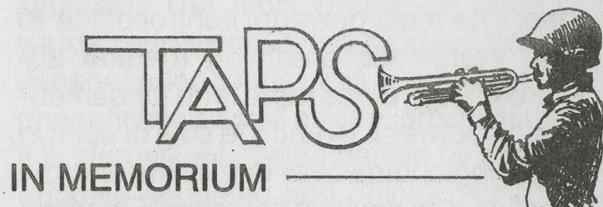


spire together.

To the Japanese, the state of *Kokoro* (heart, mind, soul) is a very important consideration. It is important to them to consider "*Kokoro no oki dokoro*" where to place the mind. There is no specific place to put the mind except that the mind is usually associated with the head. But being placed there it easily succumbs to devious thoughts and illusions and if directed to one place or another, it will be lacking in the use in other directions. However, the Japanese have a saying, "put your mind in your belly (*Hara*)." It does not mean to consciously imprison the mind in the lower region of the abdomen. It means to concentrate yourself in the *Hara* or center yourself and let the spiritual energy, *Ki*, consume the entire being. In this way, the *Hara* controls and maintains the composure necessary for you to face the reality of life.

(Next issue: our inherent quality - the human character and the rational mind.)



Tosh Suyematsu, a Cannon Chapter member, passed away on June 4, 1994.

Robert Iwamoto, a Cannon Chapter member, passed away in the latter half of 1994.

Roy Ichisaki, a Fox Chapter member, passed in Los Angeles in the latter half of 1994.

Robert Kubo, a Howe Chapter member, passed away in September, 1994.

Tom Hideyoshi "Emperor" Tamai, a Service Chapter member, passed away on September 11, 1994.

Masanao "Cowboy" Hasegawa, an Easy Chapter member, passed away in October, 1994.

Andrew "Bunker" Kawamoto, a Cannon Chapter member, passed away on October 20, 1994.

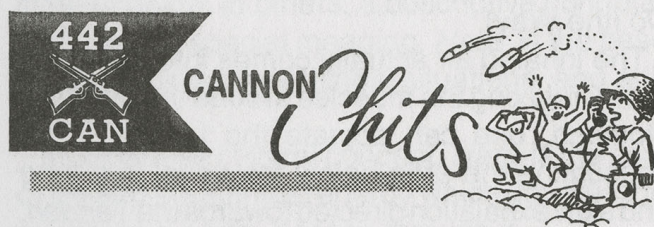
Morito Otake, a Fox chapter member, passed away on November 12, 1994.

Howard Kiyama, a Livorno Chapter member, passed away December 9, 1994.

Robert Maeda, an Easy Chapter member, passed away December 13, 1994.

Akira Naguwa, a 522 Baker Chapter member, passed away on December 13, 1994.

Arthur Takahara, a Kona Chapter member, passed away in Kona on December 19, 1994.



by JUNE OHARA

News from Fall, 1994

To two special people...TOSH SUYEMATSU and ROBERT IWAMOTO: an old Japanese haiku:

"Mi no ru ho do
Ko-o be no ta re ru
I na ho ka na"

A brief translation:

"As in the best grade of rice reaches full maturity

It's head bends in deep humility."

This haiku brings to mind our good friend, TOSH SUYEMATSU. TOSH passed away in a motor vehicle accident on June 4, 1994. He was an outstanding attorney, judge, soldier, and statesman. Please read TOORU KANAZAWA's

book Close Support about TOSH's military honors. He was also a humble, caring, generous, and thoughtful person. He loved music, enjoyed writing and shared many interesting gifts and articles. TOSH received many professional awards from the U.S. Department of Justice. Many Cannoneers remember TOSH when he served as the Judge on Loan at our Federal Courts in Honolulu. We visited with the SUYEMATSUS in their lovely spacious home in Carpenter, Wyoming in 1976. We were impressed with his skilled hands in carpentry. TOSH has just completed the case of Wounded Knee in North Dakota. Perhaps that is where he got the nickname, the Last Pine. The American Indians and the haoles found it difficult to pronounce SUYEMATSU.

TOSH preferred to translate his surname as the Everlasting Pine. I think this is a fine and beautiful meaning for the SUYEMATSU family! ELLEN, may I say that TOSH's guiding spirit will be with you everlastingly. God bless you and thank you for all the good times, correspondence, and phone calls we shared throughout the years. We are indeed fortunate to have known TOSH as our friend, a true model of humanity.

ROBERT IWAMOTO - many Cannoneers know him especially those who were originally with Headquarters Unit.

Last year while attending DR. MINORU SHINODA's class on the history of Japan, I met TAKEMI KAJIKAWA. TAKEMI, ROBERT, and MASAMI were survivors of a plane crash together. Surprisingly, TAKEMI had a file of newspaper articles and photos of the crash. TAKEMI spent 18 months in Lettermen General Hospital. There were 16 injured and 8 killed from the crash. All the passengers were American of Japanese ancestry returning from Italy. They were on the way to Camp Beal. The c-47 transport plane crashed near Auburn, California on Tuesday, November 26, 1945....49 years ago.

One of the articles in the Auburn press said: "One of the crash victim was walking around through the wreckage hauling his companions to safety when the rescue crew arrived. Though

badly burned and suffering from severe shock, he helped load the stretchers onto the ambulance."

This Hero was never recognized. True it was the end of World War II on Nov. 24, 1945 but a hero nevertheless! We know it was ROBERT IWAMOTO. MASAMI and TAKEMI both say so. MASAMI has scars from the skin graft and burns on his arms and legs. It would have been worse if he wasn't moved from the burning wreck especially since BOBBY risked his own life, ROBERT deserves a hero's commendation.

He was dedicated towards HELEN, his wife and towards his family as well as the community. He retired from 30 years of teaching. He enjoyed swimming, and participated in a world swim meet in Lyon, France about 2 years ago.

ROBERT is very modest, humble, and pleasant. He laughingly told MASAMI, "Us guys, not so bright...we wanted to come home so badly, even if we were in pain - we gaman, and ko ra e ru, we always told the doctors at Lettermen, we're OK, just so we get back to Hawaii and be discharged." BOBBY, thanks to you - o ka ge sa ma for your heroic deed, my family and I with MASAMI are enjoying a good life. It's 49 years too late but we'd like you to know that we are truly grateful!

Cannoneers...on the mend and good news

JERRY GUSTAFSON sent a card to KAORU WATANABE that he is much better. HONEY is receiving therapy after her surgery. They both thank all of you who sent notes and cards to cheer them up. JERRY and HONEY hope to see us at the next reunion in Las Vegas. It'll be nice to sit and chat with you, HONEY! We'll be praying for you.

TOORU KANAZAWA was hospitalized for 16 days. He should be back to normal since the early July surgery. TOORU is working on several books. It is amazing how TOORU can keep on going. I'm very happy for him.

ALICE YOSHINARI is up and around and feeling much better. She accompanied SAM to the annual reunion of the 34th Division in Texas.

The MURAKAMIS, KOIKES, MURAOKAS,

CHAGAMIS, KIYOSHI TABA and CHICK HOLCK were in Europe. Most of them went with TSUKA and YUKIE MURAKAMI. Be sure to ask for their interesting and historic stories.

Cannoneer's new officers are DOC KOIKE, president; TOM OKINO, vice-president; and NORMAN SATO, treasurer. The officers were initiated at Pearl Country Club in November.

DOC KOIKE sold most of the remaining copies of TOORU's Close Support to the U.H. Library and the Hawaii State Library system. Thank DOC for handling the sale of the book.

ALFRED GOTO sent a card to KAORU to say that his home was spared from the recent flooding. He also sent a photo news of KAZU KUDO receiving a \$1,000 prize at a trade fair. The KUDOS also went to Europe.

Two sets of proud parents among the Cannoneers....CHARLES and REIKO ODA - BONNIE is receiving favorable comments in the ballet arts in Los Angeles. ALAN KOIKE, son of DOC and MARY completed his residency in psychiatry from the University of California at Davis. The family of the Cannoneers wish both BONNIE and ALAN the very best. Congratulations!

We wish one and all a very happy holiday season!

News from Winter, 1994

Happy New Year! May joy and happiness be with you in 1995. We have plans for Shin nen Kai, the big reunion in Las Vegas and the bi-monthly chapter meetings or activities. DOC MASARU KOIKE and HENRY CHAGAMI really enjoyed their trip to Bruyeres. Read on for their reunion journal. KAORU WATANABE has written the latest news and happenings of Hawaii.

JOHN KASHIKI and JERRY GUSTAFSON have sent us the Chicago-Nisei Post News Bulletin. SAM YOSHINARI has been officially installed as the Post Commander in Chicago as of August 28, 1994. Congratulations. We understand Post No. 1183 has an outstanding history of accomplishments.

On July 9, 1994, SAM was honored to represent the 100.442 RCT in accepting a plaque

from the 34th Inf. Div. at the Red Bull Convention in Chicago. The plaque honored the 100/442 RCT for heroism in battle with the 34th Inf. Div. in North Africa and the Italian Campaigns.

Recently, SAM and ALICE moved to an apartment...it must be a great adjustment for both SAM and ALICE. They lived in a spacious home for 33 years. We send you best wishes and aloha in your new home and to SAM as the new Commander of the American Legion, Chicago-Nisei Post No. 1183.

Andrew Mitsugi "Bunker" Kawamoto by KAORU WATANABE

ANDREW MITSUGI KAWAMOTO known to his Cannon Company Chapter buddies and friends as "BUNKER" died of gastric problems at the Queen's Medical Center on October 20, 1994. "BUNKER" was born on March 23, 1915 and served in the 6th Section, 3rd Platoon of Cannon Company. After his service in the 442nd, he lived in Honolulu and last worked for the Halekulani Hotel as a bartender and retired in 1980.

We trained together, fought with the common enemy, laughed and perhaps cried together - but "BUNKER" was an enigma. He never talked about himself but was usually part of our activities. Unbeknownst to his comrades, he found the time to earn a BA degree from the University of Hawaii in 1955.

"BUNKER" was admitted to the Queen's Medical Center on October 20, 1994 and died that night so his death was a shock to all Cannoneers. He was a "lifetime member" of the 442nd Veterans Club and because of that connection, JENNIFER BAKER, Executive Secretary of the 442nd Veterans Club, was instrumental in assisting the Cannon Chapter members in locating the next of kin, and providing the liaison necessary to process required documentation. In this respect, the council of JAMES KAMO, attorney and Cannon Chapter member was most invaluable.

442nd Chaplain the Rev. ERNEST UNO conducted a military service over the ashes at the Punchbowl Cemetery Chapel on November 3,

1994. Mrs. WARREN (GEORGIANE) SENDA accompanied by husband WARREN represented her parents, GEORGE and DIANE SHIGETA of Idaho, cousin of "BUNKER." The cinerary urn of ANDREW MITSUGI KAWAMOTO has been committed to the Columbarium of the Punchbowl National Cemetery. As stated by KAORU WATANABE who eulogized BUNKER at the service, "BUNKER" was one of us and he will not be forgotten.

Tidbits

The Cannon Chapter reunion in Las Vegas May 18 - 22, 1995 is beginning to take shape. JOHN KASHIKI is coordinating the mainland Cannoneer attendance while KAORU WATANABE is coordinating the Hawaii group.

JUDY SAIKI is still at Kuakini Hospital after being admitted because of a compression fracture of the spine in early October. Physical therapy improved her condition until a serious setback from a lung infection had her in the ICU. Recovery is a slow process and all Cannoneers and their families are praying for her early recovery.

GEORGE BUIRKLE wrote to congratulate DOC KOIKE and his newly elected officers of Cannon Chapter, 442nd Veterans Club. In May, GEORGE and MARGE took a circuitous route to the mountains of New York via Arizona, Albuquerque, and Chicago. They visited with MAS and MARTHA ENAMOTO in Albuquerque and got caught up with the news of our April 28 Cannon reunion in Las Vegas - a reunion they missed and we missed them! In Chicago, they joined SAMYOSHINARI in a visit to ALICE in the Rehab Center.

Upon returning home to Ocala, Florida, after the 442nd 50th Anniversary Reunion in Hawaii last year, MARGE had a knee replacement surgery. On the 15th of this month, she had to have knee replacement of her other knee. Once again, GEORGE reverts to the status of chief cook and bottle washer. Our sympathies to GEORGE and a "get well soon" wish for MARGE.

GEORGE took strong issue with the announcement from the Los Angeles group that PRESI-

DENT CLINTON or VICE PRESIDENT GORE or just VICE PRESIDENT GORE have been invited to the dedication of the 442nd Memorial and Museum at Camp Shelby. GEORGE wrote to the LA Committee that neither would understand or appreciate the sacrifices of the men of the 442/100/MIS. The only VIPs invited to the dedication should be military men! GOERGE, you are not alone in this, your conviction. (The Camp Shelby Monument and Museum Dedication is now scheduled for the 1995 summer - when chiggers and snakes run rampant - never mind the suffocating heat.) GEORGE mentioned this too. GEORGE and MARGE send their love and aloha to all. (The 442nd Veterans Club has selected Corliss Travel of Los Angeles to provide 7 different tours to this Camp Shelby monument dedication. All members are urged to book with Corliss Travel.) Registration forms will be distributed to chapters later this year.

The Reunion in France by MASARU KOIKE

This writer went to the Biffontaine/Bruyeres reunion meeting with Tour #1 Western Europe tour group under RALPH CHINAKA on 10-11-94. This group took in Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal and returned on 11-1-94.

Of the roughly 80 people that participated in this tour, quite a few were from service company. My wife and I were the only ones from Cannon Company in this group; however, JOHN USHIJIMA and his MARGARET, along with BILL NITTA and his wife MAY and son MATT from Colorado who were with the Mediterranean cruise group also joined us in Strasbourg to participate in the Biffontaine/Bruyeres affair. They left for Venice to join the cruise group after the Biffontaine/Bruyeres reunion.

Arriving in Frankfurt after a day stopover in Washington D.C., the group proceeded to Strasbourg where our hotel was located. The weather was cool and the area seemed to be covered with a smog. So many of the cars were Mercedes in Frankfurt. According to our guide CLAUDINE WEHRLI, the factory is located around this area and their employees can buy

these cars at a substantial discount once per year. They were apparently using this option and were in turn selling them at a cheaper price than the prevailing rates making a profit out of it.

Our Hotel Le Grand in Strasbourg was a fine hotel with two tiny elevators that squeezed in about four people each.

To generalize, we found that many of the older hotels that were renovated had small elevators, often with huge door keys to our rooms. Many of the hotels, however, had modern computerized cards to enter our rooms and to activate the light systems. The rooms were usually well furnished with a small color TV. Fortunately, we had CNN to keep up with the world news in all of the hotels except one in Cordoba where everything was in Spanish.

All of the bathrooms were furnished with two small soaps that vanished after taking a bath. No washcloths were furnished to scrub yourself. Practically all of the hotels had a blow drier and they all seemed to need an adapter to your converter if you wanted to use their electrical system for heating water, shaving, etc.

The hotel in Strasbourg was no exception. It was a nice hotel with a restaurant adjacent to it.

On our first night there we had a banquet at 7 PM. Seeing that we all had an overnight trip over the Atlantic and a tiring trip from Frankfurt to Strasbourg with a side trip to Heidelberg, I thought if we joined the party at 7 we would be alright. Imagine our surprise when we went down to the lobby on time - nobody was there. Everybody was next door in the restaurant sitting down. My wife and I had to sit at separate adjacent tables.

We found out early that with this group, if you were on time - you were already late. For example, the next morning when we went down for breakfast at the designated time, nine tenths of the tables were already filled. From then on, we always met everyone 15 minutes before - the old "hurry up and wait" routine.

This was a well traveled lot and rarely did we have to wait for anyone on our bus. Everyone was so prompt.

We had two buses and traveled with the same

drivers and travel guides throughout our trip. Our driver on bus #2 was JAARLS and our guide CLAUDINE.

Everyone marveled at how our bus driver could drive our huge bus through the narrow streets and park this vehicle into narrow spaces without bumping into the other cars.

CLAUDINE who was from Lausanne, Switzerland, watched our group like a mother hen and saw to it that we got 5-4-4 or "go shi-shi" stops at periodic intervals. Because of the cool weather, strong coffee, beer, and simple "old age" we had to make these 544 stops throughout our trip. The women often had to stand in line but we men enjoyed fast lines because of the multiple urinals in many of these stops.

We had to go from Strasbourg to Biffontaine, a 2-hour trip one way, on October 15, and from Strasbourg to Bruyeres the next day to attend the celebrations.

The weather was sunny but cool in the shade. The trees were beginning to change color. People who were not there 50 years ago could not believe that it was that cold then. Of course, the winter of 1944 was one of the coldest in decades.

I tried to locate the spot where SUYEMATSU, MIYAKE and I had the observation post above and adjacent to Biffontaine, but couldn't find the spot - everything had changed so much.

We met members of Cannon Company and their wives who were with the other groups in Biffontaine and Bruyeres - KIYOSHI TABA, HENRY & NATSUKO CHAGAMI, "CURLY" & ANN MURAOKA, TSUKASA & YUKIE MURAKAMI, KAZUYUKI & MITSUE KUDO, and SHUKI & MARIAN HAYASHI. SHUKI and MARIAN who landed in Paris had been driving around France in a rented car and were not with the others. I did not recognize TOM SAKATA who was also said to be there.

It was SANDY HOLCK standing with the dignitaries at the Ecumenical service in Bruyeres, but did not have the chance to talk to him later.

The services held in the forests of Biffontaine and Bruyeres were crowded and difficult to follow. Someone said there were 18 buses there.

The town of Bruyeres was larger than I expected. Either we had skirted the town then or the town has grown since then - probably a combination of both.

Little children waved at us as we passed them in town. While we were waiting for the others by the bus in Biffontaine, a little boy of 6 approached us and gave us an American flag that he had drawn for the occasion. The stars were "X"'s with large red and white bars. His parents were in the late 30's living in a farmhouse at the edge of town. The man said that he remembers his grandmother describing how they hid in the cellars while the battle was going on 50 years ago. Here was this great grandson being taught to remember us 50 years later. We took a picture of this family and plan to mail it to the mayor of Biffontaine. He probably could recognize this family and give it to them.

Our trip took us through Zurich, Geneva, Avignon, Barcelona, Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba, Seville, and Lisbon.

On our long stretches, the veterans of the various chapters told "war stories" for the women and the youngsters in our group. This was capably led by MICH TAKATA of F Chapter. "DOC" KAWAMOTO of the Engineers either sang or led the group in singing. SHIGERU GOTO of the 3rd Battalion told most of the jokes to keep us awake.

The architecture of many of the buildings and cathedrals in Spain had the Moorish influence with intricate patterns adorning the structures. Considering that the Moors were in Spain for over 750 years, from 711 to 1492, this is not surprising. After all, the US is only slightly over 200 years old.

The trip was an enjoyable one. Many new friends were made and I was impressed with the amputees and other disabled, who walked around with us in good humor - without complaining. They certainly have good wives who look after them.

Fifty years ago, these people chosen for the combat team were the cream of the crop. Fifty years later, they still represent the best of our generation.

A simple but dignified service was held for "BUNKER" KAWAMOTO at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on November 3, 1994. The services were conducted by our Chaplain, ERNEST UNO.

"BUNKER" died at Queens Medical Center on October 20, 1994 unknown to anyone in our chapter of a "stomach disorder."

Those in attendance were LINCOLN MAEDA, JOHN MIKASA, MAMO MORITA, CHARLEY ODA, CHARLEY KUBOTA, KAORU & MABEL WATANABE, "CURLY" MURAOKA, MASAMI OHARA, NORMAN SATO, MASARU KOIKE, KIYOSHI TABA, HENRY CHAGAMI, TOM OKINO, and YUKISADA OSHIRO.

The only known local living relative, a MRS. GEORGIANE SENDA, daughter of his cousin and her husband also attended the ceremony. JENNIFER BAKER, our Executive secretary, who helped us greatly in locating "BUNKER's" living quarters as well as MRS. LINDA GUERRERO from the Catholic Services also attended the service.

KAORU WATANABE gave the eulogy.

European Tour by HENRY CHAGAMI

It was a long and interesting trip that covered 23 days, and included Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland, and England. We traveled mostly by bus - about 4,000 miles. The trip from Calais, France, to Dover, England, a distance of about 22 miles, was by hover craft. Much to our surprise, this ride was very pleasant and smooth.

The group from European World Travel (TSUKA MURAKAMI's employer) numbered about 80 and was split into two groups of 40 each. The people in our group were very nice. Many of them were from Kauai, friends of TSUKA. Besides TSUKA and his wife YUKIE, other Cannoneers included CURLY & ANN MURAOKA, KIYOSHI TABA, KAZUYUKI & MITSUE KUBO, and my wife NATS and myself. CHISATO HOLCK was also in our group.

We had a wonderful and knowledgeable tour guide (an Englishman who was fluent in four languages) and an exceptionally able bus driver from Milan. The wife of our guide was the tour

guide for the other group. Our guide was very akamai and full of historical facts. He said he enjoyed out group so much, taking us around didn't seem like work to him. He and his wife will be attending a travel seminar in Hawaii sometime in January, 1995. TSUKA is planning on showing them some Hawaiian hospitality then.

We were very fortunate in having MIKE TOKUNAGA, a veteran of the 100th Bn. in our group. Prior to the trip, he had conducted some interviews with men of the 100th, 442nd, and the MIS which had aired over a local radio station. He played some of the tapes of the interviews, one of which featured CHARLIE ODA. MIKE also gave commentaries on his war experiences as a platoon sergeant in C Company, especially at Cassino, Anzio, Hill 140, Castellina, and Biffontaine. Others in the group shared similar stories and some typically Hawaiian jokes which made the long bus rides bearable.

I cannot say that the trip was nostalgic, because very little remains of the conditions we saw during the war. Everything was very peaceful. Many houses and buildings are new and well maintained, divided highways are well paved and streets are generally clean.

Hill D on the approach to Bruyeres is covered with green pine trees. After the hill was taken by the 442nd during the war, only bare stumps and branches full of shrapnel were there. The walls of buildings badly damaged have been restored or renovated without any traces of war.

The people of Biffontaine and Bruyeres must have expended a huge amount of time and effort to sponsor the banquets for the great mass of visitors in both towns. It is clear that they have a lot of aloha for the 442nd. At the Bruyeres banquet, CURLY MURAOKA sat next to the son of RANCE MATSUMOTO, a member of Cannon Company, now deceased. We were fortunate to have as table companion MARIAN and SHUKI HAYASHI. Prior to coming to Bruyeres, they had been motoring in Paris.

The monuments to the 442nd in both Biffontaine and Bruyeres are deep in the forest. Ceremonies were held at both memorials. Representing the 442nd, I had the honor of joining RON OBA,

past president of the 442nd Veterans Club, in presenting a floral wreath at the Biffontaine memorial. JOHN USHIJIMA was among those laying a wreath at the Bruyeres memorial monument. Cannoneers seen or met in Biffontaine/Bruyeres were BILL & MAY NITTA with son MATT, JOHN & MARGARET USHIJIMA, SANDY HOLCK, TOM SAKATA, and DOC MASARU & MAE KOIKE.

The weather for the days at Biffontaine and Bruyeres was cool/warm and pleasant, very unlike the biting cold and miserable, wet weather of 50 years ago. One day before the rescue of the Lost Battalion on October 29, 1944, we were moving forward in the tall trees in the Vosges forest when I was wounded by shrapnel from a tree burst. As we made our way to the memorial in Bruyeres, the tall pine trees were still there but with little sign of damage by artillery tree bursts.

My most poignant moment on the trip was at the Epinal American Military Cemetery in France. There, I visited the grave of T/Sgt. UETARO SANMONJI. He was my sergeant in the communications platoon Regimental Headquarters company. I recall he once asked TETSUO HAMADA if he could write to TET's sister TOSHIKO after seeing her picture. I believe that he had no close relatives and would have settled in Hawaii after the war, had he survived. The cemetery was beautiful and immaculately kept but to see the graves of so many lost lives was saddening.

In Paris, we went to a cabaret show. CURLY and ANN were seated right next to the stage and CURLY was recruited to be the ploy of a juggling act. Sitting on a chair with a pair of glasses, a cap on his head and a cigarette between his lips, CURLY was told to stay perfectly still. The performers proceeded to flip large pins and first knocked the cap off. They began flipping the pins back and forth, closer and closer to CURLY's face and finally knocked off the glasses and then the cigarette. All the while, CURLY sat stiff as a board, his eyes tightly shut. We all had a good laugh and the whole audience applauded him for his good sportsmanship.

Throughout the trip, KIYOSHI TABA acted as the Good Samaritan. There were several ladies

traveling without male partners and often they needed assistance. KIYOSHI was always available and obliging.

The accommodations at the 13 hotels we stayed at during the trip were excellent. The bathrooms were an adventure and the topic of much conversation. The flushing mechanism of the toilets, it seemed, differed from hotel to hotel. Many of the bathtubs were without curtains and showers had to be taken with care so as not to make a slopping mess on the floor.

Many of the Cannoneers spent the "Champagne Campaign" in Sospel. To get to this town, the bus took more than 20 hairpin turns to climb the mountain and just as many to get down. The driver was applauded on each turn for many of them had an almost sheer drop on one side of the road. The scenery of this ride was beautiful with the tree leaves resplendent in their autumn shades of old, red, and orange. In Sospel, there was a short memorial service and we were served some refreshments. Afterwards, we hiked up quite a ways to an elementary school where we were greeted very enthusiastically by the children. There was a brief memorial program. On the front wall of this school was a plaque honoring two 442nd soldiers killed by artillery fire - LARRY MIURA and SENTI SUGAWARA.

The trip will be long remembered for the warm welcome by the people of Biffontaine and Bruyeres, the many interesting sights (places and things we had only read or seen pictures of), the new, good friends made, and the tasty food and wines. (We paid more for a glass of Coca-Cola than for a glass of wine.)

TOORU KANAZAWA celebrated his 88th birthday on November 12, 1994. We rejoice with him and his family on this happy occasion. He has accomplished a great deal and still isn't done yet. We look forward to more productive and rewarding years for him. Close Support, the history of Cannon Chapter, 442nd RCT which he authored, is now sold out and is one of his many accomplishments. It was a literary and financial success. He spent many, many hours and much energy on the book and we are deeply indebted to him.



by J. H. SHIMAMURA

Farewell

One of the best to come out of Kakaako from the first platoon went forth to meet his makers during the month of September after an agonizing bout with Parkinson's and a fatal case of brain hemorrhage having returned from Guam to spend his golden years at his "furusato;" although the original plan was to retire on that far-flung Pacific isle, where he had worked for years as a marine biologist. A natural born leader who was the original first squad, 1st platoon leader, to be promoted to platoon guide after the first campaign. This fearless leader who barred no one being raised in an area where knowing your fisticuffs or you could take your lumps regularly earned his purple heart while on combat patrol to find a way to cross the Arno river which was heavily mined. The British outfit that we relieved must have been there quite a while, not being able to penetrate this natural barrier so as usual, this mission was turned over to us. This days patrol led by Lt. DAVIS was pinned down between 2 dykes, with IKE getting shot in the leg with SENMATSU "FATTY" OSHIRO catching one in the face. Can still picture IKE limping back helped by one of the paesans. Due to this encounter, IKE missed the Lost Battalion fiasco returning from the hospital for the last push of the Italian campaign. Ran around for months during the Champagne campaign as IKE hustled the cooks for anything to sell while yours truly set up the selling end of this business with IKE returning back to the Maginot lines when we ran out of money. All in all, this was the best deal we had and it didn't take long for many of us to become 1st class businessmen. Being one of the most respected front liners, IKE will be missed by all who came to know him. Our

sincerest condolences to his wife BETTY and his two boys and their families, plus all the IKEHARA's that I got to know, including brothers CLARK, FLASH, and sister LILY. May he rest in peace.

Father time is sure taking it's toll with the 1st squad, 1st platoon, with IKE being the 3rd one to leave us in the past 2 years. A 1942 grad of Tokyo High as McKinley was known in the old days, IKE got out of the service as a S/Sgt. earning the purple heart and the bronze star medal in 1945.

Attended the University of Hawaii and graduated with a B.S. degree in marine biology, fishery, and was on the U.H.'s boxing team in 1947 and 1948. Upon graduating, he worked for the National Marine Fisheries and various other jobs ending up a fishery biologist for the island of Guam from 1962 till 1976 being the Chief of division of Fish and Wildlife until he retirement. Serving on various commissions while in Guam, he was appointed as a voting member of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council by the Secretary of the United State's Department of Commerce. Just loaded with talent, IKE is the author of many an article in his line of work, having 9 of his writings published. Living on Guam for 15 years, all of this coming to an end on that fatal day in September, 1994, bid fond farewell to one of the "K" Company's greats.

Travelers

16 days of go, go, go via European Travels, the Aina Koa millionaires SALLY & WALTER HEIRAKUJI whizzed through continental Europe during the month of October. With roughly 30 from Hawaii and a few pick-ups from big America they whizzed through the following places, starting with London, England, then on to Dover and by hover craft crossing the channel to Calais, France. On to Amsterdam, Holland; Cologne, Germany; and a cruise on the Rhine River which was thoroughly enjoyed although he forgot his fishing pole; through Munich; Innsbruck, Austria; then on through the Brenner pass to Venice, Italy. Here SALLY was ready to

go home when WALTER made like the Italian and serenaded SALLY. Rome, Florence, Pisa and then Switzerland to include Lugano and Lucerne, one of my favorite spots and then the last stop of Paris. Then came the long one all the way to San Francisco which meant 11 hours aloft with a 2-hour stopover and then the final lap to home sweet home. Just ask WALTER how it was and he will tell you "Sure was tired." When you start to scrape age 70 and try to cover this much territory in the allocated time, you can't help but being tired upon your return and should take WALTER a good month to recuperate and get things back to normal. Even if you paid their way, I doubt whether SALLY & WALTER would take on a trip such as this again. I hope your shingles got better, SAL.

Another first timer to make the round of continental Europe since coming home after WWII was STANLEY HASHIMOTO and his good wife THELMA. They did get to go first class as they traveled with the official delegation party of the 442nd led by past president RON OBA. Being RON's right hand, STANLEY was kept mighty busy but enjoyed every bit of it. Being the happy guy he is, STANLEY and THELMA are the type of people that would enjoy themselves wherever they may go or whatever they may do.

Having made it to this Vosges area 3 times after the conflict, got the surprise of my life when I was informed by many repeaters that they were charged \$20.00 just for the privilege of entering the town of Bruyeres, getting a plastic bag with their name tags on it, as more or less their passports. Whose idea this was I don't know but never have I heard of such a thing as the Liberators are charged a fee for entering a town that they liberated 50 years ago. No matter what kind of an excuse they may have, this incident was something pretty hard to swallow.

Going for the 2nd time were HIROSHI and MARYJANE SUYEOKA, who really making the best of life with all that pension money that they don't know what to do with. Here's one of them that were surprised about that \$20.00 entrance fee, irregardless of the elaborateness of the kau-kau that they were served and that they

were also charged for. The tour of France was just old stuff for MARYJANE and HIROSHI, but they seemed to have enjoyed two countries that they never visited on their previous trip which was Spain and Portugal. I guess he being that old bull fighter that he is it was like being home once again visiting Madrid, etc. I'm sure he was able to pay his respect to his old buddy GENERAL FRANCO during his visit. MARYJANE must have had a ball running through all those knickknacks while trying to find HIROSHI who tends to get lost all the time. Seems that they had a ball being in the company of JOHN and LIL MATSUDAIRA who were on the same trip. It must be a wonderful feeling when you have so much of that green stuff that you can just pack up and go any time you feel like it. Most happy to hear that you had a most enjoyable trip. More travelogue in the next issue as we get the J. OURA's experience of seeing continental Europe via the automobile. Till the next one keep 'em healthy.



by HAROLD FUKUNAGA

Chapter Dinner

The chapter decided to go high-class for our dinner at Roy's in Hawaii Kai on September 24. Our gracious Vice President and Social Events Chairperson GRACE ISHII set it up, after checking several eating places and asking members whether they wanted to go pot luck, a less expensive place, or Roy's. Strangely, the members decided to go high class this time. Why do I refer to this place as high class? Well, the price at \$46 per person including tax and tip is indicative of being called high class.

In spite of the price, we had an excellent turnout that night. The following members and wives

attended: KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA, KENNETH & KATHERINE FUJIMOTO, HAROLD & JANE FUKUNAGA, SATORU GOTA, RAY & PAT HANDA, FRED & DOLORES IDA, GRACE ISHII, SHIGEMI & BETTY ISHIZAKI, JOHN & CLARAKIKUYAMA, KAZU & FUJIKO MOTOBU, EDDIE & GRACE OCHIAI, TAKESHI ONUMA, EDDIE & EMILY TAMANAHA, SPEED & EDNA TANNA, and YOSHI & CAROL YOSHIWA. Through GRACE ISHII's arrangement, we had a section away from the rest of the restaurant's patrons, so it gave us some privacy. At least we could hear our conversation, as contrasted to the rest of the restaurant, which had a constant din of loud talking by the patrons, who had to raise their voices in order to be heard.

The food was very tasty and generous. Some of the women asked for "doggy bags" to take home food that they couldn't finish. There were a variety of choices that we could select. Some selected the Chinese-style roast duck, while others chose the fish of the day in Mahimahi, grilled shrimp, New York steak, scallops, pasta with shrimp, and short ribs. In addition to the entrees listed above, they served each one appetizer, such as blackened ahi, crab cake, shrimp on a stick, baby back ribs, and crispy spring roll. In addition, they served Caesar's salad with avocado and shrimp. Considering the different dishes served plus the dessert and coffee or tea, it was worth the price.

As a surprise, GRACE ISHII made some guava jelly and gave each attendee a small jar of jelly. ROSE EBISUYA contributed some flower bouquets, which were given as door prizes. Some other door prizes were donated by GRACE ISHII. So, in summary, we wish to thank GRACE ISHII very much for setting up the dinner and getting all the goodies.

TAKETO & JUDY KAWABATA had to drop out at the last minute because TAKETO had to go through minor operation (Angiogram, followed by Angioplasty). He was back at the October meeting, feeling good enough to play poker with the boys, following the regular chapter meeting.

Renewal of Friendship

The November chapter meeting was highlighted by the appearance of an absentee G. Co. friend. GEORGE KEN HAMADA attended his first G Chapter meeting on November 10 at the Clubhouse. HAROLD FUKUNAGA brought him to the meeting after bumping into him at the Manoa Long's Drug Store parking lot. HAROLD promised to pick him up at his home in Manoa and drive him to the chapter meeting. HAMADA agreed, so he finally attended the chapter meeting on November 10. He was met at the clubhouse by a host of G Co. friends whom he didn't meet for over 40 years.

He was in the 1st platoon and was wounded severely enough in the 1st Italian campaign, to be sent back to the United States for hospitalization and recovery. As a result, he never returned to the company or combat. He was a recipient of a "million dollar wound."

It was good to see HAMADA recalling the experiences in the service with the members in the meeting. He plans to continue attending the future chapter meetings and social events, now that he has renewed his friendship with the guys.

New Chapter Officers

The election of officers for 1995 was held and the following members were selected:

President - Mrs. GRACE ISHII
Vice-President - TAKETO KAWABATA
Secretary - ROBERT MIYATA
Treasurer - YOSHI YOSHIWA

Election of GRACE ISHII to be president of the chapter is history in the making because she will be the first woman to be elected as president of a chapter of the 442nd Veterans Club. All of the members will give her full cooperation in leading the chapter. I'm sure she will be a welcome participant in the Board of Directors meetings of the 442nd Veterans Club.

Tidbits

FRED IDA said that he received word from BILL AULL, our former co. commanders, that he is feeling better and plans to come to Hawaii in January and stay at his condo for a few months.

It will be nice to see him again.

FRED IDA's Trip and Account

On a trip to the East Coast and Canada, I spoke on the phone with ROY GREENE and DICK ITANAGA. ROY and VIRGINIA were getting ready for their annual trip to Vegas. DICK ITANAGA is still trying to move out to Pasadena, which was supposed to be earlier this year, but he underwent a major operation, which further set back his moving plans. He claimed that he is well on his way to recovery - we wish him well.

This is a small world after all. We were at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C., walking up to JKK KENNEDY's grave. As I looked back, while walking up a slight incline, I saw a familiar looking person of Oriental extraction coming up to where we were. Who was it? None other than RALPH YEMPUKU.

Wartime Experiences of FRED IDA

FRED says that he might have been the only one in the 442nd RCT who was not a "pure" volunteer. He further elaborated by saying that right after the war started, many people moved out of Hawaii, their family bought a home in Lanikai and he bought a relatively new Buick from a serviceman, plus a new set of 4 white sidewall tires in the deal. He used to go back and forth from Lanikai to Honolulu daily until he was picked up by the FBI. They asked him where did he get all the gas for his card plus the 4 new sidewall tires in his garage in Lanikai. They brought him to the FBI headquarters in Dillingham Building in Honolulu and started to interrogate him about his getting all the gas and the new tires. Before he started to answer the questions, he asked them if he could make one phone call. They asked him whom did he want to talk to. He told them that he wanted to talk to JACK BURNS, who was a Captain in the Honolulu Police Department. So when FRED talked to JACK BURNS, JACK told him to let him talk to the FBI agent, whose name was RICHARD MILLER. So after they talked, RICHARD MILLER said that he would let FRED go, but he would have to go and see JACK BURNS right away. FRED went

to the Police Department, which was located on Bethel St. JACK told FRED that the FBI wanted him to volunteer for the 442, but FRED told him that today was the last day, but he went to the Draft Board and volunteered. He was among those who were given many gifts for volunteering. It was ironic that his name was the first one called when they selected the volunteers from his draft board, even though he was the last one to volunteer. Maybe the FBI made sure that he was inducted. So, that's the reason for FRED making the statement that his volunteering was peculiar. However, in retrospect, he was glad that he volunteered. In spite of all the hardships we all encountered, it was worth it. HAROLD FUKUNAGA and TAKESHI ONUMA mentioned that they were not called in the first selection of volunteers. They complained to their respective draft board about not being selected, so when the second selection was made about a week later, they were selected by their respective draft boards. This second selection was made because the quota of mainland AJA's couldn't be met, so Hawaii's quota was increased to fill the overall quota. I guess there were many AJAs who were very disappointed, because they were not selected.

FRED's recollection of the first day of combat was seeing a dead German soldier near a road. Later, the platoon was going along a hillside among olive trees when we saw some of our men getting pinned down along the road by the German fire. We later found out that they were F Co. men who lost some men, who were wounded or killed. Some were even captured by the Germans and remained as POWs for the duration of the war.

Because of the inexperience of the 442 at that time, we had to pull back in a grove of olive trees. One unfortunate accident occurred the next morning, when a first platoon BAR man accidentally shot himself while putting the gun towards himself and the gun discharged and the bullet hit his leg and was evacuated to the hospital, never to see anymore combat. His name was OUCHI.

Although FRED was hazy about what took

place after the first day of combat, he was told by others that the next unusual incident was the time that our company occupied this small village and the first squad of the first platoon was assigned to provide security on one side of the village, where the road came into the village. We heard the sounds of vehicles coming from the opposite side and finally recognized them as German jeeps. FRED made a bold move and stood in the center of the road as the jeeps came into the village and yelled "Halt." The jeeps stopped and the Germans raised their arms to denote surrender however one or two of them had machine pistols in their raised right hands. FRED thought that these jeeps were occupied by some of our 442 guys going joy riding on them. When he found out they were Germans, he got out of the way and rejoined the rest of the 1st squad guys. By then, some of the Germans jumped out of the jeeps, so the rest of the company opened fire on them and killed and wounded some. The rest were captured, along with the jeeps, as G Co.'s first trophies of the war.

FRED's recollection of the next episode, Hill 140, was a frightening experience. The constant pounding of the mortar fire and being caught in an exposed slope made one feel helpless. He remembers the water problems, because we were pinned down for hours on end. Finally one of the guys collected canteens and went to a water hole to fill up the canteens with murky and dirty water. The guys didn't mind that, but used halozone tablets to ward off the germs and bacteria. We don't recall anyone getting sick from the water. He remembers the rocky terrain made digging slit trenches very difficult. In order to provide more protection, some of the guys dug deeper during lulls of the mortar barrage. One of the unfortunate ones who got hit trying to dig deeper, thinking that the barrage was over was a guy named NIIDE. SPEED TANNA remembers that incident well, because he was next to NIIDE when the shell exploded. Fortunately, SPEED was in the slit trench.

FRED remembers the time that he was wounded, near the "Pink House." The platoon

was leading the attack in a wide open wheat field which did not provide much protection against enemy artillery or gun fire. There was a small depression which the platoon used for protection, but apparently the enemy knew that it would be used as such, so had it zeroed in. After a few minutes, the German 88 fire came whooshing at the guys and everyone dove for whatever cover they could find. FRED was wounded in the leg but was able to walk back to the Co. CP, where he was given medical aid and sent back to the Battalion Aid Station and to the hospital. That was the end for FRED in the 1st Italian campaign. He ended up in the 12th General Hospital. After his recuperation, the doctor told him he was ready for duty in rear echelon type of duty. FRED told the doctor that he preferred to go back to the 442, but the doctor said that was not possible. The doctor finally told him if he could show him that he could stand the strenuous duty, then he would send him back to the 442. In the meantime, he was assigned to a rehab position with an officer. They were supposed to help guys who were hospitalized get into physical shape, so that they could be returned to their respective units. After a few days, while playing softball with the rehab patients, he was asked by the colonel in charge of the hospital about his baseball experience. After FRED told him that he played college baseball, he was asked to play for the hospital's baseball team. FRED agreed to do so. So he played for the hospital during the baseball season. Subsequently, the hospital had to move from Rome to Livorno so FRED was finally considered ready to return to the 442. It took him several weeks for him to rejoin the 442. He was in Marseilles for awhile, because the replacement depot that he was in had orders not to send to the 442 during a certain period. That was near the end of Bruyeres-Biffontaine campaign. Later, after the 442 arrived in the Maritime Alps area, Fred was sent to the 442. He recalls the climb up the two mountains from Castillon, where Co. CP was, to the 1st platoon area on the mountain peaks, was a tiring climb. He recalls that the 4th platoon area was on the right of the 1st platoon, while the

left side was occupied by F Co. several miles away. The gap was considered relatively safe, because the area was a steep slope down and sown with mines. The mines used to go off occasionally, because animals such as rabbits would trip them, especially at night. That campaign was the most enjoyable one, because we were in defensive positions and didn't need to attack. FRED remembers that he used to go to Nice where the dental clinic was located, in order to fix his teeth. He thinks that if they worked on his teeth each time he went to the Nice dental clinic, he would have had all his teeth fixed and polished. He had a camera with him, so he used to take some pictures then. In order to get more photographic films for use by the squad, some of us used to keep our D ration bars and use them to exchange for films at one photo shop in Nice. It was a good arrangement, because the photo shop owner was very happy to receive the chocolate D ration bars, while we were happy to get the films.

After leaving Sospel, we left France through Marseilles Harbor aboard LST's and returned to Italy via Livorno. Then we went into a staging area, north of Pisa, from where the last offensive started. FRED remembers the steep climb going up the mountain. The climb up the mountain was difficult because each person had to carry either heavy mortar rounds or bazooka ammunition. Some were so tired that they left some rounds on the trail.

He remembers the incident when our platoon medic was killed while we were crossing an open area, with sniper fire shooting occasionally. Unfortunately, BILL IMAMOTO was hit by the sniper fire and died. Soon thereafter, the company came across some straggling Germans and opened fire on them. After chasing them about a hundred yards or so, a separate group of Germans (Machine Gun Company) opened fire on us, so we dug in on the forward slope of the hill. Soon thereafter, the enemy tanks opened fire on us. The traversing fire finally hit us, wounding FRED and HAROLD along with several others. Because it was nightfall and the enemy was trying to infiltrate into the