private Shigemi Honma of 3918 Maunaloa Ave., Honolulu, acting corporal of the gun crew, barked out an order, and things began to happen faster than they ever did in backfield of the old University of Hawaii wonder football team. Trail legs were spread, sight was adjusted, breech opened, shell inserted, breech locked and gun bearing on the target in seven seconds.

“That's what is known as ‘placing the gun in action,’” Lt. Tayman said.

In addition to Honma, the gun crew was composed of Privates Toshio Moriyama, Wahiawa; Masato Yoshimasu, Paia, Maui; Shigeru (Herbie) Nikaido, also of Paia; and Masaichi Sagawa of Kohala, Hawaii.

Lt. Tayman strutted around the gun like a quarterback looking over his backfield. “These men are really on the ball,” he said in his Texas drawl. “You can tell the people back in Hawaii they don't have to worry about these boys. They'll do.”

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Several other officers of the anti-tank company were there. To name

them gives an idea of how widespread an area has furnished officers for the 442nd combat team. They were 2nd Lts. Charles L. Schettler of Illinois, Norman K. Kurlan of Pennsylvania, Hugh R. Manes of Illinois, J. M. Scotland of Pennsylvania and Boon E. Takagi of Jamestown, N. Y.

Elsewhere in these interminable, steaming pine woods we found a group of Hawaii boys engaged in setting up the communications system of a command post in the field. They were manipulating with practiced hands the compact, beautiful equipment that makes this a war to be fought by intelligent, highly trained men—not by cannon fodder.

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At a switchboard was Private First Class Hideo Nozama of 822 Wiliwili St., Honolulu, the son of a World war veteran. Hideo, swallowed up in these woods, plugging the diminutive switchboard under simulated war conditions that will become the real thing in time, has come a long way from the job he held not many months ago with Theo. H. Davies.

"I like the army fine," he said. "But when it's over I want to go back to Hawaii."

Sergeant Sam Nakamura of Regimental Headquarters Co., 442nd Infantry Regiment, was in command of the message center. He is a Hilo boy, for whom his present work is not as great a change as in the case of Hideo. Sam used to sail back and forth over the inter-island waters of Hawaii as radio operator aboard the steamer Humuula.

Private Stanley Taguchi was a busy soldier, operating a hand generator that is part of the equip-

ment of the communications system. He is from Hilo. Near him were Privates Lawrence Iwamoto of Kona, Hawaii; Hirojuki Hiramoto of Honolulu, and one mainland AJA—Howard Sakura of Seattle.

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We departed in a jeep which Mitsuyuki Fujita of Ewa plantation drives with an air of pride, authority and affectionate abandon, as becomes a jeep operator who drives for his company commander.

Fujita is a well fed boy known through the regiment as "Big Target." He's down to a reasonably lithe 170 pounds from a pre-war 190.

"I lost plenty weight—plenty," he said, complacently patting his opus. "Did me plenty good."

"What do you want to do when it's all over?" we asked Big Target.

"I want to go back to my old trade. It was my ambition to become a mechanic. I went through apprentice school at Ewa and had just graduated as a mechanic."

"Big Target" asked about Jimmy Mead, formerly of the Ewa plantation staff.

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Back at regimental headquarters late this afternoon, we sighted the familiar bulk of Capt. Philip B. Peck of Honolulu, brother of Jack Peck, formerly of The Star-Bulletin. Capt. Peck has been transferred from the 100th Infantry Battalion and assigned to the 166th Infantry, which is now in training here at Shelby. They are the sons of the late Samuel S. Peck and Mrs. Peck. Phil used to be with the Inter-Island and has a host of friends in Hawaii who will be glad to hear of his progress.

CHAPTER III

A Long Day's Training

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 11.—This long day of training for the 442nd ("Go for Broke") infantry regiment composed of mainland and Hawaii AJA volunteers began

under starlight this morning and ended under moonlight.

Night time found squads and platoons, functioning as individual units rather than as a regiment,

spread out here and there over miles of country. Officers, afoot or in blacked-out jeeps, prowled around, looking for lights that might furnish tell-tale, disastrous information to an enemy—and these soldiers are training to meet a real enemy.

Voices were subdued—also for precautionary reasons. At mess time the clanking of aluminum kits sounded faintly, like distant cowbells. This practice for the test of real combat will reduce even those sounds.

* * *

Moonlight flooded the meadows with a pale light, and cast dark shadows through the pine woods. There were soldiers everywhere—three battalions of them. The woods were literally full of them. But you seldom saw them, until you joined one platoon or another. Their fatigue uniforms seemed part of the grass, the trees and the huckleberry bushes.

Moonlight, silence and the unseen presence of hidden troops made it seem unreal. The only persistent sound was the whirring of locusts in the tree tops.

Mess sergeants set up their field kitchens in shadows under the trees, and cooked by whatever moonlight filtered through the branches, or by the red light of "blackout" lamps. Boys to whom a luau is a more familiar experience than this, moved forward in columns to get their food. They sat down on the grass to eat, and talked in murmured conversation.

* * *

Somewhere in the woods we ran across a group of men, who turned out to be headquarters company of the 1st battalion. We picked a man out at random. He was sitting on a tree stump, eating.

We asked him if he were from Hawaii.

He is Lt. Robert Y. Katsuki of 1817 Wilhelmina Rise, a well known Honolulu physician prior to war, now 1st battalion surgeon. He told us the health of his men is excellent.

* * *

Another man came up.

"Heard somebody was here from

The Star-Bulletin," he said.

He was Capt. John T. Earnest, commanding officer of the company, formerly sales manager for the Schuman Carriage Co. in Honolulu, and an ex-ROTC instructor at the University of Hawaii.

"The boys from home have proved themselves willing, alert and intelligent," he said. "The people back in Hawaii might be interested to know that every Hawaii man in the entire combat team, without a single exception, has taken out soldier's insurance. In every case it has been for the maximum amount, \$10,000 a man. The rates are low."

Half a mile away from headquarters company of the 1st battalion we found company A, also of the 1st. Private Paul Tamura of 759-J Laniwai St., Honolulu, who used to work for the Hawaiian Tuna Packers, said, "It's fun, but pretty tough. The only thing that bothers me is chiggers."

We got into a jeep with Lt. Col. V. R. Miller, who is the regimental executive officer. A regular army man, he has served many years at Schofield barracks. With us was Capt. Ivan Kovac, who is plans and training officer for the regiment.

The soldier at the wheel of the jeep was Private First Class Sam Fujikawa. His home is at 1718 Yamada lane, Honolulu.

We found Maj. S. L. Watts, 1st battalion commander, giving instructions to his vehicle drivers.

"The men in this battalion are tough," he said. "We don't drop a one of them on marches. They will march four miles in 50 minutes, carrying pack, rifle and helmet. That's about 80 pounds."

"When they hit the last 100 yards of the four miles, somebody's apt to say, 'Let's go doubletime,' and off they sprint. That's esprit de corps."

"I didn't start them on these conditioning marches with full equipment. They just wore their uniforms and helmets at first. Later on their guns. Finally, the whole outfit."

* * *

A soldier nearby turned out to be Private First Class Richard

Okinaka of 1020 11th Ave.

While we were talking, we noticed a group of men less than 100 yards away, walking Indian fashion across a moonlit meadow. They were the heavy weapons company of the battalion.

They moved out from a group of pines, filed across the meadow and slowly vanished into the dark woods beyond. No one had heard them emerge from the trees. In the moonlight, their soundless movement across the meadow seemed ghostlike.

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Col. Miller was pleased. He favors a ghostlike army at night, until circumstances require the ghosts swiftly to assume other qualities.

We got back into the jeep, and Sam Fujikawa started snaking us off through the trees and over the meadows. Sometimes he put his jeep on a dirt road and let her out a bit.

As we swung into one road a sentry snapped out, "Halt. Who's there."

Fujikawa reined in his jeep.

"Officer of the post," Col. Miller said.

"Advance and be recognized!"

The colonel unwound himself, got out of the jeep, advanced and was recognized. Then he got back in the jeep.

We were more interested in recognizing the sentry, who wasn't letting anybody get through who didn't belong.

He was Private Wataru Uemura, who, in the days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor made him feel he had to volunteer to fight back as an American soldier, lived on Molokai.

He has seen a lot more country than he ever saw on Molokai, and he is going to see more. When it is over, he wants to go back to Molokai. It's home.

CHAPTER IV

Modern Training Saves Lives

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 11.—By all indications the Hawaii and mainland AJA soldiers here will be a well trained outfit when their time comes to go overseas and meet the enemy.

Early this morning the 442nd infantry regiment moved out from its hutment area for training in the field. Next Sunday night they will return, wiser and better soldiers for five days and nights of tactical combat instruction and practice.

"Among other things, we are training to save lives," Maj. S. L. Watts said. He is a stocky officer with a little go-to-hell moustache, is commander of the 1st infantry battalion and a disciplinarian.

"There was an incident in Tunisia that comes to my mind. Fighting was going on, and our men were ordered to fall back to the next hill.

"They filled up their fox holes, and stood up straight. Well, they

were mowed down. The enemy couldn't miss.

"We are teaching these men from Hawaii and the mainland not to do that. We are teaching them to take advantage of every natural cover, to crouch, to be smart. We are training them to do the right thing, so that it becomes second nature."

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At 6:31 this morning Maj. Watts' battalion, the first unit to leave the hutments, was passing its "initial point" some distance from camp. Timing was exactly on schedule. The men were marching into the field, just as they would move up toward a waiting enemy.

It was a strange sight — hundreds upon hundreds of armed Hawaii boys moving silently through this Mississippi pine forest a quarter of the way around the world from their homes. A greater contrast to Hawaii's islands and coco palms could hard-

ly be imagined. But they all know that stranger and more distant scenes await them.

The men walked in single file, Indian fashion. Their khaki had been replaced by olive-colored fatigue uniforms and canvas leggings. They carried light packs, and had their Garand rifles slung over their shoulders. Under their leaf-tufted battle helmets they looked small, but tough.

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Ahead of them lay a nine mile march to their bivouac areas.

The soldiers marched well off the roads, under cover of pines and huckleberry thickets. Soldiers don't march down the middle of roads in this war.

Ahead of each unit was its advance guard—a small number of men, well spaced. Behind was its support—a larger group. Next came the main body, and after that the rear guard. Off to either side were flank patrols.

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Each unit was potentially deadly, and hardly likely to be surprised because of its cushion-like formation. Each was prepared to strike hard and fast, or fall back in order.

"A regiment is all eyes and ears," an officer said.

Here and there along the line of march were antitank guns and antiaircraft weapons, manned by boys who only a few months ago were working on Maui and Kauai plantations, were clerks in Honolulu business houses, were HRT bus drivers, school teachers, policemen, or young AJA's from

Seattle or Sacramento or Salt Lake City.

Second and third battalions of the 442nd moved into the field soon after the first.

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Noontime chow was cooked in camouflaged field kitchens under elms and pines, and was eaten under the trees, out of sight from the air. A plane droned around in the blue, with an observer scanning the ground for signs of the regiment.

Lt. Thomas E. West, one of the regimental chaplains, was sitting on the grass, eating and talking with the men. Before he joined the army he was head of the music department at Cumberland college, Williamsburg, Ky.

Nearby was Private Robert F. Onzuka of Hanapepe, Kauai.

"When the war is over I'm going to travel," he said, skipping over the fact that he has done a good deal already. "I want to see this whole country. I'm going to travel in Europe. After that I'll go back home, to Hawaii."

Private First Class Masaru Shimose of Wailuku, Maui, said he had his postwar plans down to definite schedule—nothing vague.

"I made a date with a girl in Hawaii for Christmas Day, 1946," he said. "The war will be over then."

He wouldn't say who she is.

Private Tom Sakamoto of 2221 Pacific Heights Rd., Honolulu, was resting with his head on his pack and his helmet beside him.

"Give my aloha to Hawaii," he grinned cheerfully.

CHAPTER V

A Day in the Field

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 12.—How Private Bob T. Nakamura of Waialua, Oahu, woke up we don't know, but at 5 o'clock this morning he clapped a bugle to his lips and blasted headquarters company of the 442nd infantry battalion into

consciousness out here in the field in Mississippi.

Over miles of timbered country, other young AJA soldiers from Hawaii and the mainland were bugling first call, rousing the Go for Broke regiment to another day of tactical training.

Stars were still bright, sunrise an hour away. The locusts stopped whirring in the pine trees while Nakamura took over. Then they went back to their own shrill song, which seems to go with this heat as an accompaniment.

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Fifteen minutes later Nakamura sounded reveille, and then whipped off chow call a quarter of an hour after that.

We looked him up.

"I used to play trumpet in the Waialua high school band," he said. "So they sent me to a bugle school when I got back here."

Before he became a soldier in the U. S. army, he built concrete irrigating flumes on the Waialua plantation.

Under the mess tent a corporal was baking hot cakes. His touch, and the results, were professional.

They should have been, because he used to cook hot cakes at the Naniloa hotel in Hilo, and at the Royal and Moana in Honolulu. He is George Tsukahara of 1356 College Walk, Honolulu.

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Sitting at the base of an elm tree, eating hot cakes, scrambled eggs, toast and coffee, and scratching chiggers, were other Hawaii boys. One of them was Harold Y. Sato of Paia, Maui, formerly a tractor mechanic for HC&S Co. His mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Jihei Sato, live at Paia. They might be interested to know that there is nothing wrong with their boy's appetite.

Mrs. Kama Higa of 2257 Kamehameha IV Rd., Honolulu, can be given the same assurance about her boy, Hideo Higa.

Others in the group at the tree were Y. Kawakami of Kalaheo, Kauai; Angelus K. Matsushima of Makaweli, Kauai; S. Chinna of Kalihi valley, Honolulu, who already has two years of army service behind him; James T. Masatsugu of Waialua, Oahu; Y. Roger Hiraoka of Fresno, Cal.; Hisashi Tamura of Hilo, who drives a jeep; Norman H. Nishimoto of Honolulu, who worked there for Sears-Roebuck, and Robert Wakuya, who thinks Waialua plantation on Oahu is the only place to go back to live.

They talked about their trip across the continent. "San Francisco is a beautiful city," Wakuva said. "All those bridges, and the big buildings on the hills. We like New Orleans, too, but oh boy, plenty hot!"

"I'm going back to Waialua. You know John Midkiff? He's manager there. I like it there. It's my home."

Private Kawakami of Kalaheo, Kauai, with pride that would become one of those tradition encrusted regiments that trace their history back to Balaklava or Green Mountain or the Alamo, said:

"The Kauai boys celebrated the fifth month anniversary of the 442nd infantry yesterday. We were the first inducted in Hawaii. March 11, 1943."

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First Lt. Keith Stivers, regiment headquarters motor transportation and mess officer, a slender, gentle young man who teaches these AJA's judo and what the army calls "dirty fighting," strolled by.

"When this war's over," he announced, "I'm going to take a vacation in Hawaii. I'm going to spend a week with each one of my men, and I'm going to have me a luau every Sunday."

He was extended a year's worth of invitations on the spot.

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Later in the morning we saw Maj. E. L. O'Connor, formerly of the Honolulu liquor commission, in the field with his troops. He is executive officer of the 3rd battalion of the 442nd.

We stopped at the command post of the 3rd battalion to talk with the commanding officer, a husky, gray haired lieutenant colonel from Illinois named Sherwood Dixon. When the armistice was declared in 1918, he was a corporal with American troops, fighting with Italians and British against the Austrians at the Piave river.

"These men," he said, "all wanted to go to war. They volunteered. They aren't malingerers. I never saw a more willing lot of soldiers in my life."

"Ninety eight per cent of them qualified in rifle fire. I had grown up to believe that 85 per cent was pretty good."

The battalion clerk at Col. Dixon's headquarters is Private First Class Tokio Shimazu, of 1953 S. Beretania St., Honolulu. He was handling incoming telephone calls from field positions, and relaying orders.

Col. Dixon took us out via jeep to an area where Capt. Ralph Graham of Baltimore was putting his Company I through combat tactics.

"These are squad and platoon problems we are conducting this morning," Capt. Graham said, indicating a group of Hawaii and mainland AJA's who were advancing toward a simulated enemy position under command of their own non-coms.

"These problems require a good deal of maneuvering, and real headwork. The problem is briefly outlined, and the non-commissioned officers must use their own judgment in carrying out the assignment.

"The old Bunker Hill stuff is out. The sergeant has to figure out a plan of advance and assault, and a plan for withdrawal. He

can use his corporal any way he wants. Out of this we are training the leaders who will take these squads into battle.

"The sergeant must not only organize his own offense and defense, but he has to keep in touch with the squads on either side of him."

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We watched Private Richard Nishioka, an island boy acting as sergeant, tell his men that orders had just been received to attack a German rifle team on a nearby hill. He had just reconnoitered the area, and briefly he gave his men the facts and outlined his plan of attack. He named his scouts and his corporal as second in command.

"See those bushes over there?" he asked. "When you get there, you will proceed by leap and bound movement."

An officer smothered a smile.

"Proceed by leap and bound movement," he murmured. "That's a new one to me, and pretty good, too."

CHAPTER VI

Learning Combat Tactics

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 12.—Second Lt. Jim Wheatley of Alabama said: "There is a German automatic rifle team just over the crest of that hill, 300 yards away.

"Your squad will destroy that rifle team. Time of attack is 10 minutes from issuing of this order. Any questions?"

The officer was addressing Private Walter Okumoto of 131 Koalele St., Honolulu. The order given by Lt. Wheatley called for the execution of a simulated combat problem, and Walter was serving as acting sergeant in command of a rifle squad composed of Hawaii boys, members of Wheatley's 3rd platoon of Co. I, 3rd battalion of the 442nd infantry regiment.

What we were watching was the serious business of training for combat—for the action these boys from the islands asked for when

they volunteered their services last March at the call of the war department and Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons.

What these boys are learning in this school of war is the business of making the enemy dead soldiers and keeping themselves live soldiers.

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"Right now we're not only training them in combat tactics," Lt. Wheatley said, "but with problems like these we are finding out who the men are who display the leadership and the command ability that is needed for noncommissioned officers. Every one gets his chance."

Right now Walter Okumoto was being given the responsibility of commanding the squad. He was on his own—absolutely,

just as he would be in battle. Lt. Wheatley had given the order; from there on it was up to Walter to take over.

His squad was dispersed in the pine woods. He called them together. Briefly but thoroughly he informed them of the situation at the assignment. Ten minutes later he and his men slipped quietly away to begin the attack.

For the next hour the squad carried out its problem, took its objective and retired. The men carried light packs and rifles. Twigs and bits of leaves were stuck in the nets over their helmets. Their gray-green fatigue uniforms blended in with the surrounding greenery.

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When it was over Walter told us how he had carried out his assignment.

"As soon as I got the order from Lt. Wheatley, I made a reconnaissance. I took Private Tom Sakamoto with me as scout. (Tom's home is at 2221 Pacific Heights Rd. He used to drive a bus for Honolulu Rapid Transit.)

"We got within 20 yards of the enemy position, and then came back. I told the squad what we had to do—attack a German automatic rifle team. I gave them every detail of the problem.

"I appointed Private Kenneth Okuna (1638 Olona lane, Honolulu) as acting corporal and my second in command of the squad. I sent Toni Sakamoto out as No. 1 scout, and Private James Okimoto (Dole St., Honolulu) as No. 2 scout. I ordered the men to keep dispersed, to walk crouched and keep low.

"When the time came to begin the attack I ordered the men into squad column formation—staggered, each man five to 10 yards from the next. We moved into a draw that ran towards the left from the enemy position.

"When we got to a bend in the draw that led toward the German rifle team, I gave arm and hand signals to the squad. I ordered the men to crouch and crawl toward the hill, taking cover.

"We were close there when the enemy fired on one of the scouts ahead. (There was gunfire—with blank ammunition). I signalled the men to take skirmish formation around the ridge, and signalled to Okimoto to throw a grenade into the enemy position.

"As soon as he threw the grenade, I ordered the assault. We jumped up, hollered and took the position.

"I then put out the men for security, to hold the position. The scouts were put out ahead, and the rest of the men dispersed in every direction.

"After we took the hill, a German unit opened fire from another hill. Lt. Wheatley gave me this message: 'The squad on your left has failed to sustain its advance. You will withdraw immediately to your original position.'

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"I ordered the men to go back by the draw, one by one, taking cover. I ordered Private T. Okimoto (of Molokai) to remain behind with his automatic rifle to cover our withdrawal. I ordered him to remain behind three minutes after the last man had left, and then withdraw himself.

"When we got back to our original position I got new orders from Lt. Wheatley."

(A copy of the order read: "A strong enemy attack is developing from hill No. 4. The squad on your left and the platoon on your right are defending that ground. Your squad will organize and defend this hill immediately.")

"I placed my men in skirmish formation," Walter said. "I made each man dig a fox hole, and I placed Okimoto in a position where his automatic rifle would have the best field of fire."

Lt. Wheatley followed the squad throughout the problem, but left the entire discharge of the problem in Walter's hands, taking notes of good work done and mistakes made. These he later discussed with the squad.

CHAPTER VII

Heat and Chiggers

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 12. —On the surface there seem to be two chronic complaints here among Hawaii troops with the 442nd combat team. Neither cause of complaint can be seen, but each can be felt after its fashion.

One is the heat, and the other is the chigger, that malevolent insect which digs its way into the skin and sets up the devil's own itch a few hours later.

Talk with any Hawaii boy here about army life, and without variation comes the answer, "Plenty hot—plenty."

It is. Compared with Hawaii's temperature of 70 and low 80's, plus humidity, the thermometer here is in the 90's or over the 100 degree mark, with humidity. The boys tell of one day when it was 122 in the sun.

It is a steaming heat. The humid Gulf of Mexico lies less than 100 miles to the south. There are a few alligators in some of the streams in these parts, so they say.

Many of the islanders and mainlanders visit New Orleans on weekend pass, and go swimming in Lake Ponchartrain there. They like it—especially the girls, who seem to have made a great impression. But they say Lake Ponchartrain is too warm—not cool like Waimanalo.

The heat provides them with an obvious, surface complaint, and thereby may serve a good purpose.

It is a medical fact, however, that they have adjusted themselves physically to the heat, however much they may gripe about it.

At first some of them had to fall out on marches. Water "control," as it is called, was not the best during the first days here. Some of the soldiers gulped down cold water and became sick.

That doesn't happen now. Their own experience and the advice of

their officers have changed that. Regimental doctors say that heat cases almost never occur. Nobody dropped out when the combat team marched in review the other day under a baking afternoon sun. Nobody dropped out on yesterday's march into the field.

This is the hottest time of the year here. Winters are cool, and sometimes uncomfortably cold.

As for chiggers—well, the Hawaii contingent will take centipedes any time in preference.

People here say that the minute the Hawaii troops stepped off the train on their arrival last April, they started looking around the station for snakes. They are still on the lookout for them, and they find them.

Aside from heat and chiggers, there is a third standard remark about army life. "Plenty tough," they say.

It isn't easy. The men were up at 5 o'clock yesterday, preparing to march into the field for five days training. The day's work did not end until long after dark. At 5 this morning, with stars still shining, they were routed out by bugle call for another day.

In camp the day is not as long. Right now the troops in the field are training under "tactical conditions." In other words, they are working at war in earnest—and, supposedly, there is an enemy nearby who doesn't observe the eight hour union day when he directs his artillery fire and times his assaults.

And so the day in the field is long—a 24 hour day for the organization, though less for the individual soldier.

The training day is not one of ceaseless activity. A platoon may be sprawled on the ground, resting, or listening to a talk by the second

lieutenant. Ten minutes later they may be moving across a field toward an imaginary enemy position.

They alternately wriggle forward on their bellies, run doubled-over in swift bursts toward the next tree or shrub, and hurl themselves down on the ground—pack, rifle and all—like a football player diving for the ball.

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An hour later they may be lying under the trees, hidden from view, as if they had nothing to do but loaf and debate the question whether the girls at home are being true—a much debated point, we understand. But nearby are sentries.

Someone is responsible for the safety of the squad. This is not play. There is battle ahead for

these boys from Kona, Kaimuki and Lahaina, and from Seattle and Portland, Ore.

And so the day goes, with bursts of activity interspersed with what might be called vigilant relaxation. After 16 or 17 hours of it in the field, at 90 to 105 or 110 in the shade, a day's work has really been done.

"Plenty tough"—sure.

Regimental officers say that one of the outstanding characteristics of these soldiers is their willingness to learn, their ability to learn fast, and their spirit. You get that from the second lieutenants on up through the battalion commanders to Lt. Col. V. R. Miller, the executive officer, and Col. C. W. Pence.

CHAPTER VIII

Letters from Home

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 13.—Letters from their homes in Hawaii mean more than anything else to the islanders who are in combat training here as troops with the 442nd combat team.

That is the opinion of Private First Class Tadashi Morimoto, who formerly was in the territorial department of public welfare under John Wilson and whose wife is living at Lihue, Kauai.

Tadashi, who graduated in 1941 from the New York School of Social Work, Columbia university, speaks with more maturity than most of the boys. He is 31 years old, as compared with an average age in the early 20's among the men here. He is personnel classification specialist with the 442nd.

"My message to folks back home is this: write to the boys here. Remember their birthdays and the special events in their lives. It really touches the boys when they get cakes on their birthdays.

"Letters are the best thing the people back home can do for their

boys here. If one of the boys misses getting a letter from home, he says, 'I lose fight.'"

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A lot of mail does come in here for the soldiers, but it can never be too much, to judge by their eagerness for word from the islands. Tadashi urges friends as well as parents to write, and write often.

We asked Tadashi whether the men think much about the implications of their service in the United States army—what their record for better or for worse means with regard to the future of all Americans of Japanese ancestry and aliens in Hawaii and on the mainland, and what their battle record will mean in terms of psychological warfare against the Axis.

That's a mouth filling sort of a question that you can't casually ask a soldier on contact in the field. He isn't going into a lengthy discussion of his ideals—and as a man who is making a practical demonstration of his faith and has volunteered to prove it in battle, he doesn't have to say anything.

But we were interested, and sought Tadashi's opinion, as an older man, as to the way the soldiers in general felt about it.

"If we want to see our children and our grandchildren lead the sort of life we want them to have in America," he said, "we feel we must do something about it right now. Really, the feeling is pretty basic with the boys.

"Once in a while one of the younger ones will say, 'we were born here in this country. We feel we are Americans. Why do we have to do something special, to prove we are Americans when we are Americans?'

"To them we explain, 'Yes, you are a good American, but you are like something new that has been discovered. You wouldn't feel sure about a new airplane that has not been tested in battle. You have to try it out. Well, we HAVE to prove what we are'.

"We explain it to them graphically that way. But not many need that explanation.

"The spirit with which these boys came here is what is holding them up. On the whole I give them a great deal of credit.

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"They are peppy, and full of life. After a hard day's training you would think they would hit the

blankets. No, sir! They want to do things. They want to go to Hattiesburg on weekend leaves, or New Orleans or Jackson. They really look forward to those trips.

"I think in many places they are making a very good impression. In Bogalusa (a nearby Louisiana town) the people invited a lot of our boys to spend a weekend in their homes.

"They didn't know just how our boys would act. Now we have a standing invitation.

"The boys go anywhere here. You'd be surprised how far they travel.

"The 100th Infantry Battalion had a wonderful time in Wisconsin. They always want to go back there, to see their friends in Sparta and Madison and LaCrosse.

"If the boys feel like that about Wisconsin, there must be real hospitality there—gentleman type."

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There have been incidents here such as occur in any army camp and town. There have been occasional fights between individuals—between AJA's themselves, sometimes between AJA's and Caucasians. But they are infrequent.

"Our boys can really dish it out when they have to," bespectacled Tadashi said solemnly.

CHAPTER IX

Hawaii Boys Earn Praise

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 13.—Brig. Gen. George Halloran, commanding officer of this sprawling army post, expressed the opinion today that "there is no reason why the men in the 442nd combat team should not make excellent soldiers. I think they are."

The 442nd, made up of Americans of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii and the mainland, is only one of many army outfits in training here, over all of whom Gen. Halloran is camp commander.

"But, you understand," he explained, "my job here is something

like running a hotel. I feed the men in this camp, clothe them and hospitalize them when they need it. But they get their training from their own officers. In the case of the 442nd, that man is Col. Pence.

"It is my understanding that the men in the 442nd combat team are adjusting themselves successfully to conditions in the army and in the community. There has been very little trouble from the MP angle.

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"I don't believe the men get involved in any more trouble than

the men in any other unit of the army.

"They go about all through this camp. You find them in every bowling alley. They are great for recreation. You see them in every restaurant and theater in Hattiesburg."

(Hattiesburg is the nearest town, 18 miles distant from the camp. It has a population in the 20,000's, and like every other community near an army camp, is jammed.)

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Gen. Halloran spoke of his tour of duty at Schofield Barracks and Ft. Shafter between 1912 and 1917. He was a second lieutenant when he reported there, and a first lieutenant when he left.

He recalls the day when the United States declared war in Germany. There was a German gunboat in Honolulu harbor that day—the Geier. The Germans tried to burn her.

A platoon of U. S. soldiers from Ft. Shafter boarded her to take her crew prisoners. The lieutenant in command of the platoon was the same Halloran who wears a brigadier general's stars here at Shelby.

He was last in Honolulu in 1934, as a through steamship passenger.

He said he remembered Alfred L. Castle, and asked if Stanley C. Kennedy is still in Honolulu. "They were young fellows running around on the beach when I was stationed there," he said.

CHAPTER X

Hawaii Boys are Healthy

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 13.—The general health of mouths and condition of teeth among the Hawaii and mainland AJAs who compose the 442nd combat team in training here is superior to anything he has ever seen before, Capt. Wayland F. Hogan, combat team dental surgeon, says.

Capt. Hogan graduated from the Atlanta Southern Dental college in 1929, and until he joined the army practiced in Ocala, Fla.

"A Caucasian boy will come in with 18 or 20 cavities in his teeth," Capt. Hogan said, "but one of these AJA's will come in with 18 or 20 fillings. That's the difference.

"This condition shows the results of early training in the home and school, and it shows that the parents of these boys have not spared anything to see that their sons had the best of dental care.

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"There are three outstanding facts about these boys that impress me as a dentist. One is the training they have had in care of their teeth. Another is their personal hygiene, and another is their ability to stand pain. They never

flinch. You never even see their eyebrows flicker when they are in the chair.

"It hurts them just as much as it would hurt anyone else, but they won't show it.

"The dentistry they have had is excellent. Dentists of Japanese ancestry have graduated from first rate schools here on the mainland. I find these dentists with the combat team to be very conscientious, and eager to take advantage of every opportunity to improve their technique.

"Furthermore, they make excellent army officers."

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Among the combat team dental officers serving under Capt. Hogan are Lt. Edward Nakata of Honolulu, who recently graduated from dental school at Washington university, St. Louis, Mo., and Robert M. Miyasaki of 1935 Houghtailing St., Honolulu, who graduated from the University of Southern California dental school in 1941.

He recently was transferred to this outfit from the 100th infantry battalion, and is expecting his commission as a first lieutenant any day.

Dr. Miyasaki formerly practiced dentistry at Palama settlement. After the war he plans to return to Honolulu to resume his practice.

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With Capt. Hogan we visited one of the post dental clinics this morning. In one chair was Private M. Fujioka of 1220 Waiialae Ave., Honolulu, who was having a cavity filled. Private Fujioka is with the 232nd Engineers, part of the combat team.

Lt. Masato Okuda, a San Fran-

cisco dentist, was doing the work. His assistant was Private Albert Tsukayama of Kailua, Oahu.

A dentist at another chair was excavating a cavity. His patient was Private Masami Horiuchi of Hilo. The dentist was assisted by Corporal Abraham Tokioka of Honolulu and Private Daniel Konno of Wai-pahu.

Every man in the entire combat team already has had two dental examinations here.

CHAPTER XI

Makeup of the 442nd Infantry

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 14.—The 442nd combat team is composed of three units—the 442nd Infantry regiment, the 522nd Field Artillery battalion and the 232nd Engineer Co. (combat). With these organizations are attached medical units.

Lt. Col. B. M. Harrison Jr., a young Tampa, Florida, lawyer until he joined the army, is commanding officer of the artillery battalion, membership of which is composed of AJAs from Hawaii and the mainland.

"We find they are very responsive to training," Col. Harrison says. "In our particular type of work, we find that many of our men from Hawaii and the mainland initiate their own studies.

"They actually keep the officers jumping on work that is in addition to the normal schedule.

"We have absolutely no discipline problem. The officers of this battalion think very highly of their men.

"Their health is excellent, and their IQ exceptionally high."

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Col. Harrison drew a card from a file. It contained the names of six enlisted men from the battalion who had been assigned to some special duty. Their IQs ranged from a low of 117 to a high of 158.

Eligibility for officers' candidate school calls for a minimum IQ of 110.

A Mississippi 'possum hunt with Hawaii AJAs doing the hunting—a new experience both for the 'possum and the islanders—took place near here the other night.

Richard Chinen of Headquarters Co., 442nd combat team, told about it. He and other island and mainland AJAs were guests of Earl M. Finch, owner of a big stock farm near Hattiesburg, who arranged the hunt.

"We went off into the woods on horses," Chinen said. "We had a hunting dog. He did a lot of barking, but we never got the 'possum. Mr. Finch said the red fox scared him off.

"I never had so much fun in my life. That day, out at Mr. Finch's, was the first time I ever heard hog calling, and what I mean, the hogs came running. They came from everywhere.

"Mr. Finch told me to tell the boys to come out to his place any time they can. I told him, 'Someday you come to Hawaii, and we treat you Hawaiian style.'

"He has done everything for us. He took the combat team band to New Orleans for a trip, and Co. S."

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Chinen, one of the classiest featherweight boxers anywhere in the United States two or three years ago, asked us to send "aloha to my family" through The Star-Bulletin.

"Send aloha to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller, and to David Young, my stablemate. I was always in his corner when he fought, and he was always in mine."

"Just say aloha to all my friends. Tell the people of Hawaii we are doing all right. We'll make Hawaii proud of her sons."

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He said Jimmy Kono, clerk in the storage department at the Hawaiian Pineapple Co., sends him The Star-Bulletin regularly. He said

somebody else also sends him the paper, but he has never been able to find out who.

Chinen said that some friction which existed between the mainland and AJA soldiers here in the early weeks is subsiding.

"We are getting to understand each other. We are getting to be pals now. One thing—the mainland boys speak much better English than the Hawaii boys. We couldn't express ourselves like they could. But everything is going to work out."

The mainland soldiers agreed.

CHAPTER XII

How the AJAs Train

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 14.—An illustration of the sort of training the 442nd infantry regiment of Hawaii and mainland AJAs is getting here was afforded in the field this morning.

Men of the weapons platoon, Co. I, 1st battalion, were seated in semi-circle on the ground. It was shortly before noon, and they had concluded several hours of tactical operations similar to problems they will encounter later in real battle.

Lt. Edward Androvette of New Jersey, platoon commander, was speaking to them. He said:

"If our operations this morning had been under gunfire in battle, half of you would have been casualties. Mistakes were made. We are here to learn how to correct those mistakes so we won't make them in battle."

"In a tactical situation you have to take it for granted you will be under some kind of enemy fire at all times—machine gun or mortar fire, anything. You may have harrassing fire from enemy planes. You certainly don't want to make yourselves conspicuous."

"Some excellent work was done. In general, you performed perfectly whenever the necessary information was given to you properly."

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"Sometimes the information was not clear. The fault was partly mine, and I won't mark the platoon

down for mistakes I made. I am learning something here today, too."

"The non-commissioned officers did not pass information on to the men clearly, either. I couldn't ask for better cooperation between the men and their squad leaders. But information given by squad leaders to their men was incomplete, and that is serious in battle. That is why I must insist that from now on the squad leaders take notes."

"In advancing toward the enemy, remember that it is harder for the enemy to see you if you are moving straight toward him than if you move from side to side."

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Lt. Col. Sherwood Dixon, battalion commander, happened by and stopped to listen. When Lt. Androvette finished, the colonel said:

"I would like to add a word. It is harder to give information to a squad than it is to a regiment. Instructions have to be brief, but complete. For any of you who want to be squad leaders, there is a system about giving instructions that can be studied. It is set out in books at battalion headquarters, and you can get the books there."

"Another thing—about camouflage on your helmets. Some of you are making a mistake."

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The colonel called on Private Tenki Taba of Honolulu to stand

up. In the netting on Taba's helmet the colonel stuffed a lofty spray of pine needles and leaves. Taba looked like a Fiji islander.

Next he called on Private Harold Watase, also of Honolulu, in whose helmet netting he placed only two or three oak leaves. He then ordered the two soldiers to go off about 20 yards and lie down behind shrubbery.

"Now, move your head from side to side," he called to Taba. The result was visible to everyone in the platoon. Taba's headgear swayed like the plume of a circus horse.

"Now, you," he instructed Watase. But nothing could be seen.

"There you are," the colonel told the platoon. "Just put enough leaves to break up the outline of your helmet. Otherwise the enemy might spot you, and it might cost you your life in battle."

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The meeting broke up, and Lt. Androvette called on a 60 millimeter mortar gun crew to show how they could handle their weapon.

Private Ed Yamaguchi of 3421 Pakui St., Honolulu, acting corporal, took a prone position ahead

of the battery, to observe the fire with binoculars.

Behind the gun about 10 yards was Private Harry Yamasaki of 1608 McGrew lane, Honolulu. He was ammunition bearer. Gunner was Horace Sagara of 2624 Maunawai St., Honolulu.

The assistant gunner was Private Allan Tanaka of 3073 Puiwale lane, Honolulu. With him was Private Junwo Yamashita, who lives in Nevada.

The crew assembled the weapon in short order. Sagahara "laid the piece" and sighted it. Yamasaki came boiling up from the rear, packing a shell like a full-back going into the line with a football in his arms.

"Fire!" Yamashita yelled.

Yamaguchi, the observer, called for a slight change in the angle of fire. Yamashita made the adjustments, and called for another round. Up came the ammunition bearer with another shell.

The orders were clear cut and soldiery. There was a snap about the performance that indicates these boys are becoming professional fighting men.

CHAPTER XIII

Notes on the AJAs

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 14.—Here are a few random notes about island soldiers encountered here while visiting the 442nd Combat Team:

Private Francis Sakai of 1338 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, drives the three-quarter ton command car for Lt. Col. Virgil R. Miller, executive officer of the 442nd Combat Team.

"I think our boys are going to make out good," Sakai says.

"The things I like best about this life are the cleanliness, discipline, physical training, and everything on time.

"We have a lot to learn. The boys are looking forward to combat. They don't want to waste too much time. They will fight hard.

"Tell the people back home we are all trying hard to learn and to make ourselves real soldiers.

"Send my aloha to Lt. Harold Quinn, to my wife in Honolulu, and to Mr. B. C. Choy, who runs a tailor shop near Schofield Barracks.

"In my work here I also drive the car for the radio chief, Sergeant Yamamoto, a mainland soldier. I have learned about radio transmitters. I used to work for Melim's garage.

"When the war is over I am going back to Honolulu, to go back into automobile business, or into radio."

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One of the infantry regiment officers spoke about Lt. Sadami Katarahara of Maui.

"He is one of the smartest men I have ever seen in my life. He helped build the communication system for the Maui police. He studied chemistry at the University of Hawaii. What he doesn't know about communications isn't much.

"He has a baby, only a month old when he volunteered for combat service. Katahara is the smartest little fellow I ever saw in my life."

Lt. Katahara is now taking a refresher course at Ft. Benning.

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Corporal Koji Ariyoshi of 1820-G Waiola St., Honolulu, formerly of Kona, is here. He used to write occasional articles for *The Star-Bulletin*. He graduated from Georgia State university in 1941.

Sukeyoshi Kushi of Kahului, one of the best golfers in the territory, is here.

Four enlisted men and one officer, all members of Lions clubs in Hawaii, were recent guests at a meeting of the Lions club in the nearby community of Hattiesburg. They are Private Masato Sugihara of the West Kauai Lions club; Private Joe Itagaki of the North Oahu Lions club, who is proprietor of the Kemoo coffee shop; Private Keiji Kawakami and Private M. Miyake and Lt. I. Okada, all of the West Kauai Lions club.

The islanders all spoke at the Hattiesburg meeting.

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More persons recently seen here: Capt. Robert Blake of Honolulu, commanding officer of Company A, 442nd Infantry Regiment, putting his men through the obstacle course; Private James Ohye of 3266 Charles St., Honolulu; Private James Imada of 1139 15th Ave., Honolulu, who graduated from Purdue in 1936; Private Shoso Ka-

gawa of 618 McNeil St., Honolulu, son of Takato Kagawa; Private Norman Tsukazaki of 1123 1st Ave., Honolulu, a former member of the VVV.

Private First Class Arthur S. Zaima of Hanalei, leading an infantry squad in map drawing in the field; Private Akira Morikawa of 2525 Ala-ula way, Honolulu; Private Masao Tateishi of Kahaluu, Oahu; Private Robert Hayashida of 962-A Robello lane, Honolulu, all seen stalking through the woods with rifles and fixed bayonets in an attack problem.

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Private Harry Nishimoto of 2745 Kalakaua Ave., of Co. G, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Infantry, talking about a swim at Lake Ponchartrain, New Orleans; Mitsuo Kure of Koloa, Kauai, formerly of the Koloa Sugar Co., who recently visited New Orleans with 24 other mainland and Hawaii AJAs; Private Tadashi Nozaki of Waialua, Oahu, who regards watermelons as the best thing about Mississippi.

Private Kenichi (Slicker) Hamada of Kapaa, Kauai; Private Sekiji Nakayama, who worked at Baldwin Packers at Lahaina, Maui, before joining the army; Tetsuo Yanagida of Kapaa, Kauai, and Private First Class Kenneth Fujimoto of 1108 3rd Ave., Kaimuki.

Private Mike Hagiwara has the distinction of calling Fairbanks, Alaska, his home. He is a graduate of the University of Alaska, which had an enrollment of 280 students when he was in school. He speaks faultless English. His father is Japanese and his mother Eskimo.

Like most everyone here, he wants to go back to his home town when the war ends. That means Fairbanks, Alaska, for him.

CHAPTER XIV

Making Civilian Friends

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., Aug. 15.—Hattiesburg, 16 miles distant, is the community nearest to this big army camp where the 442nd Combat Team of Hawaii and mainland AJAs is in training.

In normal times Hattiesburg has a population slightly under 30,000. According to M. M. Little, police chief, the figure is between 50,000 and 60,000 now. Some people put the total still higher.

As is the case with many another overcrowded community, its hotels, restaurants and entertainment facilities have been unable to keep pace with the sudden jump in the population. There is not much for a soldier to do in Hattiesburg.

Whenever possible, members of the combat team take trips to Jackson, the state capital, about 90 miles to the north, or New Orleans, 125 miles to the south.

A thermometer in the shade in Hattiesburg this Sunday afternoon registered 107 degrees. Soldiers were slowly milling up and down the streets, as many as possible keeping on the shady side. Long lines of soldiers, many with girls, stood in the sun waiting to get into the movie theaters.

There is not a great deal else to do. Pop and soda stands were packed. Beer is not sold in Hattiesburg on Sundays.

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Because the 442nd infantry was still in the field, concluding five days of tactical training, few AJAs were on the streets. But here and there a soldier from Maui or Kauai could be found.

The proprietress of one of the largest and best restaurants in town said:

"The best customers we have, or ever have had, are these AJA soldiers from the mainland and Hawaii. Not one of them has ever tried to get out without paying his check. Plenty of others do that.

"One night four or five boys from Hawaii came in for dinner. We had

a big crowd. All the waitresses were busy. So I took their orders. The check came to \$11.50. They left a \$2.50 tip. I told them I wasn't going to take it; I am not one of the waitresses.

"They finally asked me to take it and use it to buy a war bond."

Hattiesburg has a large, attractively designed USO building. It was crowded with soldiers from Shelby, and girls. A few of the 442nd personnel were present, but not many because of the field training.

USO officials said the island and mainland AJAs normally attend in considerable numbers.

Here's what the public relations office of the 442nd combat team says about the boys and their religious activities:

"It's the chaplain who bends his ear to the woes of GI Joes. When a soldier finds himself in any kind of difficulty he frequently goes to the man who wears the silver cross on his collar.

"The Japanese Americans in combat team training here are no different. They're as religious as any other group of soldiers but when they want advice of a personal nature, someone to confide in, someone to beef to or even share their joy, at their first opportunity they go looking for the chaplain.

"Usually they don't have to look far. The combat team has two and a third one due to arrive next month. And the chaplains keep close to the men, whether they are on the range, in bivouac, on the march or in garrison. The two chaplains now with the combat team are southerners, of Protestant denominations, wise in the ways of the army and not unfamiliar with Japanese Americans.

"They are Chaplains Capt. John T. Barrett and 1st Lt. Thomas E. West.

"A unique responsibility taken over by the chaplains is that of

delivering birthday cakes to the Nisei soldiers, mostly from Hawaii.

"It appears to have been a Hawaiian custom for parents to surprise their sons in the army with birthday cakes. The custom has not abated, despite the distance from home, and Chaplain Barrett estimates that he and his colleagues have distributed an average of a dozen cakes a week to members of

the combat team—usually with appropriate ceremonies at mess halls, and thoroughly enjoyed by the assembled groups.

"On Mothers' Day this spring, the two chaplains arranged a special telegraph service to Hawaii and 247 telegrams were sent by soldiers here. A similar service for Fathers' Day brought an equally enthusiastic response."

CHAPTER XV

Summing Up the AJAs at Shelby

(Note: The following sum-up of the Americans of Japanese ancestry at Camp Shelby was purposely written by John Terry after his return to Washington from Mississippi. He wished to get the perspective of distance and a few days from his visit at Shelby.)

Star-Bulletin Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Aug. 19—

This article purposely left unwritten until now, is an effort to evaluate the 442nd Combat Team, that extraordinary U. S. army unit now training in the humid, sweltering pine forest surrounding Camp Shelby in southern Mississippi.

The writer has returned to this city after spending a week with the 442nd in camp and field.

Behind the impressions here set forth are personal observations, and conversations with scores of enlisted men, with many junior officers and all the senior officers of the 442nd, with its doctors, dentists and chaplains, with the commanding general of the camp, with several merchants in the nearby community of Hattiesburg and with one of those motorized philosophers—a taxicab driver.

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We brought back with us from Shelby these two dominant impressions:

1. The 442nd Combat Team will make good despite all trials, of which battle will not necessarily be the hardest, and,

2. The combat team is receiving excellent training.

As for the first point, a lieutenant colonel commanding one of the 442nd's infantry battalions put it this way: "These men will come through, for the reason they are determined not to fail. They feel their whole future, and their children's future, is tied up in this thing."

Powerful factors have welded that determination. On the clear statement of the war department that their services would be used in battle, these men volunteered. They are American citizens, obviously proud of that allegiance and quick to resent any slur, as fights have illustrated on a number of occasions.

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Furthermore, over and beyond the normal loyalties of a Caucasian citizen whose place is secure and unquestioned, these men feel they have to furnish striking proof of their Americanism, and that the battlefield offers them that opportunity.

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Time after time at Camp Shelby, AJAs of the 442nd told us of their impatience to get through with the grind of training and go into battle. They were not talking heroics. Some expressed fears that delays of one kind or another might keep them out of combat until it is too late.

"If we should only become part of an army of occupation," one mainland AJA told us, "this whole thing is shot. We've GOT to get into battle."

An AJA from Hawaii, somewhat older than his fellows and a recent graduate of Columbia university, said, "If we want to see our children and grandchildren lead the sort of lives we want them to have, we feel we must do something about it right now."

"Really, that feeling is pretty basic with the boys."

As the lieutenant colonel said, these men will succeed because they are grimly determined not to fail.

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There is another factor to be considered. **The 442nd probably has the highest IQ of any unit in the United States army.**

High officials in the war department told us that before we left Washington for Camp Shelby, and it was repeated to us many times in camp by officers who pointed to the swift progress made by the 442nd in training to date.

Good soldiers are not made out of stupid material, and the material in the 442nd apparently is unequalled, intellectually, anywhere in the army.

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Officers of the combat team who have made the army their life profession told us that the organization has advanced farther in its training than any other army unit they have ever seen over a comparable length of time.

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The thoroughness of the training given the 442nd is impressive to a civilian. Standard though it is in the new American army, it is far different from the hasty methods of 1917. The 442nd will go into battle with the advantages of every kind of training short of the ultimate experience of combat itself.

To the parents of these boys that fact should be a source of comfort. There will be casualties when the combat team goes into action, but there will be no needless waste of life. These men are not being trained like robots for cannon fodder. After following them in the field, we know.

They are being taught every trick of concealment, of their persons and equipment. They are being trained to strike with swift and deadly effectiveness, to get maximum results for every life expended, to save their own skins for the reason that the army needs live soldiers, not dead ones.

Without exception the senior officers are enthusiastic about their men. These officers are Col. C. W. Pence, in command of the combat team; Lt. Col. V. R. Miller, executive officer; Lt. Col. Sherwood Dixon of the 3rd infantry battalion; Lt. Col. James M. Hanley of the 2nd; Maj. S. L. Watts of the 1st; Lt. Col. B. M. Harrison, commanding the 522nd field artillery battalion, and Capt. Pershing Nakada, commanding the 232nd combat engineers company.

These officers all seem fully aware of the implications of the experiment which the 442nd represents, including the value that a brilliant combat record will have as psychological material to throw back at Tokyo over the radio.

Many of the junior officers are equally enthusiastic and aware of the implications, although perhaps not in all instances as clearly as in the case of their seniors.

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It was interesting to note that there has been some friction, especially in the beginning, between the Hawaii and mainland AJAs in the combat team. It has subsided noticeably, however, and will be adjusted satisfactorily, according to many comments from the men. All the evidence points that way.

One cause of friction was the high proportion of noncommissioned ranks held by mainland AJAs at Camp Shelby at the time when the Hawaii group arrived. The islanders had expected to serve under corporals and sergeants who were also from Hawaii.

The army, however, had to have a cadre of NCOs around which to build their organization, and the mainlanders were already in camp and available. Meanwhile normal adjustments are taking place. Current training activities are de-

signed in part to determine what men have qualities of leadership. Men who meet the test will be recognized and will win NCO stripes. Every man in the combat team has a chance.

The mainland AJAs in general speak much better English than the islanders, who, for the first time in their lives, are learning that pidgin is not a sign of sophistication. The islanders are now somewhat aware of their shortcomings in this regard, and respect the mainlanders for their ability to express themselves effectively.

A growing mutual respect is replacing the early consciousness of differences. Daily association, a recognition of common problems and a common purpose, together with a more equitable distribution of NCO stripes, are influences leading to a more unified spirit. Individual friendships are forming without regard to places of origin.

An army unit is something like an individual human being, in that it has a personality of one kind or another.

At Camp Shelby, 100 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico in Mississippi, the 442nd combat team is in the process of developing a personality of its own.

The combat team is still new and plastic, far from shaken down into the matured characteristics for which it will ultimately be known. But it is on its way—to something. Part of its personality is being formed in the daily associations of camp life, in the spirit developing among the men at work and in leisure, in the marches and tactical training out in the woods over which the sunlight shimmers at 100 to 120 degrees.

Part of the finished personality may wait for some galvanizing incident on the battlefield—an enemy position assaulted and bought with blood and indomitable spirit.

Whatever it is headed for, the yeast is already working. Definite traits have already emerged, some of them the inevitable results of what is believed to be the highest IQ of any unit in the army. If there was one opinion

expressed to us more frequently than any other by officers of all ranks, it was this: the men of the 442nd are eager to learn, are extraordinarily quick to learn, and aren't malingerers.

The 442nd already has one physical characteristic which makes it distinctive—a distinctiveness attended by difficulties. We refer, of course, to the Japanese ancestry of these young American citizens. Racially, their stock is that of our enemies. Out of that biological fact grow difficulties and misunderstanding for the boys of the 442nd.

They have to prove themselves every inch of the way, even though they were born on American soil, have gone through American schools and have identified their lives with America. A mistake made by any one individual in the outfit reflects back with an immediate and inescapable directness upon the combat team as a whole. No other unit in the army stands in such a position.

They face the corroding influences of ignorance and misunderstanding. Nothing could be more strikingly apparent to one who understands them and has watched them in combat training than that these young men, despite their racial derivation, are a people different from their ancestors. To think otherwise is to make a fundamental mistake.

That is the solid rock on which this experiment is based. That is the premise on which the war department offered these men the opportunity of serving their country in battle.

Another characteristic which is making for their integrated personality as an army unit is their determination to succeed because failure would be intolerable.

Their future place in America, and the future of their brothers, sisters and children, and of their parents who are loyal to the Allied cause, is bound up in their record in battle as members of the 442nd combat team.

They know it.

On top of that, they have been catapulted into the deep south, and

into its social distinctions. Through it they appear to be moving with dignity, with modesty, with pride, with self-respect. In nearby communities they enter theaters and restaurants along with Caucasians, and are accepted there without question.

They can not accomplish the impossible, but they are winning respect among people whose minds are not closed.

Four out of five merchants with whom we talked in Hattiesburg spoke well of the men of the 442nd. The fifth merely said they were good customers.

The editor of the Hattiesburg American is an ardent champion of the combat team. He is a southerner, born and raised. He and one other man, the latter the owner of a nearby stock farm, have done more for the 442nd than any other civilian in the Shelby area.

Incidentally, many of the officers of the 442nd are southerners by birth, education and lifelong residence, ranging from a lieutenant colonel down to lieutenants. Their respect for the men under their command is genuine, and great.

Added to the ultimate test of battle, the soldiers of the 442nd, with their adolescence not many years behind them, are shouldering problems of adaptation which no Caucasian unit is obliged to bear.

Fortunately, so far as we could see, the men give every evidence of a healthy mental outlook.

The men do not go about with the appearance of persons carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders. They are a high spirited, cheerful lot, who delight in beer, sports and a good time. Even though they bear responsibilities beyond their years and beyond the lot of many another soldier, they don't seem to take themselves too seriously.

They do not seek trouble, although they do not always escape it. They have their pride, and they will not lie down as a doormat for anyone to walk over. There have been a number of fights, sometimes between AJAs and Caucasians, sometimes among the AJAs themselves.

When they fight they give a very good account of themselves indeed, and they fight clean. From what the officers tell us, these encounters have been no more frequent than in any other outfit.

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We left Camp Shelby with the feeling that the boys of the 442nd are a credit to their country, to Hawaii, to their parents, to their uniform and to the Americanizing processes of the public schools. They are good citizens, ready to prove it with their lives, and without making too much fuss about it, either.

Ten days ago we watched the 442nd combat team march in review at Camp Shelby. The band went by, cymbals clashing and brasses blaring. Behind streamed the Stars and Stripes, and the regimental colors. In battle uniform, the infantry battalions, artillery, engineers and medical units swung crisply down the field.

As they strode past the colonel, unit commanders called out eyes right and put a snarl into it. Colors dipped down with a snap.

As the last company of the "Go for Broke" 442nd stepped off the field, Col. C. W. Pence, a regular army officer and commander of the combat team, said, with a jut to his jaw and a glint in his eye:

"I'll take these men into battle without hesitation!"

THE END.

