

# OTHER *News*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Japan-Hawaii Goodwill

### High School Baseball

by KATS MIHO

During World War II, baseball in Hawaii reached its greatest height of popularity because of the large number of major leagues stars who played in the military and civilian leagues. It drew large and enthusiastic crowds at the old Honolulu Stadium. However, when the war ended, baseball was not a self-supporting activity and suffered a steady, rapid, decline in popularity and participation, especially at the high school level.

Due to the lack of corporate sponsors, the State Department of Education approached the 442nd Veterans Club and in early 1950s, the Club accepted the challenge and assumed the promotion and sponsorship of the Annual Hawaii High School Baseball Tournament. High school champions from every league, representing every island, were brought in for the beginning of the annual championship event. Every member of the 442nd Veterans Club was involved in this service project, assisting in the plans and operation of the three day tournament, as well as selling a quota of tickets to help the schools defray expenses. In the beginning, tickets were only distributed to the Club members and their donations wholly supported the project. Eventually, the state tournament became sufficiently self-supporting and was taken over by the State Department of Education.

About the same time (1953), at the invitation of the All-Japan High School Baseball Federation and Asahi Shimbun, Osaka, Japan, a delegation of Hawaii high school baseball All-Stars toured Japan. In 1955, a delegation of Japan high school baseball All-Stars toured Hawaii at the invitation of the 442nd Veterans Club and since then Japan and Hawaii have been exchanging visits by the respective All-Star delegations every odd year. Notable participants of

the international goodwill series are DEREK TATSUNO, SID FERNANDEZ, and JOEY MEYER. The Japan team consists of an all-star contingent selected from more than 40 prefecture championship teams that play in the annual National Japan High School Baseball Championship Tournament at Osaka. With the cooperation and dedication contribution of the 442nd Veterans Club and the AJA Veterans organizations of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Oahu and even Molokai hosting of the Japan Goodwill Baseball teams still continues. The August, 1983 visit of the Japan team marked the 30th anniversary of the 442nd High School Baseball project.

In 1993, Hawaii All-Stars toured southern Japan in June and, most appropriately on this our 50th Anniversary, will be coached by DUNN MURAMARU, son of GEORGE MURAMARU (Battery B, 522 FABn), whose Mid-Pacific High School baseball team has been the unprecedented Hawaii State Champion for the last three years. Chaperoning the 1993 visit were KATS MIHO, Chairperson of the Baseball Committee, RON OBA, President, 442nd Veterans Club, GEORGE NAKASATO, Chairman, 50th Anniversary Reunion Committee, and MASA YONEMINE, long-time volunteer and committee member. The Goodwill Baseball series was kept viable and meaningful all these years largely due to the unselfish and untiring efforts of the late SUE and TOMMY KIYOSAKI (232nd Engineers).

The late Governor JOHN BURNS, an enthusiastic, loyal, and faithful friend and advisor of the 442nd Veterans Club, eloquently stated: "The international baseball games sponsored by the 442nd Veterans Club is the kind of 'grass-roots diplomacy' that helps promote closer international relationships for the United States...to increase understanding between East and West. The 442nd Veterans Club could not have undertaken a more commendable community service — indeed an international service - project."

Year	No.	Win	Loss	Tie	Dansho
1953	16	10	6		T. KOBAYASHI
1955	10	3	7		Y. NAKAZAWA
1957	14	6	7	1	S. WATANABE



1959	8	4	4	T. SAEKI
1961	14	6	6	2 K. SARUWATARI
1963	8	0	8	H. SUGIMOTO
1965	11	3	7	1 N. KOSASA
1967	12	3	8	1 T. SAEKI
1969	10	4	4	2 F. SUGAI
1971	10	3	6	1 T. SAEKI
1973	9	1	6	3 K. OKUMA
1975	6		1	5 K. MATSUI
1977	7	1	4	2 N. NAKAMURA
1979	6	3	3	N. MAKINO
1981	7	4	3	E. TAMANAHA
*1982	5	4	1	E. UNO
1993	8	8	0	R. OBA

\*Special invitation celebrating Sister-state of Hawaii and Fukuoka relationship.

### 100/442 Archival Research Committee Report

With the mounting interest in next year's tour to the 50th Anniversary of Bruyeres's Liberation by the 100/442nd, the Committee thought it timely and appropriate to share a portion of its archival research for the "Bruyeres/ Biffontaine Revisited" trip down memory lane for the boys.

Reprinted is the official "Narrative of Events" for the month of October, 1994, starting with the October 8, 1944 bivouac at SEPTEMES, FRANCE and climaxing with the rescue of "The Lost Battalion" at Foret Dominiale du Champ, near BIFFONTAINE on October 30, 1944. Other records of these epic 100/442n battles in the Vosges contained in the Journal Unit History, Casualty Report, and Citations and Awards for October, 1944 are also available. These documents are now being catalogued into a computerized index system by the Sons and Daughters team, and when completed, will be made accessible first to the 100/442 vets and their families at the new 442nd Archives and Learning Center.

*(Editor's Note: Due to the length of the following article, it will be serialized. The first installment details the liberation of Bruyeres.)*

#### Narrative of Events

##### 1 - 31 October 44

8 Oct 442 Infantry (less Anti Tank Co.) in bivouac near Septemes, France, during a week of cold and rainy weather. Daily training was held and new machine gun, mortars, and rocket launchers zeroed. Half-day passes to Marseilles and Aix-en-Provence authorized for a 15% quota of personnel.

9 Oct 442d Infantry (les Antitank Co.) began movement by motor convoy to assembly area near Pouxieux, France. CP at Septemes closed at 0830 9 Oct. The first day's movement followed Highway 7 through Aix-en-Provence, Avignon, Valence. Regiment bivouacked near Vienne, and on the 10th continued North through Bourg, Lons le Saunier, Besancon, and on the second night of the trip camped near Vesoul. On the third day the regiment closed in at destination, CP opening at Charmois-Devant-Bruyeres (near Epinal) at 1230 11 Oct 44. The trip covered 450 miles and was made under adverse conditions of rainy weather and slippery roads.

The 3d Battalion made the trip by rail, leaving Septemes in boxcars at 1400 10 October. Arrived at Vesoul 0430 13 Oct., detrained at 1900 and traveled by truck to Charmois-Devant-Bruyeres, arriving at bivouac area approximately 2400 13 Oct. Organic transportation of the battalion moved at the same time in motor convoy. Last elements of the battalion closed in at 0730 14 Oct.

Effective at arrival at VI Corps area, the 442d RCT was attached to VI Corps for operations, administration remaining with Seventh Army, as per secret letter AG 370 5-C, Hq Seventh Army, 4 Oct 44. The 442d Combat Team was further attached to the 36th Infantry Division for operations.

14 Oct Beginning at 1400 the regiment moved up by truck from Charmois devant-Bruyeres to an assembly area near Le Void de le Borde, detrucked and marched two miles to jump-off position in the line approximately four kilometers West of Bruyeres. One casualty was sustained in the approach march, S Sgt. WILLIAM KATO Co. B., wounded by enemy artillery fire. The



regimental CP was established at 191581 (Sheey XXXV-181/50,000 France) in Le Void de La Borde.

15 Oct The regiment attacked at 0800 hours. The 100th Bn and 2nd Bn were in line abreast, with the 2nd Bn on the right, and with the 3d Bn in regimental reserve. The regimental sector covered a front of approximately two kilometers on the left of the 36th Infantry Division zone, with the 143d Infantry (36th Div.) on the right and the 179th Infantry (45th Div.) on the left. The primary objective was the capture of the city of Bruyeres, a city of 4,000 population and vertex of a road net to St. Die and Gerardmer. The 442d Infantry was to assault the heights North of the city, which command the valley in which the city lies.

The 442d Infantry had direct artillery support from the 522d Field Artillery Battalion of the 442d RCT. The 232d Engineer (C) Company, of the 442d RCT, provided first priority mine clearance and road maintenance. Other units attached were:

- Co B, 752d Tank Bn (M)
- Co C, 636th Tank Destroyer Bn (less I platoon)
- Co D, 83d Chemical Weapons Bn (4.2 mortars)

- 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop
- 886th Collecting Co., 56th Medical Bn

The terrain through which the advance was to be made is called the Foret de Faite, a mountainous and dense pine forest northwest of Bruyeres, known to be strongly defended by gun sites, minefields, and prepared Infantry positions.

The 2nd Bn crossed the LD at 0800 in a column of companies, with F Co leading, followed by E Co and G Co in battalion reserve. One machine gun platoon from H Co supported the leading rifle company, the rest of the heavy weapons provided general battalion support. F Co met resistance three kilometers from Bruyeres, engaged in a firefight at 0930, continuing until 1230. The 1st and 2d platoons, F Co, killed five German during the day and took 14 prisoners. The company's losses were 1 KIA, 4 WIA. Three EM from E Co were wounded by

enemy artillery. Enemy resistance increased during the afternoon, and the battalion dug in. During the night, a combat patrol from Co G was sent to Hill 468 (226568) to contact Co C, 143d Inf on the right. A patrol also maintained contact with the 100th Bn on the left.

The 100th Bn jumped off at 0800 through the thickly wooded hills, with B Co leading. Enemy resistance developed strongly, estimated at two companies supported by automatic weapons and artillery and a tank which the battalion forced to withdraw. Baker Co fought continuously throughout the day, took five prisoners and suffered one KIA. C Co followed B across the LD, exchanged small arms fire with the Germans in the woods and dug in during the afternoon. A Co, the reserve company of the 100th, was subjected to a severe artillery barrage at 1430 which caused 20 casualties, 1 KIA, 19 WIA. Co A maintained contact with G Co, 179th Inf on the left flank. Co D supported the rifle companies although the thickly wooded area restricted the use of crew-served weapons.

During the day a total of 20 German prisoners were taken, from the 9th Co, 19th SS Police Regt, and from the 232d Grenadier Regt. Information from the POWs indicated that the CP of the 19th SS Police Regt was located at 243587; the ration dump at 313630, CP of the 9th Co., 19th SS Police Regt on Hill 578 (Hill "A"). All of these targets were brought under artillery fire. Also the location and pattern of minefields laid along the road from Bruyeres to the fork at 243587 were obtained.

16 Oct The attack was resumed at 0800 and again met stiff opposition. Co F advanced against infantry and machine gun nests to within 1000 meters of Bruyeres and occupied part of Hill 555 (Haut de Heledrave 2288577) Northwest of town. Co E was committed at 0800 on the 2d Bn left, attacked Hill 555 under heavy fire, and occupied it at 1100. Further advance by the battalion across the open ground in front of Bruyeres was stopped when the Germans mounted a one-hour counterattack at 1730, preceded by an artillery barrage. The counterattack came from



Hill "B" 245577 (Le Chateau Col) and included fire from SP guns, mortars, and three tanks, and an attempted recovery by enemy Infantry. However the battalion broke up the attack after an hour's fighting, without yielding any of the hard-earned ground.

Meanwhile on the regimental left, B Co, 100th Bn advanced 1000 yards Northeast through the forest up to open ground at the foot of Hill 578 (Hill "A"). C Co was on the battalion right, and A Co moved up to fill the gap caused by the advance of B and C Cos. Fighting was continuous throughout the day and enemy artillery especially active.

During the day a total of 21 prisoners were taken. Information from a captured document disclosed that the town of Bruyeres was also defended by the 1st and 2nd Bns, 736th Grenadier Regt. Prisoners taken were from the 19th SS Police Regt, 2nd Co Engineer Bn 1316, and Fortress Machine Gun Battalion 49.

The night of Oct 16-17 was spent under sporadic shelling, with a cold wind and soaking rain adding to the discomfort of the troops.

29 officers and 300 EM over strength were transferred to the 2d Replacement Depot at St Loup, in accordance with Seventh Army directive that T/O strength only would be taken in to combat.

17 Oct On the 3d day of the action the Germans counterattacked twice early in the day to drive our forces from Hill 555. At 0730, following a heavy barrage by artillery and SP high-velocity guns, two companies of enemy Infantry attacked Cos E and F on Hill 555. At the same time an attack of similar size was launched against B and C Cos on the left. The rifle companies, supported by their attached heavy weapons and fire from the 522d Field Artillery Bn, repulsed the attack at 0830. The Germans formed on the wooded slopes of Hill A (Hill 578) and Hill B (Le Chateau Col) and again attacked at 0930, supported by artillery and three tanks. The attack drive against the 2d battalion. Because of the impossibility of getting the 57mm Antitank guns into the forest, the battalion formed six

bazooka teams to meet the armor, and with all available fire power drove the Germans back into the hills from which the attack had come.

Immediately both the 2d and 100th Bns resumed the offensive, subject again to artillery and mortar and automatic weapons fire from the German held Hills A and B. In addition the Germans had fortified the houses at the foot of these hills, arming them with machine guns which commanded the flat land between Hill 555 and Hills A and B. Both battalions found themselves pinned down by this fire and faced with the necessity of reducing these houses before resuming the advance. The Germans were well dug in, and their positions resisted artillery fire.

Baker and Charley Companies, aided by 4.2 chemical mortars, worked on the houses along the 100th Bn front, finding themselves opposed by 15 machine guns and two AT guns. G Co went around to the regimental right flank, and aided by four tanks, cleared out the houses on the road running SE-NW along the foot of Hill 555. Cos E and F advanced to the tip of the wood at 238575. The intense automatic and small arms fire coming across the open terrain from Hill B forced them to remain in this position for the remainder of the day. Prisoner taken during the day - 3.

During the night, a 15 man patrol from 3d platoon, Co G, guided by an FFI partisan, reached the road junction at the edge of Bruyeres at 0200 meeting no opposition, and returned at 0250. Additional reconnaissance patrols were immediately sent out, one from B Co towards Hill A (Hill 578) which drew fire and withdrew, and a daylight patrol from 2d platoon, Co , which penetrated the fringe of Bruyeres at 243574 and returned at 0700 18 Oct without encountering the enemy.

### Fall of Bruyeres

18 Oct All-out attack on Hills A and B, and occupation of Bruyeres. Following a half-hour artillery preparation, Cos F and F assaulted Hill B, with Cos I and L of the 3d Battalion committed on their right. At the same time, the 100th Battalion attacked Hill A. All units met bitter



opposition.

At 1100, Baker Co had reduced resistance in the houses at the foot of the Hill A and was fighting up the slope. Co A went around to the left, where its 3d platoon silenced a machine gun nest in a house, taking nine prisoners, then dashed across the open flat and followed B Co up the hill. Hill A was taken at 1420, and battalion dug into a defensive position to guard against possible counterattack. B Co took 45 prisoners during the day, lost 1 KIA, 14 WIA. C Co, in a day-long firefight on the hill, captured 21 prisoners; casualties 2 KIA, 9 WIA.

The attack on Hill B began at 1000 and was successful after eight and a half hours of bitter fighting. F Co. jumped off, found its advance held up by machine gun at the foot of the hills, destroyed it by accurate fire from a 60 mm mortar crew. At 1200 the company was engaged in a firefight in the open area between Hill 555 and Hill B. Co G on the right of the battalion sector also forced its way up the steep side of the hill. During the fight the 2d Bn radio RP was hit by enemy artillery and communications temporarily interrupted. I Co was next to G on its right and L Co went around the base of the hill, North of road net into Bruyeres. At 1630 the hill was taken. F and G Cos mopped up the remnants of resistance and L Co pushed into Bruyeres, street-fighting and clearing the houses one by one. Contact was made with C Co, 143d Infantry, who entered the town from the South, at 248573, at 1830.

By nightfall the town was under control, although a barricaded group of Germans continued to resist in the center of the town. L Co sent a patrol to the eastern outskirts at the foot of Hill D, where they were informed by the French inhabitants that 15 Germans were in a house to their rear. At the same time machine pistols opened up and the patrol had to fight its way back to the company. K Co, the reserve Co of the 3d Bn, entered Bruyeres at 1700, after having disposed of snipers on the way.

During the day the 2d and 3d Battalions took 61 prisoners, bringing the day's total for the regiment to 134. Enemy losses in killed and

wounded were proportionately heavy.

The regimental forward CP moved up during the day, from Le Void da la Borde to the position along the trail on Hill 555, grip coordinate 206576. Weather was cold and the rain continued to fall for the 16th consecutive day. Supply and evacuation presented a difficult problem, as road blocks had to be cleared by engineers and the vehicles and truck drawn weapons found themselves mired in mud over their wheels.

The 141st Field Artillery Bn and the 93d Armored Field Artillery Bn were attached during the day to the 442d Regimental Combat Team, to reinforce the fire of the 522d Field Artillery Battalion.

Additional identification of enemy units encountered: 1st, 2d, 7th Cos 736th Grenadier Regt; 1st Co 716th Engineer Bn; Company Rode, Battle Group Ahrens; 2d, 3d Cos, 198th Fusilier Bn; 2d Co, 192d Panzer Grenadier Regt.

19 Oct While L Co completed the mopping up of Bruyeres on the morning of the 19th, the 2d and remaining elements of 3d Bn pushed onward from the town and assaulted Hill D. The battalion jumped off at 1000 with the 2d Bn on the left and the 3d Bn on the right. Once again our forces were subjected to heavy artillery fire but the enemy Infantry was dislodged and the hill was secured by 1145. The battalions reorganized and attacked again at 1300 with the objective of reaching the railroad embankment 2000 yards East of Bruyeres on the edge of the Foret de Belmont. Cos E and G from the 2d Bn and Cos I and K from the 3d Bn made the push. Enemy troops dug in behind the embankment held up the advance at 1600, and SP guns from the vicinity of Belmont shelled the forward companies. An artillery mission was called on the SP's and the four rifle companies fought up to their objective at 1800. 16 prisoners were taken. Inasmuch as the units on the flanks had not advanced, the 2d and 3d Bns comprised a salient of 2000 yards into the enemy lines. The area occupied by I and K Cos was thickly mined.

During the day the 100th Bn was in regimental



reserve on Hill A, and at 1700 moved into Bruyeres, leaving Co A on the hill to guard the roads leading down from the North. A reconnaissance patrol was sent to Hill C to ascertain enemy strength. It drew small arms and machine gun fire and retired.

The regimental CP moved into Bruyeres at 1500. The Germans shelled the town continuously during the day and night. As a result of the bombardment, by both our own and enemy artillery, and the house-to-house fighting, practically every building had suffered some demolition. However, the 232nd Engineers (C) Co swept the road net and the military value of the town was unimpaired. Because of the shelling, combat traffic regulations were put into effect - no 2 1/2 ton trucks except signal vehicles allowed during daylight hours, with a maximum of one vehicle passing every two minutes.

*(Editor's Note: Next issue- The battle continues into Biffontaine)*

### **Property and House Rules Management Committee Report by Henry KUNIYUKI**

The Property and House Rules Management Committee Report has been meeting each month throughout the year to discuss ways and means of improving, safeguarding, and properly maintaining our 442nd Veterans Club building. The Charter Properties Management Company continues to serve as our building management agent. The Committee members for the past calendar year 1993 were: Chairman HENRY KUNIYUKI; Vice Chairman CHARLES ODA; Treasurer SAM HIRONAKA; Executive Secretary GRACE OKAMURA; WALLACE KAWAMURA; TAKASHI MATSUDA; BOB SASAKI; and ex-officio RONOBA. Having served faithfully a number of years as members of the Committee the following have requested relief from duty: CHARLES ODA, WALLACE KAWAMURA, TAKASHI MATSUDA, and BOB SASAKI.

The 1994 Property and House Rules Management Committee will be chaired by Past President HAROLD FUKUNAGA (George Chapter).

He will be ably assisted by Vice Chairman PAUL TAKIGUCHI (Mike Chapter), Treasurer SAM HIRONAKA (522-B Chapter); Executive Secretary JENNIFER BAKER; WALLY KAWAGA (Antitank Chapter); MASAJI KUROSUMI (Service Chapter); ALAN YUKITOMO (Sons and Daughter Chapter); and ex-officio HENRY KUNIYUKI (Livorno Chapter).

Executive Secretary GRACE OKAMURA, who retired December 15, 1993, stated in her personal message to members of the Board of Directors: "Thank you for your support and cooperation during my short tenure with the organization. It has been a rewarding and educational experience for me. Please extend my best wishes for the Holiday Season to the members of your chapter." The Property and House Rules Management Committee sincerely appreciates GRACE serving as a member of the Committee the past two years. We wish her well on her richly-deserved retirement. As you may know, GRACE OKAMURA has a distinguished career as a school teacher with the State Department of Education before accepting the position as our Executive Secretary of the 442nd Veterans Club. GRACE donated a microwave oven to our Club as her parting gift.

The Property and House Rules Management Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that our archives facility be officially named the 442nd Archives and Learning Center as suggested by the Sons and Daughters Chapter. The Center will be dedicated to the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The members of the 442nd Veterans Club Board of Directors were given an orientation tour of the Center after their monthly meeting on December 6, 1993. The 442nd Veterans Club 3rd Vice-President, GUY KOGA, will chair the Archives Committee with TED TSUKIYAMA, the 442nd Veterans Club Historian serving in an advisory capacity. The members of the Sons and Daughters are to be congratulated for their dedicated endeavors to fulfill our all important legacy mission.

If you have recently visited the 442nd Clubhouse you may have noticed the new display showcase on the ewa wall of the lounge area.