

3 KIA and many wounded. We were the Hq2nd that took a hard hit the same day with 6 KIA (the sixth died in the hospital), and 3 wounded. We were E Company who took on the enemy in the area of Hill 140 with a vengeance. We were H Company who led the charge to save the trapped supply in the Vosges Mountains. We were F Company, part of the O'CONNOR and FUKUDA task forces. We were G Company who protected the flank of the Lost Battalion rescue team. We were the young Nisei who earned battlefield commissions: MASAO CHOMORI, TERUO IHARA, WILLIAM S. OBA, DANIEL K. INOUE, KEICHIRO YAMATO, SUSUMU YAMADA, MINORU KURATA, HENRY C. OYASATO, WILLIE KIYOTA, KENNETH T. MASAMITSU, SHIGETO KANEMOTO, HIDEO KAICHI, and TAKAO HEDANI. We were part of the "Red Bull" that pushed the enemy back over 50 miles to the Arno River. We were there in France and faced some of the Nazi's best - we would pound them at Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and Belmont in the battle for a key transportation center at St. Die. We would return to Italy to join the 92nd Division in smashing Field Marshall Kesselring's forces including his famed machine gun battalion and crack the "Gothic Line." We would push on to the Po River and accept the final surrender of the Germans. We were the brave Company Commanders: TOM AKINS, BILL AULL, TOM CORWLEY, CHARLES FARNUM, JR., JOE HILL, CHRIS KEEGAN, RALPH ENSMINGER, JACK RODARME, and BERT NISHIMURA. Lt. Col. JAMES HANLEY would lead us through the Rome-Arno, Vosges Mountains, and "Champagne" campaigns. Major ROBERT GOPEL would take command of our final Po Valley campaign. Captain CALIFORNIA USHIRO and his Medics were there to patch up the broken bodies. We had Chaplain HIRO HIGUCHI to administer to our spiritual needs. That, in a few words, was the 2nd Battalion. And so, on February 10, 1946, with nearly all of the original members discharged or traveling home for eventual phasing out, and without fanfare, the 2nd Battalion became just a footnote in history. Still, as DAN INOUE, of E Company and the U.S.

Senate, would say at 50th Anniversary: "...we can stand tall in knowing that our journey of together, a journey that began on that tragic Sunday morning, was not in vain." Au revoir and arrivederci - it was an unforgettable journey.



by HAROLD FUKUNAGA

### Annual Shinnenkai

We had our annual year-end party of Shinnenkai on January 29, 1994 at the Clubhouse. As usual, this event brings out a very good turnout. This year was no exception. Besides giving the guys and the wives a chance to catch up on the news of the past year's events, it always gives the chapter a chance to replenish its treasury. The Treasurer is very busy, collecting the new year's dues, plus penalties of \$1 for every meeting missed during the past year. We also collect the dinner charge for that evening. This year's Treasurer, AL AMII, was unable to attend the party, because of the conflict with another party, and HIROMI SUEHIRO, our former Treasurer, was home with the flu, so EDDIE OCHIAI, our current President, took over the collection job for the night.

There was a short program, with EDDIE OCHIAI announcing his committee assignments and other matters. JANKAWABATA, TAKETO's daughter, gave a prayer, before everyone started with the dinner, which was a buffet catered by Suehiro's Restaurant. After the sumptuous dinner, the usual bingo games were held. Surprisingly, I was informed that I would be the guy in charge of the bingo, but luckily, SPEED TANNA offered to assist me, so it wasn't a total disaster. He and I ran the games on a short straight type of bingo, because the members said "loud and clear," keep it short. SPEED and I finished the games in about half an hour, when the moneys



collected all ran out. Anyway, the party is primarily aimed to give everyone time to talk stories with everyone else, so it was a success from that standpoint. The 37 people who attended the party were: TAKETO & JUDY KAWABATA and their daughter JAN; YOSHI & CAROL YOSHIWA; EDDIE & GRACE OCHIAI; TOSHIMASA KANAI; KAZU & FUJIKO MOTOBU and their daughter; FRED & DOLORES IDA; RAY & PAT HANDA; TAKESHI ONUMA; GRACE ISHII; KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA; JOHN & CLARA KIKUYAMA; BOBBY & YOSHIKO ITO; SPEED & EDNA TANNA; ROBERT & HARRIET MIYATA; SHIGEMI & BETTY ISHIZAKI; EDDIE & EMILY TAMANAHA; HAROLD & JANE FUKUNAGA and their daughter, AMY; KENNETH & KATHERINE FUJIMOTO and PEGGY KOMODA.

### Other News

TAKESHI ONUMA underwent a prostate surgery recently and he is recuperating at home after spending a few days at Queens Medical Center.

We heard that TAKI HANDA of Los Angeles lost his wife, ANN. The chapter would like to extend our condolences to him and his family. It seems strange that we saw TAKI and ANN in Las Vegas in September when we had our mini-reunion. She seemed to be in good health then. Did you know that we have a one of a kind Vice President in George Chapter? Yes, we have GRACE ISHII as our Vice President of George Chapter. GRACE is the widow of our former member, FRANCIS ISHII, and has inherited his life membership of the 442nd Veterans Club; so she can attend the Board of Director's meetings in case the President of our chapter cannot attend. She will be able to vote as regular member of the 442 VC. We're very fortunate in having GRACE participate actively in our chapter and mother club activities. We're sure she can contribute to our activities, especially giving the woman's point of view in many of our deliberations.

### Recollections of Wartime Days

by KICHIO EBISUYA and SHIGEMI ISHIZAKI

KICHIO EBISUYA and SHIGEMI ISHIZAKI were assigned to different companies during their basic and field training. KICHIO was assigned to "C" Co while SHIGEMI was assigned to "G" Co. The difference was in the non-commissioned officer cadre. On the one hand, KICHIO stated that the cadre in "C" Co got along well with young recruits, whereas the cadre in "G" Co were aloof and treated the recruits harshly and meted out company punishments for infractions lavishly. These cadre personnel were in the Army before the war and were given the ranks of non-commissioned officers just before the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was established. They were from the mainland, so their style of doing things were different from the recruits from Hawaii. The following events illustrate the way the cadre of "G" Co operated. SHIGEMI remembers that when they were first assigned to G Co. he befriended "Jr." KAWAKAMI, who was assigned to a cot near him. One day, he told "JR," "Let's take a shower." During those days, when they first started training, they had only cold water showers. When they went in to take a shower, there was another person in there, taking a shower, but they didn't think anything about it. While showering, "JR" urinated and part of it went on the other person's feet, who immediately grabbed "JR's" dogtag to find out who he was. After SHIGEMI and "JR" returned to their hut, "JR" was called into the day room. He was directed to go outside and dig a hole, 6 ft. by 6 ft. by 6 ft. in the ground. SHIGEMI later found out that the person in the shower was a cadre non com.

SHIGEMI said that he recalls that he was a victim of the punishment of digging 6 x 6 x 6 three times during his training days. He recalls another person by the name of NAKAHARA was another guy who dug many, many, 6 x 6 x 6 holes during training. KICHIO said that he doesn't remember ever seeing anyone required to dig such holes in "C" Co during training days. Other forms of punishment were meted out, but nothing as severe as those holes.



SHIGEMI recalls an incident during training. He was slated to go on a 3 day pass beginning on a Saturday. After the normal Saturday's inspection was completed, he went to the day room to pick up his pass. He was told by the 1st Sgt. to wait, until he could check out SHIGEMI's bunk area. Because the 1st Sgt. couldn't find anything wrong, he went near the coal stove heater and jumped up to touch the rafter above it. He showed SHIGEMI that the rafter top had some dirt or soot. SHIGEMI lost temper then and punched the 1st Sgt. down, because he felt that he has lost his pass already. The 1st Sgt. left and soon after, he was called into the day room by Capt. AULL who asked him to give his version of what happened. SHIGEMI explained to him what happened. Capt. AULL told him that if he were in combat, he could have faced the firing squad for his actions. He asked SHIGEMI why didn't he just keep a cool head and report to him. He would have overridden the 1st Sgt. decision. The Captain then asked SHIGEMI what he would prefer, a court martial or company punishment? SHIGEMI told him that he didn't care what they did with him. The captain was so angry at the reply that he threw a pencil, which he had in his hand, on the floor and asked him the question again. SHIGEMI was given company punishment, which was the less severe of the two choices.

SHIGEMI recalls another incident at Camp Shelby, which appears funny as related now. G Co. had won 1st prize for the best decorated mess hall in the camp. EARL FINCH had donated two 200 pound pigs to G. Co. as the prize. The Co decided to huli huli pigs on a certain day. Some boys were assigned to cook the pig from early in the morning for the evening dinner. When the thought the pigs were ready to serve, they found out that the inside of the pigs were still uncooked, so they had to cut them and cook them in the oven. When they finally were ready to serve the cooked pigs, it was about 2 a.m. in the morning. He doesn't recall how many guys had enough patience to wait and have their pork dinner.

On the first day of combat, SHIGEMI, who was

in the 3rd squad of the 1st platoon, remembers that they were on the right flank and came across a farmhouse with a pear orchard. The people in the farmhouse came running towards them and told them to pick the pears, if they wanted them. So, they picked some pears and forgot about the war. Before long, they started to receive some mortar and artillery shelling, so they scrambled to find some cover or shelter. He thinks that one of the boys was hit by the shrapnel. He thinks it was a guy named TAKAO ITO. They realized later that they should have checked out the farmhouse before picking the pears, because Germans were probably using the farmhouse as an observation post to call in the mortar and artillery shells. He remembers that incident very much, because it was the 1st day of combat. He admitted that he was scared as heck from the shelling.

He remembers that the whole company pulled back that night and walked for several hours before stopping and resting until daybreak. One of the guys was accidentally shot in the leg when he was trying to clean his BAR. He reached over and pulled the BAR towards himself, because he thought all of the bullets were out of the chamber, but he was wrong and the gun got stuck or something and went off when he tried to pull it again. SHIGEMI remembers his name was OUCHI and that he was evacuated soon thereafter.

SHIGEMI recalls that someone was accidentally hit by a vehicle, as we were walking that night after the 1st day of action. His name was ROY FUKUSHIMA and he was evacuated to the hospital.

Both KICHIO and SHIGEMI recall one incident where the company entered a small village and found one 88 mm artillery gun. The Germans apparently didn't know that the village was occupied by Americans, so they were riding on 3 German jeeps and returning to the village, when FRED IDA went out on the road and yelled "Halt," like a traffic cop. The 3 jeeps stopped and FRED slowly backed off while the company waited. When the Germans started to get off the jeeps, the entire company opened fire on them,



killing a few and capturing the rest. It was G Co.'s first booty, capturing 3 German jeeps and one 88 mm artillery gun. It was KICHIO's first sight of a German soldier. They really looked huge to him.

It was a day or so after that incident that HAROLD recalls being on a ration detail. It was early in the morning, before day break, when they went back to get these food rations in cases. On their way back, as dawn broke, they happened to rest on a short bridge over a small stream. No sooner after they unloaded the ration cases from their shoulders, the mortar barrage came in. All of the guys jumped into the stream and moved upstream, but the barrage continued to follow them. Finally, after about 1/2 an hour, the barrage subsided and they met up with some 100 Battalion guys coming up and they were advised to retrieve the rations and delivered them to the company. It took them about 3 hours to finally catch up with the company, which had moved out earlier.

After that, we came to Hill 140, where we caught hell for several days. SHIGEMI remembers being on the flank and met DAN INOUE of Easy Co. He remembers being told by Lt. ROCK, who was the weapons platoon leader, to go back and call Capt. AULL to the front lines. SHIGEMI thought it was a strange order to take, but he figured that Lt. ROCK was the ranking officer on the front line. So, SHIGEMI went back to relay the message to Capt. AULL. They both started returning to the front lines, but SHIGEMI lost the Captain because he was running back too fast. When he returned to Lt. ROCK, he reported that he gave the message to the Captain, but didn't know what had happened to the Captain. He thinks that the Captain was finally able to locate Lt. ROCK. SHIGEMI remembers this incident very well, because of the way Lt. ROCK told him, "Private, come here! Go back and ask Captain AULL to come to the front lines!" He was never given that kind of direct order by an officer before. SHIGEMI thinks the reason Lt. ROCK knew him was an incident on the ship from the U.S. to Africa. He was scheduled to go on KP on a certain day. He found that the other guys who

were assigned to KP were seasick, so he decided to claim sea sickness. The sergeant later saw SHIGEMI shooting craps with some guys and so he was turned in to the officer in charge, who was Lt. ROCK. When he reported to Lt. ROCK, the latter was lying on his cot and ordered SHIGEMI to stand at attention, although SHIGEMI was already standing at attention. He was ordered to spend the rest of the day in a small room, which was designated as the brig. He was surprised to see HAROLD TOKESHI in there also. He wasn't aware as to why TOKESHI was in there. The next day, another officer came in and asked SHIGEMI if he wanted to participate in a boxing match. He figured that it would be better to box rather than stay in the brig. So, he agreed to box a crew member. He won and later boxed an H Co. guy, because the ship carried H Co. guys also. He won the 2nd bout and was awarded 3 cartons of cigarettes and the opportunity to eat his meals with the Navy crew on the ship.

KICHIO remembers one of the guys he knew who was killed on Hill 140. His name was KANAME ENOMOTO, who was with him in the same platoon in C Co. during basic and field training days.

SHIGEMI recalls the running attack led by 1st Sgt. BILL ODA. After several days on Hill 140, Sgt. ODA led the attack down the hill, firing as he went. SHIGEMI was with him and saw him shoot a German as he was attacking. The attack was set in concert with a rolling artillery barrage from 522 Field Artillery guns. Because the attack was going so fast, there was danger of running into the rolling barrage. So they finally stopped the attack when they got to the bottom of the hill and resumed the attack when it was safe of not running into the barrage.

KICHIO wonders why the company was dug in on the open space on the top of the hill. He thought that if the company was in an area where there was more cover, like behind the hill or in the wooded area, then we would not have incurred as many casualties. Because we were in the open area, we were like sitting ducks to the German, who were able to see us and rain



mortar and artillery fire on us. They remembered that there was a bombed out farmhouse on the hill and there were some chickens when we first went on the hill early in the morning. Some guys were trying to catch those chicken before the shelling started.

SHIGEMI remembered that there was a guy named NIIDE, who was hit by shrapnel during one of the barrages. Some of the guys used to throw pebbles at their nearby buddies when the shelling lifted temporarily, to check whether they were alright or not. Unfortunately, NIIDE was killed during one of these barrages. He also heard that some of the boys got hit at night when the Germans were firing tracer bullets at certain height and were firing non-tracer bullets at a lower level. Some of our boys used the tracer bullets to guide them to crouch lower and try to attack the Germans, but were hit by the lower level non-tracer bullets. SHIGEMI said that BILL ODA should be commended for leading the attack down the hill since nobody was willing to lead the company. He wondered where his platoon sergeant was during all this time.

KICHIO remembers the day that he was wounded in the buttocks by a bullet. It was early one morning near where there were some haystacks, from which some guys had captured some Germans who were hiding in the haystacks. After he was wounded, he went back to the company CP. On his way, he was still being shot at by the Germans; therefore he found a route which provided him with some cover and finally made it to the company CP. From there he went to the Battalion Aid Station and then to the hospital. He remained in the hospital in Rome for awhile and then rejoined the company when the company was assigned in the Florence area.

SHIGEMI also remembered that area, because he had to dig the slit trenches with his bayonet, because of the bullets that were whizzing by as he tried to dig. He couldn't use his pick or shovel because he would have been hit by the bullets. We guess that's how KICHIO was hit by the bullet. SHIGEMI remembers another guy who was hit on his buttock by a bullet. His name was "FUZZY" OSHIRO. He told "FUZZY" you

lucky you got hit there and now you can go back to the hospital for a rest. "FUZZY" told him, "It hurts, you know."

SHIGEMI remembers the time when the outfit was assigned in the Florence area. G Co. was one of the first to cross the Arno River and made contact with the 88th Div. SHIGEMI was on the flank and was on guard at night, when he heard some guys talking in Italian or German, he wasn't sure. He woke his buddy, a guy named ABE, and told him to shoot, but the guy was groggy from just getting up and decided to use his BAR. He tried to use the BAR, but it jammed and wouldn't fire. Just about then, a group of guys were coming and they started yelling "Takuan, Ninjin, Gobo," because he forgot the password. SHIGEMI realized that they were our guys, so he didn't fire the BAR. The next morning, one of the guys in his squad came up and asked what happened last night? He heard some guys talking loud and all that. SHIGEMI told him about the jammed BAR and they guy took the BAR and pressed the trigger and it worked. SHIGEMI was surprised and relieved that it didn't work the previous night, because he could have killed some friendly forces.

SHIGEMI also remembers that even though the platoon went on the Pisa patrol earlier, he didn't go because he had a severe toothache the day before. He reported to the dentist but he wasn't in, so his helper worked on him and pulled his tooth. They didn't mess around with fixing the teeth, they just pulled the tooth. So when he returned to the company, he found out the platoon had gone on to the Pisa patrol.

SHIGEMI recalls the Bruyeres campaign because he was involved in the attack just outside of town. They were the point in the attack, but were pinned down by German fire when they were in the open area. They couldn't move for the whole day, but were able to return to the company that night. HAROLD remembers that their squad was supposed to follow SHIGEMI's squad, but because they were pinned down, they decided to continue the attack through another route through the town. They cleared several houses in the process and they were



able to capture 5 or 6 prisoners in the 1st house, because they were hiding in the basement.

KICHIO recalls seeing F Co. guys attacking the town from another location. It was like movies, he said. He didn't like the constant rain that kept on coming down all day long, making everything all wet and cold. SHIGEMI didn't like the rain, because the foxholes that he dug soon became like puddles and later like small ponds, with water about 3 or 4 inches deep. He used his helmet as a small stool by turning the helmet upside down and sitting on it, preventing getting a wet rear end. HAROLD and KICHIO were victims of trench feet or frost bite, because they had no chance to dry their feet because of the constant rain and sleet. As a result, they were sent back to the hospital for recovery and finally returned to company when the outfit was in Sospel area.

They all remembered that area where there was a lot of snow in the mountains. Each platoon had a certain sector to watch in a defensive position. HAROLD and KICHIO recall the snowstorm that hit them in the outpost area on Christmas Eve. It was snowing so much that the small pup tents that they put up to protect them from the elements couldn't withstand the snow piling on them. As a result, the tent poles snapped and they had to use their rifles to prop up the tents until the next morning. In fact, HAROLD recalls that he and his tentmate KAORU NODA, were supposed to go on guard duty at the observation post at a certain time, but they slept until the next morning because no one woke them up. They found out later that the sergeant in charge decided to pull in the guards because of the snow storm.

Funny things happened in France, as told by SHIGEMI. It happened after we landed in Marseilles and went to the bivouac area, where we all pitched tents with another guy, the two-man tents. He set up a tent with OKUTANI, who later told him that he was going to sick call. SHIGEMI told him okay, but OKUTANI told him he had to retrieve his half of the shelter or tent. That left SHIGEMI with no partner to set up a tent, so he asked his friend, KIHARA, if he could

crowd in with them and have 3 guys in a 2-man tent. Luckily KIHARA agreed and let SHIGEMI crowd into their tent.

KICHIO remembers certain events after Bruyeres, when the company was dug in after attacking. He wanted to relieve himself so he went a few yards away from his squad. He saw some Germans a hundred yards away or so, so he hastily went back to report the position of the enemy, but they didn't do anything about it. Instead, they kept on going on an attack across the railroad track, where the enemy was waiting. Some guys were wounded, so they returned to the original point on the other side of the railroad embankment.

KICHIO recalls the incident on the mountain, outside of Sospel, "FUZZY" OSHIRO got killed from an accident, when a hand grenade that someone was carrying in his overcoat pocket exploded with OSHIRO nearby. That overcoat was lying on the floor of this dugout where the guys were playing cards. When it was time for chow, everyone walked out of the dugout and OSHIRO was the last guy in there. Apparently, he must have stepped on the grenade and the safety pin came off, thereby causing the explosion. OSHIRO didn't look too bad, because we checked him out and saw some small shrapnel wounds in his back. The platoon sent a litter bearer squad and carried him back to the rear company CP, where there was an ambulance waiting for him to be transported to the hospital. Someone told us later that the shrapnel penetrated his stomach, so he died.

KICHIO remembers one incident in the mountains, of eating rabbit stew or something like that. HAROLD explained that he and HENRY OSHIRO decided to go back to the farmhouse in the valley behind of the lines to trade some fresh vegetables for some of our canned goods, such as meat, vegetable stew, and meat and beans. On the way down, HAROLD spotted a rabbit sitting. HAROLD aimed the carbine that they brought along and shot at the rabbit, but he remained standing. So he handed the carbine to HENRY to shoot it. HENRY was a better marksman, so he killed the rabbit and carried it down



to the Frenchman's farmhouse. The farmer was more than happy to trade the vegetables for all the canned goods we had. In fact, he and his wife invited HAROLD and HENRY to have some wine before leaving. Anyway, that evening, the outpost had fresh vegetables, rabbit meat, and other things to make it an enjoyable meal. KICHIO said that he was starving up there, because the 10 in 1 rations that they used to send up to outpost was cooked in a 5 gallon container, and everyone used his own spoon to scoop up the food and eat. If you didn't eat fast enough, you could starve. Unluckily, KICHIO was not a fast eater, so he was able to eat only a few spoonfuls before for the food was gone. I think that the mainland guys were not used to this community style of eating, so they must have gone hungry also.



by HENRY KUNIYUKI

The 51st Annual Banquet of the 442nd Veterans Club honored all the past presidents whose effective leadership has contributed much to foster the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Each Chapter was requested to host these past presidents as their respective guests. The Livorno Chapter members readily agreed to honor the 5th 442nd Veterans Club president, the late GEORGE MIKI, who held the high office during 1948 and 1949. Livorno Chapter members are well aware of the fact that GEORGE was instrumental in organizing the Mother Club with other founders, and served as our first representative to the Board of Directors upon the Club's inception. The chapter reporter was elected Livorno's first president when GEORGE convinced the 442nd RCT replacements to band together and form our very own chapter. GEORGE had selected the name of "Livorno" for the chapter as this port city of Leghorn was

where the 442nd RCT was last stationed on occupation duty after the cessation of the European combat. During GEORGE's regime as President, the Livorno Chapter presented the World War II Honor Roll "In Memorium" of all those Territory of Hawaii residents killed in action. The "Honor Roll" is still to this day displayed prominently on the clubhouse's mauka lounge wall.

Since GEORGE MIKI has gone to his reward many years ago, his widow, SACHI, will represent him to receive the honors. When the Livorno chapter news was being written, SACHI requested that her daughter, LESLIE, be the recipient if at all possible as LESLIE resides on the Big Island and may be present in Honolulu on March 26. SACHI has been employed as a senior Account Clerk at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Waikiki for the past seventeen years. Her daughter CAROLYN is currently teaching at a private Catholic school in Medford, Oregon. She has a twelve-year old daughter ALISSA. SACHI's other daughter, LESLIE, is a health food store proprietor in Hilo. LESLIE has a fifteen-year old daughter, KAHANU. GEORGE, who passed away in 1960 was a long-time supervising staff member of the City & County of Honolulu Land Department. GEORGE had resigned from his C & C position to form his own land development firm in partnership with GEORGE HASEGAWA prior to his untimely death. Livorno chapter members are proud of GEORGE's accomplishments as the 5th president of the 442nd Veterans Club, which included large-scale fundraising events which culminated in the construction of our present clubhouse.

Several Livorno members have been busy traveling the latter part of 1993 and during the first quarter of 1994. HARUTO and YURIKO HARADA participated at a family reunion for twelve days at Fresno, California. They were able to observe a white Christmas, although the inclement weather hovered between 36 - 45 degrees, compounded with heavy fog. Those planning trips to Las Vegas were: SHIZUO & CALRA OIDE, with their customary side trip to San Francisco; PAUL & BETTY TAKAEZU;