

extraordinaire, was the son of DR. KENNETH FUJII, whom OCEAN knew in his younger days. Answer is in the affirmative. I sent OCEAN the last article in the Advertiser with the F Co. pictures. Lo and behold, he writes back saying that he is the second one in the mudhole! Then I am at a political lunch and I spot DR. KENNETH FUJII. I wanted to tell him about you, OCEAN, but I had to represent PATSY MINK on the stage. When I looked for DOC FUJII again, he had left. Ah! What a tangled web we weave.

Bumped into GEORGE KAWAKAMI at a number of November political and veteran's affairs. GEORGE reported that the trip to Europe and especially to France was a moving and nostalgic experience. But, he did admit that the places had changed much and were more unrecognizable than familiar.

7, 11, and 3. No, not at Vegas but at the Veteran's Day Parade up Rice Street from Garden Island Motors to the County Building. There were 7 women, 11 men, and 3 sons and daughters marching to a cassette tape of 442 recall music. The 442 Veterans were warmly received and I was happy to be a part of the parade. GEORGE was the other F Co. representative.

On November 11, I drove early to Hanapepe to place some flowers on WALLY's grave prior to a 7:00 AM sunrise service. And there was GEORGE again.

The Kauai Veterans Center was dedicated on November 12 amid a huge throng of well wishers and veterans and their families. Of course, GEORGE was there also. I did not get to see any exhibits. I think that I will need to go at an uncrowded time to examine 442 memorabilia. It definitely will not happen tonight (November 29, 1994) at GOVERNOR WAIHEE's Aloha and not on December 15 at GOVERNOR CAYETANO's Mahalo gathering.

And now for some tidbits. MASA AGINA's house looks ready from the outside, but he says the inside need to be worked on.

He sent me a card, and I sent him a card urging the vote for our gubernatorial candidate. Not wasted! Of such are political victories made. Thanks, GEORGE NAKASATO!

Happy New Year!



by ED IMAMURA

Taps - In Memorium

TOM HIDEYOSHI "EMPEROR" TAMAI, 77, of Honolulu, a Service Chapter member, passed away on September 11, 1994 in Honolulu.

TOM died in a freak car accident on Date Street in Honolulu, near the Ala Wai Golf Course on September 1. Police traffic investigators said the side mirror of a 1988 pickup truck struck TOM as he prepared to step into a Date Street crosswalk near Olokele Street. The blow threw him to the sidewalk, injuring his head and causing internal and spinal injuries.

TOM was born in Hawaii and was a retired City and County of Honolulu mason foreman. Our deepest condolences to his SHINAYO, son GARY, and his granddaughters. Private services were held.

Year-End Party

Service Chapter's annual Year-End party was held at the Pagoda restaurant on Wednesday, December 14, 1994. A large turn-out of members and wives attended the dinner.

Members who enjoyed the sumptuous cosmopolitan buffet dinner (\$20 members and wives free) were: SUSUMU & KOZUE AWAYA, RALPH & GRACE CHINAKA, GORDON & FLORENCE FURUTO, ICHIRO HASEGAWA, EDWIN & AMY IMAMURA, MIKE INOUE, TERRY & MINNIE ITAKI, TAKAO & JUNE ITO, TAKEMI KAJIKAWA, YUTAKA & TOMOE KAJIWARA, MASAJI KUROZUMI, ALLAN & SARAMASUDA, JAMES & MARTHA MIYAKE, GEORGE & HISAKO MIYASHIRO, TOSHIO & CLARA NAKANISHI, HIDEO & DOROTHY NIMORI, ALEXANDER & JEAN OKA, CYNTHIA OTANI, THOMAS & CHIYOKO TANAKA, NOBORU &

MASAKO TANOUE, BILL & BETTY TOMA, KIYOJI & FRANCES YAMADA, and TOSHIO YAMASHITA.

Bruyeres-Biffontaine and Mediterranean Cruise Trip (Oct. 11 - Nov. 1, 1994)

Oh, what a memorable trip! Just picture the exciting things that happened to some of our fellow travelers in our group. One forgot her camera in the airplane in Los Angeles on the Honolulu to Los Angeles leg. She was able to retrieve her camera about 30 minutes later at the Los Angeles terminal lost and found section. Another left her passport back in Honolulu, so she was not able to fly with the group from D.C. to Strasbourg, France. But to her credit, she was able to get a new passport in D.C. and caught up with our group at Strasbourg a day and a half later. We admired her courage, gumption, and fortitude because she had to catch the German train at Frankfurt and had to transfer on three different trains before she reached Strasbourg. The last story is about the lady in our group who fell in the Adriatic Sea along the glass-blowing factory in the small town of Murano near Venice, Italy. She was taking a picture of her husband with her camera. As she was inching backwards to take a better shot of her husband, she fell off the pavement and into the sea. Fortunately, she had a happy ending in her escapade; her husband was able to drag her out of the water because she fell in the shoreline area. It's funny now but at the time our group didn't know what was going on until we saw her standing next to the furnace area of the glass-blowing factory. She was trying to dry her clothes which were soaking wet. We thought she was part of the show.

Our 25-member, 12-day Mediterranean cruise tour was headed by HENRY and EMI KUNIYUKI. Both of them did an outstanding job as escorts. It must have been quite a chore for them to control and maintain the harmony of the rest of the group. Our Cruise group consisted of JAMES & SUEKO CHINEN, MARJORIE HIROKAWA (her late husband LARRY was in Co. A, 100th Bn), EDWIN & AMY IMAMURA (Service);

HAJIME & HELEN KODAMA (100th Bn), HENRY & EMI KUNIYUKI (Livorno), SABURO & JANE MATSUMOTO (MIS), DEAN & ANNETTE MORITA, LAURA & MARY LOU NAKAGAWA, WILLIAM & MAY NITTA (Cannon), and son MATTHEW, MARGARET OGAWA, TAKESHI & YURIKO SEKIYA (Service), ISAMU & KAY TAKAYESU (Mike), and JOHN & MARGARET USHIJIMA (Cannon).

The MORITAS, TAKAYESUS, USHIJIMAS, and I left Hawaii 5 days earlier than the rest of the Cruise group in order to participate in the Bruyeres/Biffontaine ceremony. The party of seven traveled with RALPH CHINAKA's group from Hawaii to France and were later joined by the NITTA family of Littleton, Colorado at Strasbourg, France.

Highlights

12-14. Oct. 94: (Washington D.C.) The 80-member Ralph Chinaka group and our 7-member pre-cruise group stayed overnight at the Days Inn near the airport at Washington D.C.

14 Oct.: (Germany and France) Arrived in Frankfurt after a 7 hour, 20 minutes flight from D.C. Met at the airport by MS. MIRIAM TURNER, President, Carlson Travel Network of Honolulu, 2 bus drivers, and 2 tour guides. We left Frankfurt at 7:30 in the morning and arrived in Heidelberg about an hour later. The famous castle and the beautiful river Neckar hasn't changed since I first saw them in May, 1945 and then in October, 1989. After a city tour of Heidelberg, we arrived in Strasbourg at 3 p.m.

15-16 Oct.: (Bruyeres/Biffontaine) We stayed at the Le Grande hotel in Strasbourg for 3 nights. I rate the hotel as 2 stars. We were blessed with beautiful Indian summer weather during our 3-day stay in France. In fact, it was so warm that several people (including a U.S. Color Guard female Sergeant) fainted during the memorial service in the forest area of Biffontaine.

I will not dwell on the memorial services, the reunion lunches and other activities that were held at Bruyeres and Biffontaine. I'm sure that reporters from other chapters will cover those in detail.

However, I wish to note that after the wreath-laying ceremony at the Epinal American Military Cemetery in Dinoze, an American Major gave me a list of our comrades who are buried there. They include: Pfc. TERUO FUJIOKA, Wyoming (killed in action 6 Nov. 44); S/Sgt. TOMOSU HIRAHARA, Hawaii (15 Oct. 44); Pfc. BOB T. KAMEOKA, Arkansas (20 Oct. 44); Pfc. HAJIRO MUKAI, California (22 Oct. 44); Pfc. EDWARD OGAWA, Idaho (18 Oct. 44); 1st/Lt. BEN W. ROGERS, JR., Arkansas (14 Nov. 44); T/Sgt. UETARO SANMONJI, California (28 Oct. 44); Pfc. YOSHIO TENGAN, Hawaii (15 Oct. 44); Pvt. HIDEO YASUI, Washington (22 Oct. 44); and Pfc. MINORU E. YOSHIDA, California (31 Oct. 44).

The name of Sgt. GEORGE W. SUYAMA, Montana (23 Oct. 44) was etched on the Wall of the Missing. His body was never found.

17 Oct.: (Venice) The ten of us in the pre-cruise group left Strasbourg and arrived in Venice to join up with HENRY KUNIYUKI's 15-member group who were arriving from New York on the following day. We stayed overnight at the 5-star Hotel Danieli, located in the heart of St. Mark's Square. The hotel room cost \$405 a night. Luckily, the hotel room was included in our tour package.

18 Oct.: (Venice) MONICA, our beautiful Italian guide took our group for a 3-hour walking tour of St. Mark's Square. We finally boarded our cruise ship, the 20,000 ton Island Princess, in the afternoon. I was glad to see my wife, AMY but she wasn't too overjoyed to see me when I gave her all my dirty clothes I wore in France.

19 Oct.: (Venice) We already took the Gondola ride and the St. Mark's walking tour so we opted to take the Murano, Burano, Torcello 5-hour tour. The three islands are located near Venice. Murano is famous for its glassware, Burano for its laceware, and Torcello for its church and beautiful meandering streams. Our ship departed Venice for our 12 day cruise a little after 5 p.m.

20 Oct.: (At Sea) We were out on the sea all day. The rough Adriatic sea rocked our ship and truly separated the strong from the weak. The

lulling of the waves was very soothing to me and put me to sleep. But many in our group (including my wife, AMY), became seasick. AMY even wore an anti-seasick patch (Transderm Scop) behind her ear. I guess she wore it too late. Many of the sick ones did not enjoy the formal dinner with the Captain.

21 Oct.: (Katakolon, Greece) Arrived in Katakolon, a port city, located at the Ionian sea. Katakolon is next to Olympia, one of the most important religious centers of ancient Greece. But the tour scheduled to Olympia was canceled because the Tenders could not get to the ship to carry the passengers to shore due to the rough sea.

22 Oct.: (Kusadasi, Turkey) Many of the ladies in our group were happy because the shopping mall with its many stores were located right next to this port city. Later, we took the famous Ephesus, St. John, Virgin Mary tour. Ephesus was once the glorious capital of Asia-Minor. It was here Marc Antony and Cleopatra rode in the procession along the marble paved streets. The ancient ruins of Ephesus are something to behold.

23 Oct.: (Athens, Greece) We took the tour of the city of Athens, the Acropolis, and the city of Sounion. It was a dream come to true to visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Propylea and other famous ancient sites. Few cities in the world are as rich in history and culture as Athens. We drove over to visit the famous resort area of Sounion and had a sumptuous buffet lunch at the Aegean Hotel which was located next to the sea.

24 Oct.: (At Sea)

25 Oct.: (Napoli and Sorrento) We were scheduled to land at Sorrento but due to rough seas, we landed at Napoli. This was a break for us because many of us did not expect to see Naples again when we left there in 1994/1995.

We took the Sorrento and Amalfi Coast tour at \$122 per head. The price was a bargain considering the majestic views of the beautiful homes and sceneries we saw at Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi, and all the rest of the beautiful towns along the coast.

I believe the Amalfi coast is much more beautiful than Nice-Cannes area and the coastline with its homes built on the cliffs facing the sea should be considered the Eighth Wonder of the World.

I drank an Italian Perrona beer (\$4.50) at Hotel Catherine at Amalfi where we had a nice buffet lunch.

26 Oct: (Civitavecchia) We all remember Civitavecchia. This is where the Regiment assembled before we engaged in our first battle at Sassetta and Belvedere. The majority of the people on the ship took that Rome tour. AMY and I skipped the Rome tour because we toured the area in 1989. Instead, we took and leisurely walking tour of Civitavecchia including their open flea-market.

27 Oct: (Livorno) We skipped the Florence tour because we saw it before. Instead, we visited the town of Leghorn for several hours. In the afternoon, we took the bus tour of Pisa. The Leaning Tower of Pisa brought back lots of memories for me. I was on a patrol duty with our third platoon of Fox Company on July, 1944. I was wounded by enemy mortar fire right after I saw the Leaning Tower and was evacuated to the General Hospital in Rome. On this day, we were disappointed because we couldn't climb the Tower. The city has fortified the foundation and have disallowed visitors to climb the Tower since 1990.

28 Oct: (Cannes) We skipped the Monte Carlo tour because we saw it before. Instead, we took the short Medieval village-St. Paul De Vence tour. The many small, quaint stores located in the mountains of St. Paul was something different.

29 Oct: (At Sea) The ship cruised by Mallorca and Menorca which are part of the Balearic Islands. These autonomous islands are located halfway between France and Africa. The tourist trade began in the 1960's has turned Mallorca into one of the most popular vacation destinations in the Mediterranean. Mallorca receives more than 5 million visitors each year.

30 Oct: (Barcelona) Yippee! Our cruise has ended. Actually, it was a sad occasion. None of

us wanted to leave the ship. We will miss the lavish, Las Vegas-style floor shows; the first-run movies; the bingo games; the blackjack and craps games; the organized shipboard games and the fitness facilities. But most of all, we will miss the outstanding food: lobster, steak, shrimps, escargot, lamb chops, pork chops, ham and eggs, pancakes, baked Alaska, ice cream, pies, cakes and etc.

CARMEN, a beautiful Spanish signorina was our guide for the city tour of Barcelona. She showed us the Olympic facilities, the Spanish villa, the famous cathedrals, and the famous architectural building, etc.

We told CARMEN we wanted to see two things in Barcelona: a bull-fight and a flamenco show. The bull-fights were not held in Barcelona but she made arrangements for us to attend a flamenco show. Unfortunately, the dinner/flamenco show was held too late at night so from the original 20 people, only the MATSUMOTO's and we attended the show. The dinner show cost \$90 a head, but it was sure worth it.

We stayed two nights at the Avenida Palace hotel in Barcelona. I rate this a three-star hotel. The breakfast buffet was above average.

1 Nov.: (Barcelona - Honolulu) The return flight was uneventful except the CHINAKA group barely made the transfer flight from Lisbon to San Francisco at London. Everybody passed customs with flying colors at San Francisco and Los Angeles. Our heartfelt thanks to our escorts, RALPH and GRACE CHINAKA and HENRY and EMI KUNIYUKI. We all had a wonderful and memorable trip. And to the rest of our bus and cruise-mates, please stay healthy and let's take another trip together.

Trip Tidbits

1. Being a tour escort is not an easy job. JOHN USHIJIMA, the former State Senate President and current member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and MARGARET, his attorney wife, volunteered me to be in charge of the small pre-cruise group from Strasbourg to Venice and from Barcelona to Honolulu. I screwed up royally and several times. In fact, I almost got

stranded in Barcelona on my flight home. I'd misplaced my plane ticket which was attached to the boarding pass and the Spanish ticket people refused to let me on the airplane. Boy, was I worried! I was ready to cry.

2. Military medals. ALEXANDER OKA of Service Chapter had encouraged all the vets to wear their military medals at the Bruyeres/Biffontaine ceremonies. I didn't want to show-off but I took his advice and wore my Bronze star (for being in the Army 20 years) and my Purple Heart medals at the Bruyeres ceremony. I kind of looked sharp because I wore the red, white, and blue 442nd cap and the \$180 black suit that my wife bought on sale at Penny's, Ala Moana. This was the first time in my life I wore all my medals. I did it for all the 442nd boys who died and didn't have their chance to wear their medals.

3. Message to RALPH CHINAKA and HENRY KUNIYUKI. Some of the vets and their wives and friends are very interested in going on Alaska cruise-ship tour in the future. Perhaps next year on the following year?

4. I really enjoyed the Miller-Lite beer on the ship. I drank a total of 34 cans of beer. At \$2.59 a pop, my liquor bill came to \$88.06 Gee, I have to send my wife back to work!

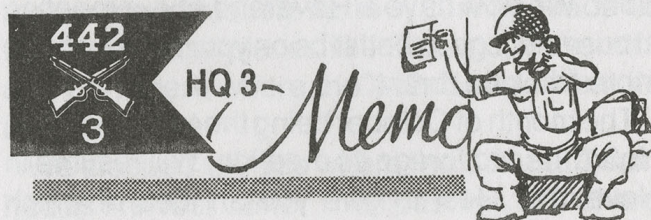
5. It was a pleasant surprise for me to bump into OSCAR MIYASHIRO (Svc) and his son, CARY at the wreath-laying ceremony in Bruyeres. They traveled with the RAY NOSAKA's 100th Infantry group to Europe. I was glad to see them again at the 442nd golf tournament at Mililani on November 18.

6. I was happy to hear that RICHARD HASHI (Svc), his wife ALMA and daughter CAROL was over at Bruyeres and Biffontaine to participate in the ceremonies. We hope to see them again next March at the annual 442nd Anniversary banquet.

7. I had the great pleasure to golf with TOM TANAKA, OSCAR MIYASHIRO, and YUTAKA KAJIWARA at the 442nd Turkey Shoot golf tournament at Mililani golf course on November 18. Our Service Chapter four-some did quite well; I came in second at net 66, TOM netted 67

which tied him for third place, and OSCAR and YUTAKA netted 70 which tied them for seventh place. Congratulations to BRUNO YAMADA, general chairman, for running a great tournament. Mahalo to ALBERT GOKAN, HAROLD WATASE, and HIRAM DOI, all of Item Chapter, for helping BRUNO.

Congratulations to HIRAM for winning the golf tournament!



by CHARLES WATANABE

Another meeting report for September which was held on the 16th at the clubhouse. This time we almost had all present and accounted for. They were: ERNI UNO, TAKESHI NAKAMURA, SAMUEL SASAI, DAVID KAIURA, SHIGERU GOTO, SAM FURUYA, and BILL KUWATA. Guess who was missing? You guessed right, HAJIME MATSUURA. The UH Wahine Volleyball is much more pleasant to watch than us elderly men. Whatever happened to FRANK ISHIKAWA? He made a disappearing act again.

SAM FURUYA gave a business report, like a good president should although nothing very important was reported. A matter still in the planning stages and discussed was the MINI-REUNION in Las Vegas next year. So far whether the reunion takes place depends on the mainland kotonks. Any extra trip other than Vegas, you will be on your own. Much more needs to be discussed yet...will keep on top of this and keep you posted.

Socially discussed during the evening was the subject of "sumo." SAM SASAI who visited the stables in Japan is very knowledgeable on this subject. Actually the floor was all his as he gave a very comprehensive account of what a sumotori's life is like and what he has to go through to get to the top. Not an easy undertak-

ing, takes lots of heart, dedication, and perseverance. We learned much about sumo from SAM in just one evening. Our wives also should have an opportunity to hear it from SAM himself.

Off the subject of sumo for now, and a little bit of da kine thing and no make fun.

Before I forget to mention it, ERNI UNO says "Thank you" to Hq3rd members and wives for coming to see him receive his credentials of a Reverend. Our prayers will be with ERNI in his work. We now have a Reverend at our meeting at our meetings so better be on your behavior...no more "da kine, brah."

The month of October being the traveling time, Hq3rd had to forego its meeting. Will resume in November. Just to give you an idea of which direction our members headed for, the KUWATAS to Bangkok, DAVID KAIURA to Japan (What's in Japan? he just came back from there not too long ago), the SASAIS and the GOTOS to Italy and France (the GOTOS may have toured Spain and Portugal as well), the NAKAMURAS to down under Australia and New Zealand. TAMASHIROS also joined in the European trip for Bruyeres reunion.

October, for the rest of the members, was a month of rest, and "thank goodness" said SAM FURUYA, he didn't have to drive over the Pali and back.

If November sounds familiar and somewhat exciting to you; yes, it is the advent of activities of the holiday season. Seems like just yesterday you had a haircut and you're due for another.

A dinner, was the highlight of the month of November in the ambiance of the "Ohelo" dining room on the grounds of beautiful Kapiolani Community College. We each enjoyed a superb menu and a great evening. In attendance were: ROBERT & EDNA KUNIYUKI, BILL & YAEKO KUWATA, SHIGERU & JANET GOTO, HAJIME & HINAYO MATSUURA, TOMMY & ELAINE TAMASHIRO, SAM & HARUMI FURUYA, SAM & MICHIE SASAI, TAKESHI & IRENE NAKAMURA, ERNI & GRACIE UNO, DAVID KAIURA, CHARLES & CLARA WATANABE. After the wine was no more, we headed to the NAKAMURA residence down the road for a

short meeting. This was a last minute decision and came as a surprise to the NAKAMURAS so we thank IRENE and TAKESHI for being so understanding and accommodating.

An important matter on the agenda was whose turn it is to serve as the 1995 president. SAM FURUYA definitely will be turning in his gavel. After much discussion, the difficult problem was finally solved. And, it was decided that ERNI UNO is the chapter president for 1995. As a matter record, SAM SASAI will be the next in line, followed by SHIGERU GOTO, then back to SAM FURUYA. This is the rotation list.

ERNI UNO gave us a brief update on the planned reunion of Hq3rd in Las Vegas in 1995. He said a flyer will be mailed to members and guests with the latest information. If you have any further questions, ask ERNI. ERNI also shared that he visited with PAPPY IWAMOTO recently and thought it would be nice if a group of our guys could spend a few hours with PAPPY, perhaps away from the care home. ERNI will look into the care home policies and procedures and family approval on this matter if anyone's interested.

Incidentally, this year's Christmas party will be held on familiar grounds. Nope, not at any hotel, but better than that, it's where you can feel at home and listen to karaoke music and also sing your favorite da kine. Of course, be prepared for a treat by your favorite once a year singers SAM and SHIGERU. We also get a chance to see ERNI's favorite toy, his choo-choo train, in the UNO's living room.

Finally, SAM SASAI has generously taken the time from his busy schedule to write the following report covering the 50th Anniversary trip to Europe in time to be included in this issue.

Highlights - 50th Anniversary trip (Italy/France)

1. From Hq 3rd: SHIGERU & JANET GOTO, MR. & MRS. ROBERT "PAKE" OWAN, MINORU & ELAINE TAMASHIRO, SAM & MICHIE SASAI, SHIG "PABLO" MATSUFUJI.

2. Our particular tour group which included the TAMASHIROS and the SASAIS was a mixed

group of veterans, non-veterans, spouses, and children of veterans. We numbered two busloads, perhaps 85-90 people.

The group left Honolulu on September 28th and started the tour from Frankfurt and Heidelberg, Germany on September 30th.

The route went through Donauworth, Dachau, Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, Venice, and arrived in Rome on October 6th. The SASAIS (by choice) missed the first 7 days and joined up with the tour group in Rome.

3. Cassino/Anzio/Nettuno: I had heard so much of the 100th Battalion's super effort in attacking Monastery Hill, so it was with considerable awe that I walked into the rebuilt monastery and looked DOWN. One glance showed why it was "suicide" to assault a well-entrenched, determined, skilled enemy in this position.

Fortunately, we had in our group MIKE TOKUNAGA of Charley Company, 100th, who participated in this assault. He gave a graphic description of the desperate attack by the 34th Division of which the 100th was a part. It certainly gave me a better understanding of why the 100th men talk about Cassino the way they do.

When officials at the monastery learned who we were, they allowed us into a special chapel normally closed to the public so that we could see stained glass windows, one panel of which was donated by the 100th and shows their original "taro leaf" shoulder patch.

Later that day, we visited the American Military Cemetery at Nettuno (adjacent to Anzio and near the beach). We arrived just about closing time, but when the Superintendent found out who we were, he told our group the cemetery would stay open as long as we wished. We paid a very emotional visit to the grave of Major JACK JOHNSON (Kauai) of the 100th Battalion. He is the only Hawaii man buried there. We offered flowers and joined in reciting the Lord's Prayer as well as singing Aloha Oe for him.

4. Rome: Many important, famous, historic sights to see. We retraced our steps of 50 years ago and visited the sights we saw when we were on "Rome pass" so many years ago.

Most memorable was the refurbished Sistine Chapel at San Pietro Cathedral. The magnificent work of MICHALANGELO has been cleaned and restored so that it can be seen in all its glory. How ironic that the restoration of part of the most important structure in Christendom was undertaken by a Japanese company. Fuji Film spent millions of dollars to complete the project.

5. Rome/Florence: We passed Civitavecchia where we first joined up with the 100th. Our bus took some tortuously narrow, curving roads as we slowly pass places like Sasseta, Suvereto, and Belvedere where the 442nd underwent its baptism of fire.

We stopped at Vada where the Combat Team had its first rest camp. Then past Hill 140 where our rifle companies had a tough fight. Then near the town of Luciana where AKIRA SHIMATSU was KIA. Through the town of Colle Salvetti where he could barely make out the Leaning Tower of Pisa. This time, however, we got a close look of the Tower before going to Florence.

We don't get a to visit Scandici where the 3rd Bn. was stationed, but we get to see the Arno River and the famous Ponte Vecchio bridge.

Thoughts go back to TAKEZO KANDA and KIYOTOSHI WATANABE who were KIA in this area and to our CHAPLAIN YAMADA, who was wounded at the same time. Thoughts also go back to BOB KUNIYUKI who was taken POW here.

6. Florence/Nice: We pass Massa/Carrara and marvel at the mountain ridge we climbed at night. Mount Carchio, Mount Folgorito, Mount Altissimo bring back memories of the night approach march up the goat path and down to the hamlet of Azzano where the entire 3rd Battalion hid all the next day in "no man's land." Then the steep, steep climb to reach the line of departure by dawn and the ferocious assault that followed.

For MICHI, this mountain range is important because this is where her brother, 1st Lt. SABURO MAEHARA of Charley Company, 100th Bn., was KIA on the first morning of the attack.

Our thoughts go to JINBO KAGIAHRA and

PAPPY IWAMOTO, SHIGERU GOTO and MIKI OGATA. They all got hit by the same shell - JINBO died of the wounds he received, SHIGERU lost his leg, PAPPY and MIKI were wounded.

Genoa, tremendously developed from what we remember. This was where Col. PURSALL commanded city street cars and the 3rd Bn. rode from the south end of the city to the north end.

We cross the border into France and come upon the familiar sight of the pebbly beach alongside the Promenade de Anglais in Nice.

A real surprise! Our tour member on our bus is "WHITEY" YAMAMOTO of the Regimental Anti-Tank Company. He was telling us about how the AT Co. had captured a German mini-sub in the harbor of Menton. Would you believe his memory!?! He unerringly guided the bus directly to the spot where the sub beached. Then, lo and behold, we come across a newly erected monument on the beach. This was Menton's thanks to various Allied units who had helped liberate the town 50 years ago. Prominently inscribed were the names - 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, USA.

7. Escarene/Col de Braus/Sospel: It took a whole day to visit Escarene, negotiate the okole twitching hair-pin turns on the way up to Col de Braus, then twist and turn down to Sospel.

At Escarene we participate in wreath presentation at the local cemetery. Individuals came out with their photo albums showing pictures and asking whether that GI was present. A middle-aged man who was a little boy then and who had been invited to the 2nd Bn. Christmas party was present. Very emotional!

A real highlight for SAM SASAI was finding the building and store space where 1st Squad, 3rd Bn., Anti-Tank Platoon slept while we were stationed in Escarene. This space is now occupied by a butcher shop.

On the way to Sospel, everyone on the bus squeezed when the big bus negotiated the hair-pin turns by backing and filling several times before making the turns. Everyone kept oohing and ahing when they could look straight down hundred of feet on one side of the bus - and NO

guard rails!! There was a collective sigh of relief when we finally made it to Sospel.

On the way, just as we got to the top of the mountain, we passed Col de Braus and MINORU TAMASHIRO spotted the concrete tunnel the 1st and 3rd squads of the Battalion Anti-Tank Platoon slept in while the rest of 3rd Hqs was at Peille.

Sospel had not changed very much. The town conducted a ceremony at their war memorial and later invited us to a wine reception. There was also a ceremony at the local school where two men from King Company who had been quartered there KIA by an artillery shell.

We had a most pleasant lunch at Sospel, al fresco, the weather was perfect! While having lunch alongside the stream, my eyes turned towards the mountains, towards "the front," and my thoughts went back to Lt. BERNARD PERLSWIEG who lost his leg there.

8. Bruyeres/Biffontaine: We left Nice and passed through Gernoble in France and Lucerne in Switzerland. Then on Friday, October 14, we reached Gerardmer, a resort town alongside a mountain lake, only about a half hour from Bruyeres.

The highlight of this entire trip was the next two days, Saturday and Sunday. First, the village of Biffontaine arranged for the entire group - say 12 - 15 bus loads, probably in excess of 600 veterans and their families - to visit a monument in the hills above the village.

The monument is located in the area where the Lost Battalion battle took place. After a moving ceremony which included a US Army band all the way from Germany, a French Army band, plus an honor guard of French Army paratroopers, the village of Biffontaine, whose inhabitants only number in the hundreds, hosted all of us - say 600 - to a catered lunch under a huge tent erected in the village. We can only be grateful and recognize the humungous effort of the people of this village.

Late that afternoon, the entire group attended military ceremonies at the US Cemetery in Epinal, about a half-hour ride from Bruyeres. Again, a most dignified, touching and emotional event for

the veterans who honored those from the 100th/442nd who are still buried there.

Second, the town of Bruyeres hosted the entire group on Sunday, October 16th. The day began with an open air religious service, followed by a parade through the town in which all the veterans and their families participated.

At the town square, there was a ceremony at the town War Memorial monument. What was impressive to me was the gathering of VIPs at the ceremony. High French government officials, Generals, the Consul General of the US, etc.

Following this we boarded buses to be taken to a hill overlooking Bruyeres where the monument to the 442nd RCT is located. Again, a solemn ceremony with many tears shed as the veterans relived their bitter experiences in the wet and cold and mud of the autumn of 1944.

The small town of Bruyeres then invited everybody to a catered lunch. It's just unbelievable how much effort went into this entire day, honoring those who liberated them from the Nazi yoke 50 years ago.

Another highlight of this day was an unexpected visit and conversation with a German gentleman who had been captured in the vicinity of Biffontaine by our men. It was truly a different experience to listen to someone who was on the opposite end of a rifle and who thanked us for not shooting him when he was captured.

9. Bruyeres/Paris: Monday, October 17th, our bus traveling from the Vosges mountains to Paris, many of us reflected on the past week. From Cassino up the Italian boot, the Maritime Alps of Southern France, the Vosges Mountains - nothing but war, death, blood, and suffering. We tried to make some sense out of it. For whatever its worth I'll share some of my thoughts.

On the people of Bruyeres/Biffontaine: The outpouring of love and affection, the EFFORT to show us that they truly appreciated the sacrifice made 50 years ago. It just gives you chicken skin. Overwhelming! They know what "ON" and "GIRI" mean. Not only do they know, but they actually practice these Confucian precepts that we Nisei learned from our parents. It's certainly

something we can emulate and teach our children and grandchildren.

On my comrades who were KIA: What can I say? They died in the flower of their youth. They never had a chance to enjoy the good things in life that the rest of us have enjoyed. They were never able to find a life partner; never able to enjoy their children and grandchildren. They never had the opportunity to struggle to pay the mortgage and end up with "my house;" never able to enjoy the participation in the mainstream of community life which their sacrifices bought for the rest of us; never able to benefit from development of their latent talents. All I can say to them is a humble "Thank You." Words are so empty and yet I want to convey to them how much their sacrifice has meant to me - to us - and how grateful I am. Thank You!

On what it means to me: The entire experience during this trip was a catharsis for me. I was able to relive with my fellow veterans a terribly traumatic experience of my youth. The impressions left upon me have affected my whole life - some good and some bad - but a permanent impression never the less.

Now I can put these things to rest. I've said my good-byes to comrades who fell along the way; I've exorcised old ghosts on this one last trip to the old battlegrounds; I'm content, I'm happy.

10. Quo Vadis? Whither goest thou? Or where do we go from here? You will recall from your school days ABRAHAM LINCOLN's Gettysburg Address where he says to the effect that - it is for us the living to dedicate ourselves to the unfinished tasks that these men living and dead have thus far so nobly advanced. Or you will recall the poem by a Canadian soldier of World War I, GORDON MACRAE, who wrote "In Flanders Field," where he says - to you from failing hands we throw, the torch be yours to hold it high, if ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders Field.

One thing is for sure. The generations before us and even our generation has done a lousy job. All over the world nations continue to wage war, still try to kill each other for the same reasons as when history began.