

were President QUANTO WATANABE, who called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, HERB ISONAGA, LIPPY HIGUCHI, SCULLY SHIMIZU, KAZA TOMASA, BERT NISHIMURA, BOB UYEDA, LARRY ISHIDA, BOTCHAN OKEMURA, RICHARD NAKAMURA, BILL THOMPSON, MORISO TERAOKA, TOSHI HAYAMA, and K. TANIGAWA.

A sad note on this evening was information received that EDNA, wife of MASA YAMAMOTO, had passed away after a long bout with kidney failure, which necessitated countless hours of kidney dialysis for the many years she had been afflicted with this ailment. The last rites were served on the following day at the Hosoi Garden Mortuary.

BILL THOMPSON, our perennial gadfly, with his persistent harassment of UH officials, resulted in the recognition of the VVV (Varsity Victory Volunteers) with a commemorative plaque, acknowledging their work in the war effort, immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and their subsequent service with the 442nd Regiment as well as other units of the Armed Forces. BILL, however, is not all SISS AND VINEGAR (Pardon the lisp) - he has a gentler side. During the recent celebrations commemorating our 50th anniversary, he wrote a letter to the widow of 1st Lt. OLIVER FARNUM who was KIA on his first day of duty as CO of HQ2ndBn, in the Battle for Bruyeres, to offer our aloha, and that her husband has not been forgotten and that he still remains in our hearts and minds as a friend and comrade-in-arms.

For the April 14th meeting, just subtract GEORGE OKA and add MASA YAMAMOTO and SWEENEY (MIKE) SUGAI and we have sixteen members - one better than last month. BOTCHAN and BILL outdid themselves with pupus that resembled full-fledged dinners - Inari-zushi and all. Most of the discussions centered around the 442nd RCT Foundation, its future, the Sons and Daughters auxiliary, etc. Discussions like these makes one aware of his mortality - that you must move over to make room for your replacement who may or may not meet with

your standards, but you have no say in the matter.

The Merry Month of May is, among other things, Lei Day, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. Our meeting for the month took in the Halekoa Luau, where we can act like tourists and not be noticed. Everyone will agree, I am sure, that the food was excellent, but the paucity of the poi was felt by all of us poi dogs. However, it was sort of expected and rather surprising that there was poi to be had in the first place - the stormy weather that we have been having since Iniki destroyed a lot of taro patches, but they must have made an excellent comeback. Enjoyed all of that corny ALOOOOOHA! and those fantastic Tahitian dancers doing the fast shake - every time I watch one of those numbers I fear (expect hopefully?) that the skirts will come flying out to the spectators but that has never happened to date.

Taking in all of this were TOSHI & GRACE HAYAMA, LIPPY HIGUCHI, LARRY & VIOLET ISHIDA, HERB & SUE ISONAGA, RICHARD NAKAMURA, BERT (Luau Perpetrator) & HANNAH NISHIMURA, TAKASHI OKEMURA, KEN & VIVIAN SARUWATARI, KATOON & TOSHI TANIGAWA, President QUANTO WATANABE, MASA YAMAMOTO, CAROL ODA, FRANCES SATO, ALICE SUGI, and AILEEN YONEMORI. Aloha!



by HAROLD FUKUNAGA

March Mini-Reunion

March 10, 1995 was the date of our mini-reunion, which was coordinated by FRED IDA, who made all of the arrangements of contacting key individuals of each locale and site of the dinner at Fremont Hotel's dining hall in Vegas.

When all of the people arrived that night, it was quite an assembly of 55 participants. They came from Hawaii, California, Nevada, Chicago, Georgia, and Utah. It's remarkable that we had such a large turnout for a 1-night get-together. I guess the appeal of Las Vegas must account for part of the good response.

The dinner at Fremont was similar to the one we had the last time we met there. Yes, the main course was the ribs from Tony Roma's, which has a restaurant in Fremont. I guess we all showed our age, because most of us had difficulty finishing the ribs. ARTHUR & GRACE NISHIMOTO from Utah took some of the leftovers home to their new home that they purchased in Las Vegas. They must have a dog in their new place. ART claimed that they were getting tired of shoveling snow from their driveway and preferred a warmer climate, such as Vegas. I don't know why he was complaining because GRACE, his wife, claimed that she had to shovel the snow because otherwise, the driveway would never get cleared. What a samurai, that ART.

FRED coordinated the program and made sure that everyone had a seat, in spite of the fact that some last minute arrivals came without any advance notification. It seemed that everyone had a good time, because FRED arranged the seating, so that the Hawaii contingent was spread out among all of the tables, thus giving more people to get to know the Mainlanders better. After the dinner, all of the attendees were set up for group pictures. Because of the large size, he split the group into women and men. Some of the pictures turned out very nicely, when FRED showed them at our last chapter meeting.

The following attendees were present: Hawaii - KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA, HAROLD & JANE FUKUNAGA, HENRY HORI, FRED & DOLORES IDA, DENNIS IDA (FRED's son), SHIGEMI & BETTY ISHIZAKI, HIROMI SUEHIRO, ED TAMANAHA, SPEED & EDNA TANNA, and RALPH YEMPUKU. From the mainland - KURTIS ARAKI (SPEED's grandson), TETS & DOT ASATO, JIMMY & ALICE DOI, DEWEY & KIYOKO FUKUI, BONES &

SHIZ FUJIMOTO, GEORGE & CHIYE HAYASHI, IKE IKEDA, GEORGE & MARY KARATSU, MARY KAWABATA, MASUO & BETTY KAWABE, KO & ALICE ARIHARA, ROY & FUMY MACHIDA, MINORU & LILLY MIYASAKI, JIMMY & MASAYO MAKINO, JIM & DOT NAKAGAWA, TAKASHI & SACHI NAKAMOTO, GEORGE & MARY NAKATSU, SUE NISHINAKA, ART & GRACE NISHIMOTO, BILL & ESTHER ODA, YUKIO OKAMOTO, KAY SEKINO, NAWIE SEKINO & FUSAKO KUMAMOTO, STANLEY SERIKAKU, and TED TAKENAKA.

Because all of the participants were scattered in many different hotels, all kinds of stories were being heard. One was that MARY KARATSU had won a \$4000 jackpot, but the next day, that figure changed to \$400. Quite a contrast. FRED was saying that he was very lucky, because he hit a "crazy" slot machine, which spewed out dollar coins like crazy. He claims that he made \$300 twice in a span of over a few minutes at a time. I tried other machines, both the poker and slot but wasn't so lucky. My wife, JANE, was fortunate in hitting a \$1000 royal flush on a 3-card draw. So, we didn't do too bad as a family. I lost and she won. SHIGEMI wasn't lucky at the crap games, but maybe BETTY made up for him at her game. We heard that RALPH YEMPUKU gave HIROMI SUEHIRO, a newcomer to Vegas, a cook's tour, by a car driven by a friend and took him to all of the sights that newcomers must see, from the plush hotels on the strip to Hoover Dam and others. HIROMI should be glad that he had a personal tour. RALPH YEMPUKU said that he was lucky at craps at the Horseshoe Casino. He said that he had 9 passes, so the reward must have been at least a grand or two.

Shelby Tour

When the Camp Shelby Tours were announced a few months ago at the Chapter meeting, nobody from the chapter expressed any interest. However, FRED IDA said that a number of mainland guys were planning to attend the event during the summer, so he checked and decided to attend. He said the following people have

made reservations: MARY SHIKUMA (Denver), SAKAE & GLADYS GINZA (LA), FRANK KURODA (Detroit), SAM & MARY OGAWA (Salt Lake City), STAN SERIKAKU (Chicago), YUKIO OKAMOTO (San Jose), RAY & MARGURITE SAKAGUCHI (Denver), TED TAKENAKA (Reno), JIM & MASAYOMAKINO (LA), MINORU & LILLY MIYASAKI (Richmond), DOROTHY SUGIURA (Denver), MAE TAKAMURA (Denver), FUJIO TASHIRO (Denver), and FRED & DOLORES IDA (Honolulu).

52nd Anniversary Memorial Service

Many G Chapter members and some wives woke up early on March 25th to attend the annual memorial service at the Punchbowl National Cemetery. We need to thank SPEED TANNA and TAKESHI ONUMA for spending time the day before in placing tiny American flags on each G Co. member's grave site. SPEED says it took him about 2 hours to finish the job. Thanks to his knowledge of the location of the grave sites, they were able to finish in two hours. Some other chapters took many hours (some up to 6 hours), because of the unfamiliarity of the sites. The service was well planned and appreciated by all who attended, in spite of the hot weather that morning. Our chapter members who attended the service were: KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA, HAROLD FUKUNAGA, TAKETO & JUDY KAWABATA, EDDIE OCHIAI, TAKESHI ONUMA, HIROMI SUEHIRO, SPEED TANNA, RALPH YEMPUKU, and GRACE ISHII.

52nd Anniversary Banquet

The annual 442nd Veterans Club banquet was held at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 25, 1995 and was attended by many G chapter members and their wives. Among those who attended were: ALFRED & HELEN AMII, KICHIO & ROSE EBISUYA, HAROLD & JANE FUKUNAGA, RAY & PAT HANDA, HENRY HORII, RED & DOLORES IDA, GRACE ISHII, ROBERT & YOSHIKO ITO, TOSHIMASA KANAI, TAKETO & JUDY KAWABATA, JOHN & CLARA KIKUYAMA, ROBERT & HARRIET MIYATA, EDDIE & GRACE OCHIAI, TAKESHI

ONUMA, HIROMI SUEHIRO, GEORGE & CHIYOKO HAMADA, ED & EMILY TAMANAHA, RALPH YEMPUKU, and RICHARD AJIFU.

Approximately 600 people attended the banquet overall. G chapter was assigned 3 tables with 10 persons to a table except that one extra seat was squeezed into one table, to make it 31. The program was relatively short and lively. Many dignitaries were introduced and a few medals were given to people who were close to the 442nd Veterans Club (*Editor's Note: G Chapter reporter HAROLD FUKUNAGA was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award by the 442nd Veterans Club, to honor his unselfish commitment to the club throughout the past years.*) The dinner was good in that we were served instead of standing in a buffet line. The food was enjoyed by those on our table. The giant strawberries donated by MANABI HIRASAKI of Oxnard, California were sweet and complemented our dinners well.

A silent auction of artistic prints donated by local artist, JACKSON MORISAWA of H Co. was received well. All items were sold and the proceeds were donated to the 442nd RCT Foundation.

Visitors

ROCKY MATAYOSHI was in town recently, from March 11 to April 18. He visited the principal neighbor islands, besides Honolulu during that period. He made it a point to visit us at our G Chapter meeting twice, on March 16 and April 13. All of the guys were happy to see him. It seems as if he is getting mellower as he ages, because he is conversant, as contrasted to the days when he was very quiet and serious. According to him, he didn't know that he had won a DSC, because he returned a little earlier than most of us. His discharge papers, at the time of his discharge did not show that, so he was surprised when people told him that he had won a DSC. Because of his other medals, from purple hearts to silver stars, he accumulated more points than most of us, so he was discharged earlier than we were. Evidently, his DSC was written up after he left for home.

He was very glad that he visited the Neighbor Islands, because he met some of the guys he didn't see for ages. He saw RICHARD YAMAMOTO of his platoon, who he didn't see for over 50 years. He met others in Maui and Hilo and had a good time reminiscing.

Our former company commander BILL AULL was in town for several weeks, living in his condominium in Hawaii Kai. According to TAKETO KAWABATA and KAZU MOTOBU, who had been talking to BILL occasionally, he was not feeling well enough to participate in our chapter meetings or Shinnenkai. When he felt a little better, he was asked to sit in an interview with a Tokyo television outfit and describe his days during the Bruyeres campaign. Soon thereafter he had a mishap and became incapacitated, so he couldn't drop in to our meetings. He left for his home after that and we hope that he recovers enough, so that he can visit with us in the future.

Condolence

We were informed that CARL OGAWA of Los Angeles passed away in mid-March. He was being treated for cancer. CARL is a former Hawaiian, who volunteered from Honolulu. He remained in Chicago after the war for many years and then relocated to Los Angeles later. He mentioned after his relocation that he was tired of the cold weather in Chicago. He was listed as killed in action on the Territorial of Hawaii World War II Memorial, located on the corner of King and Punchbowl Streets, until the he notified authorities of the error and the correction was made.

His ashes were brought back to Hawaii, where they were buried at the State of Hawaii's Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe on May 4, 1995. Some of the G Chapter members who attended the ceremony were: SPEED TANNA, GRACE ISHII, AL & HELEN AMII, HENRY HORII, HAROLD FUKUNAGA, RAY HANDA, BOBBY ITO, RICHARD AJIFU, SHIGEMI ISHIZAKI, JOHN KIKUYAMA, and CHARLIE KAIWI and his wife.

Future Notes

FRED IDA has reserved the banquet hall at Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas for March 22, 1996 for the next G Co. get-together, similar to the one he arranged this past March.

FRED is also planning a European tour next year, visiting sites that G Co. went through in Italy and France. He has been having difficulty locating the site of Hill 140, where G Co. incurred such heavy casualties. He'll keep on searching for the nearest village or other landmarks. If he can arrange that tour, we should all make an attempt to join it, because Father Time is creeping up and we won't have many opportunities in the future after that. He also stated that the tour would give any son or daughter who wish to accompany the parents a good idea of what the fathers went through in those hills, mountains, and forests. He will keep us posted on the developments.

Correction

I was informed that MRS. HORII contributed the plastic "scrubbers" at the G Chapter Shinnenkai held in January, 1995. Each family received one to be used to scrub pots and pans in the kitchen.

Wartime Experience of ROBERT ITO

ROBERT (BOBBY) ITO was still attending Farrington High School when the call for volunteers for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team came up in February, 1943. He was in his senior year then. He received his high school diploma after his return from service in 1946. He was in G Company from the beginning, receiving his basic and advanced training in the same company. He was assigned to the 1st squad in the 1st platoon.

He recalls that he was a green rookie when the company went into combat in Italy, just like every other guy in the company. He remembers the pounding we took on Hill 140, when the Germans barraged us day and night on that hill.

He remembers that day (July 11) that he was wounded in the neck on Hill 147. KICHIO EBISUYA, KANEICHI HAMADA, and SHIGEO

SUMIOKA were also wounded on that day. He was in the hospital and later returned to the company when it was by the Arno River, near Florence. He recalls going on patrol and crossing the river during the few days that he was there.

He recalls the next campaign in the Vosges Mountains and Bruyeres, which was a miserable time, because of the constant cold rain and heavily wooded areas, where tree bursts from artillery shells made conditions much more dangerous. BOBBY's eye glasses were broken after Bruyeres, near the railroad tracks. Because of his bad eyesight, he couldn't see without his glasses, so he went back to the Battalion Aid Station and ultimately ended in the hospital. They determined that his eyesight was unfit for combat duties, so they transferred him to a rear echelon, quartermaster outfit, after they fitted him with new glasses.

He joined this quartermaster outfit in Belgium. Soon thereafter the Germans in that sector of the war zone mounted a massive counter attack and surrounded many American units, including the quartermaster unit that BOBBY was assigned to. This counter offensive launched by the Germans was commonly caused the Battle of the Bulge. BOBBY says that the Germans came so fast, that before they knew what was going on, they were encircled and captured. They were required to walk all the way to Germany in the snow, without rations. He said that it took them about 5 or 6 days of walking before they reached the prisoner of war camp. They were not provided any rations, except for some raw potatoes, which they had to eat raw, because they couldn't cook them while walking. In addition, they weren't furnished with anything warm, such as blankets, so they had to suffer the cold and hunger while walking to Germany. BOBBY recalls the name of the POW camp was called Stalag 4B, which was located close to Berlin.

While in camp, they were provided 2 meals per day. The food was not too bad, BOBBY says. He was assigned certain working details at times. He remembers going on a couple of work de-

tails, unloading things from the trains. He thought they were American Red Cross materials that were sent from the US.

The living conditions in the barracks were not too bad, although they didn't have any heater, to keep themselves warm. They were furnished a blanket per person, so they had something to cover themselves while sleeping. They were finally rescued in May by the Russians who were attacking the Germans from the east. Soon thereafter, the Americans reached that area, so the American prisoners of war were loaded up in trucks and transported back to France. BOBBY doesn't remember much of the details, but they were provided new uniforms and sent to the US via transport ship, which landed in New York City. They were flown from there to San Francisco via c-46s or 47s. He recalls that he heard the news of the surrender of Japan while he was on the transport ship on the way home to Honolulu. He was stationed at Schofield after he returned in August until his discharge in November 1945. He said that they didn't have any duty, so they were given furloughs. He went with "PUNCHY" NAKAHARA to visit Kohala, "PUNCHY's" hometown, on one of the leaves.

After his discharge, he went to work for his father, who had a laundry. After several years, he took up electrical work after getting training at the Honolulu Vocational School. After several years, he went to work for the US Postal Service as a letter carrier, from which he finally retired.



by HENRY KUNIYUKI

Travels and Trips

A quotation from an unknown author personifies members of the Livorno Chapter and their respective spouses: "Take time to play - it is the secret of perpetual youth. Take time to be friendly,

it is the road to happiness. Take time to laugh, laughter is the music of the soul." During the past several months, ten Livorno families enjoyed well-deserved vacations to varied parts of the world. MASATOSHI & SUMIE MITANI scheduled an East Coast/Canadian tour; SHIZUO & CLARA OIDE enjoyed a lucrative visit to Las Vegas and San Francisco; BETTY TAKAEZU and sisters visited Alaska and Las Vegas; RAY & MIMI TANAKA had an extended one-month southern states visitation with her brother and sister-in-law; JERRY & ETHEL DOI made their annual trip to their daughter's family in Sacramento; MINORU & MITSUYE NAGASAKO also had a rewarding Las Vegas trip; MORIO & RACHEL OMORI spent several weeks in Nippon and topped it off with a trip to the University of Colorado Law School Alumni Award Banquet where MORIO was honored for Small Firm Distinguished Achievement; the TAKAMORI MIYAGIS and HENRY KUNIYUKIS took advantage of the 52nd Anniversary Banquet by playing tourist in Waikiki. TAKAMORI and KIKUYE were recipients of complimentary accommodations at Sheraton Waikiki as he is a retiree of the Sheraton Corporation. Our mainland member, KEN SHIGAYA and MARY also had a fantastic trip to Nippon last October according to a letter dated April 6, 1995. The "travelogue" of the SHIGAYAS, OMORIS, and TANAKAS are highlighted in this second quarter issue of the Bulletin.

The SHIGAYAS

I'll let KEN tell his story:

"We landed at New Osaka Kansai International Airport and spend a couple of days with MARY's cousin in Kobe before the earthquake. It was a beautiful sister city to Seattle. From Kobe, we went to tour Kyushu for a week. It was MARY's first but my second trip. But it was a "Gaijin" tour so I learned more about Kyushu than before. From Kyushu we visited my older brother, who was born in Shiga-ken, near Lake Biwa. After a week with my brother, we stopped at Kanazawa to visit another cousin of MARY's and trained to Sado Island. That was quite an

island! We toured the island and it's a gold mine, where they used prisoners to mine the gold. Since we had purchased three-week rail passes, we trained to Sapporo and joined the "Gaijin" (English speaking) Sapporo tour. Know what? We were the only tourists so they drove us around in a taxi cab. In Kyushu, there were only four of us - two from Switzerland and two of us. Therefore, they drove us around in a van. I believe they had to honor our tours because we booked our tours back in May, 1994 and paid in advance. After Sapporo, we spent about a week with MARY's cousin in Hokkaido, mainly around Hakodate. Summarizing, we thought it was a fun trip and dined well with all sort of "go-chi-so" and still arrived home minus five pounds!"

KEN concluded his letter by expressing his condolences regarding HOWARD KIYAMA's untimely passing. He did not realized that the soldier in the photo being embraced by his tearful father was HOWARD. He had seen that famous photo in various other publications. KEN extends his very best regards to the Livorno Chapter members.

The TANAKAS

First-hand detailed report was received from MIMI and RAY TANAKA regarding their one-month sojourn to the Southern states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. MIMI's brother FRANK and sister-in-law DAISY MOURI were their gracious hosts for the 5,000 mile car journey. The starting point was Brother FRANK's home located in beautiful New Market, Virginia. They were a bit late for the cherry blossom viewing in Washington D.C. unfortunately. They were blessed with Hawaii-like weather for most parts of the journey, although they found Virginia rather cool at first. Frankly, MIMI found the scenery in the Southern part of the country rather dreary as the spring planting had not been started. Visitations to river-boat casinos were somewhat interesting, but they were somewhat surprised to have to pay admission to board the ships. More details regarding the one-month vacation will be cov-

ered by RAY at our Livorno Chapter meeting.

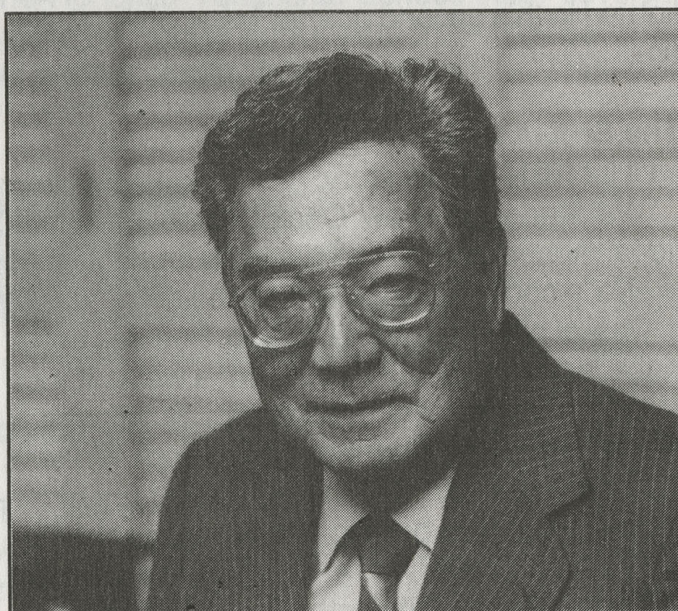
The OMORIS

In order to do some legal work in Japan and to have RACHEL enjoy the cherry blossoms, MORIO scheduled a trip thereat during the later part of March. Their good Tokyo friend escorted them on April 1st to Bandai-san spa area in Aizu Wakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture. Both RACHEL and MORIO were quite surprised to see their beautiful hotel thereat snow-covered. Both thoroughly enjoyed the luxury of both indoor and outdoor hot springs. Fukushima-ken, as you may know, is located next to Sendai and is bordered by the Japan Sea. The OMORIS also visited Kawagoye, the little Edo. Certain portion of their travel was by stretched limousine, the only one-of-a-kind available at their destination chauffeured by a proud driver. I am sure citizens of the area covered by that vehicle thought that the royal family was visiting! When they returned to Tokyo the cherry trees all over were in full bloom. Shortly after returning from that fabulous ten-day journey to Nippon, the OMORIS took off for Denver, Colorado, where MORIO was honored at the School of Law Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet. The University of Colorado Law School Alumni Awards for Distinguished Achievement is given to law school graduates who, in addition to scholastic achievements in Law School, distinguished themselves as big and small law firm practitioners and in judiciary, executive, and government positions after graduation. MORIO and RACHEL were pleased to meet old law school classmates, Boulder, Colorado friends, and old law professors, including the Dean of the Law School. The information published in the Awards Program brochure was gathered from Hawaii lawyer friends Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, and other sources. The introduction of MORIO at the awards ceremony reads as follows:

"MORIO OMORI, who grew up on Maui, Hawaii, is a decorated World War II veteran who escaped after being captured by killing their German guards in the Apennine Mountains, Po

Valley battles in Italy, and escaped from behind enemy lines. After the war, he received his education degree from the University of Hawaii, and then attended the University of Colorado School of Law, graduating in 1954. Mr. OMORI served as law clerk for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii. Then from 1956 to 1963 he was a deputy attorney general and special deputy attorney general for the State of Hawaii, litigating extensively at all levels of the state and federal court system, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Since the mid-1960's, MR. OMORI has been engaged in the private practice of law specializing in corporate and land use issues. He has served as general counsel and chairman of the Board of Directors for Pacific Savings and Loans and then as general counsel and member of the board of the Halekulani Corporation in Honolulu. Mr. OMORI represents Mitsui Fudosan and a number of Japanese clients as well. He has played major roles in the political arena as well, serving as campaign coordinator in Senator DANIEL INOUE's electoral campaigns in the '60s and '70s. He is one of the state of Hawaii's leading citizens and one of the University of Colorado's most accomplished graduates."

CONGRATULATIONS, MORIO, LIVORNO CHAPTER IS INDEED PROUD OF YOU!



Morio Omori

Incidentally, MORIO and RACHEL are taking another cruise on the Crystal Harmony, the same ship they took to the Scandinavian capitals and London. The next Crystal cruise will cover Portugal, Spain, southern France, Eastern Italy, disembarking in Venice. They then fly to Austria for four more days, a total of 23 days this July, 1995.

TAKE THE TIME TO ENJOY LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS! ARRIVADECII!



by JACKSON MORISAWA

TAKAO HEDANI was a Section Sergeant in 3rd Platoon Mortars of H Co. He later received a field commission and served as an officer in H Co. HAZEL HEDANI gave some articles written by TAKAO. Part I will appear in this issue, and Part II will appear in the Fall issue of the Go For Broke Bulletin. The following articles are excerpts from his memoirs of combat experiences during the Italian and French campaigns.

TAKAO HEDANI's Memoirs

After training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi for over a year since April of 1943, H Co. left the port of embarkation, Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia on May 1, 1944 for Europe. Destination was unknown to the troops of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, but every soldier was excited and ready for combat. However, most of the foot soldiers were poor sailors and hugged their bunks (seasick) most of the 28 days before landing in Oran, North Africa. H Co. landed in Naples on June 7, 1944, where we were issued new rifles, machine guns, and 81MM Mortars at the staging area. We were prepared for combat.

On June 23, 1994, 3rd platoon had four passes to Rome from the town of Civitavecchia. I still remember clearly that I gave Pfc. GEORGE

YAMAMOTO a pass to Rome and \$10.00 to enjoy. Knowing that boy was just 18 years old and a virgin, I told him to spend the \$10.00 to become a man. Upon his return, I confirmed whether he executed my command. He said simply, "Yes."

Early in the morning of June 26, 1944, the entire 6 guns of 81MM Mortars were committed at the Battle of Belvedere. 3rd Platoon got orders to follow the infantry soldiers of the leading line companies E and F. All of the sudden the whole battalion was stopped cold by the enemy small arms and artillery fire. The front line infantry men took cover in a ravine to combat the Germans. The Germans inflicted heavy casualties on our foot soldiers from their commanding high ground. Anti-tank platoon of 2nd Battalion Headquarters Co. drove a 3/4 ton truck to our 81MM Mortar position. The occupants of the vehicle stood up with binoculars and observed the enemy situation, and they were clearly in view of the Germans. Within 2 minutes a German 88 self propelled gun made a direct hit on the truck and killed the 3 spectators instantly. This scene was the initiation to the baptismal combat action of the 442nd RCT, in general. I just thought it was another maneuver and something to be observed and enjoyed.

Nothing spectacular happened to our mortar platoon. We had our guns mounted but no officers were around to give command so the entire mortar platoon waited patiently for orders. About 11 o'clock nature called, so I got behind a bush and squatted down. Small arms fire started to rake the ravine and a stray bullet hit close to my right foot. Till this day I don't recall whether or not I wiped my rear end to get out from the bush.

The entire 2nd Battalion was in a chaotic state. Company commanders lost contacts with their platoons and platoon leaders lost radio contacts with their superiors. The Jerries were infiltrating our loosely held positions. On the right side of our defense was a high cliff of mountains and 1,000 yards to our left was the 3rd Battalion. In front of us was a farm house which had a commanding view of the valley. From the advan-

tageous position, the Germans picked our infantry position with the greatest of ease. The whole battalion was at a loss and could not advance nor retreat.

About 11:45 AM I got a reel of wire and started to extend it from our gun position to the right side of our defensive position. I ran as fast as I could through the knee high bushes. I got to the end of the combat wires where there was a small shelter. To my surprise LT. KEEGAN and Lt. Col. HANLEY were giving command from the Battalion Command Post. I left a telephone attached to the end of the combat wire and scooted back to my gun position. This time the Germans tried to hit me with small arms fire, but missed because I presented a small target. I weighted 125 lb.. with full field pack.

We fired 4 to 5 rounds at the enemy farm house observation post. Suddenly about 1:00 PM the enemy started to withdraw and we captured the high commanding ground of Belvedere. H Co. recouped and reorganized to join the victorious 100th Battalion in the town of Belvedere. I still can't imagine how the 100th Battalion passed through the 2nd and 3rd Battalion and made a surprise attack on the enemy.

Of course, 3rd platoon did not have any casualties in this encounter. The machine gunners, who were attached to E and F Companies, also were without casualties.

By virtue of the heroics by the 100th Battalion, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were saved from disaster and annihilation by the experienced German troops.

On July 1, 1944, H Co. crossed Cecina River without any enemy resistance. July 3, 1944, the 2nd Battalion faced the infamous Hill 140. The Mortar Platoon took a gun position which was contrary to the acceptable choice of placements. Without any officers to command the 45 men 81MM Mortar Platoon, we scrambled about a mile from a road junction to the right of a steep ridge. We could not locate a suitable gun position in the solid rock and there were no shelters to hide the 3 81MM Mortars. Still, the infantry men manning the 2nd Battalion forward position needed our support in the worse way possible.

There was a bushy area about half an acre. I said this was it. We can't advance further to look for an ideal gun position. The bushes were about 5 feet high, enough to conceal the gun positions but it was a daring feat to place 81MM Mortars on a forward slope with hardly any cover or concealment. We took a gamble and depended on our luck to survive. Probably the worst gun placement selection deceived the enemy. The ammunition chain was 2 miles of mountains and each person carried 4 ammunitions through the rugged trails. On the 4th of July we had a German counter attack. We celebrated by killing the counter attacking Germans from this unorthodox gun position. The intense firing heated the mortars so much that we had to stop firing to cool off the red hot barrels. S/Sgt. FRANK SAITO was the forward observer and directed fire until the 7th of July. The Germans used their best tactics to subdue the Japanese Americans. Also for 5 days the Germans tried their tactical best to neutralize our 81MM mortar positions. We had 500 rounds of ammunition at our position at all times. On 4th of July, we fired 1,200 rounds of 81MM mortar shells to quell the German counter attacks. The 81MM mortar positions were at least 3/4 miles away to the right of the battalion main line of supply and ammunition route. This caused the Germans to scout and try to locate our gun position. On the eve of July 4th, two squads of 2nd Battalion soldiers were assigned to guard our gun positions.

One incident will give a picture of how fluid the front lines were. To our right there was a farm house with pink roof tiles, so we named it the "Pink House." The Germans used this house to their advantage. They used it as a sheltered observation post and assembly area. I was located about 600 yards from our gun position. On July 5th, the Germans, 60 strong, marched tactically down the valley in front of us, attempting to cut off the supply route of E & G Companies. I couldn't resist the temptation of bombarding the enemy in the bottom of the valley. I ordered the three guns to traverse and search 9 rounds and repeat it five times. Not one German stood up after the barrage. Moments later a Red

Cross flag and a white flag were raised from the Pink House. For two hours there was no firing and stretcher bearers were busy carrying the dead and wounded. Ironically, S/Sgt. YUTAKA YOSHIDA claims that we fired some short rounds. I still think our guns were accurate with some mistakes, such as increasing the number of increments on the Mortar shells. Fortunately, again 3rd platoon did not receive any casualties during the battle of Hill 140. By word of mouth, it was reported that S/Sgt. YUTAKA YOSHIDA stood up on the ridge of Hill 140 and challenged the Germans to fight like men. No sooner had he uttered those nasty words he was chopped down by German machine guns and was wounded severely in the legs.

The Mortar Platoon had rather easy assignments following the infantry men attacking German strong points. After July 9th we traveled on foot along the stream in the valley. Although we were exposed walking in columns of two at the bottom of the valley, we only received harassing enemy artillery fires. The going was easy but the heavy load under the intense summer heat bothered many of us. We experienced strong sun strokes and felt dizzy under the heavy summer heat. Before advancing into Saint Luce, we came across a clear water creek. Noticing how thirsty we were, we all put Helizone tablets into our canteens, waited patiently for 30 minutes before drinking the water. I remember everyone drinking the cool canteen of fresh water "down the hatch." To our surprise, after traveling about 2 miles down the stream we found a huge 1,500 lb. dead white cow. There were two or three more ahead in the upper stream. All of them were ready to explode with the help of the intense summer heat. The dead cows were already full of worms and smelled very bad. Most of us took the situation as calmly as possible without too much concern of getting stomachaches. These things would never have happened in normal maneuvers, but war is an exception.

On July 12th, near the town of Saint Luce, Sgt. TOGO SUGIYAMA, the most quiet and reserved sergeant in the H Co. machine gun Platoon,

exposed himself and killed two German machine gunners. He then proceeded to protect the rifle company advancement by knocking off a strong machine gun position and snipers on the left flank of the defending infantry men.

On or about the 14th of July, we were told to protect the troops who were attacking Leghorn, a very important seaport. The 2nd Battalion was to seize the high hills looking down on Leghorn from the east. We were marching day and night in the hot scorching sun. The jeeps took a terrific beating because they were constantly under enemy artillery fire. But the 81MM Mortar Platoon just marched the entire route right behind the leading infantry men. We stopped only to mount our guns and prepare for action against the enemy.

The hot summer heat was getting to the foot soldiers, especially the heavily loaded 81MM Mortar Platoon. We were advancing quite rapidly. All of a sudden a Lieutenant came up and ordered me to mount the 81MM Mortar in an open space without any protection from the enemy. He told me that it was an order when I questioned his decision. I knew and sensed that the Jerries were observing our movements. The infantry soldiers were only two hundred yards in front of us but were well concealed. Pfc. GEORGE YAMAMOTO was digging his foxhole and went left of the gun position to make sure that an ammunition dump was established to supply ammunition for action. Before I left for the inspection I asked about 12 men to stay in the foxholes because we were exposed to the enemy. Pfc. GEORGE YAMAMOTO said he was so hot that he wanted some fresh air. He was a dead target for the German 88MM self propelled gun. His whole upper body was gone and strangely, only his dog tag was there to identify him. S/Sgt. LYMAN HARADA dug a hole and buried him. I moved the gun to a position covered with vineyards. Of course, we fired our 81MM Mortars, but at the time it was too late. Sgt. HARADA felt sick so he left us and went back to the Battalion Aid Station. He never returned for combat duties after that.

The Germans were masters of delaying and

rearguard tactics. They took the high grounds with cover and concealment, while we were left to attack them from open grounds, mostly flat and without cover or concealment. I remember clearly till this day....I was attached to a rifle platoon of George Co. on a small hill looking across a somewhat deep gully. The enemy had observation posts all along the ridge facing us. The scorching sun beat down on us without mercy. We hastily dug foxholes and tried to avoid the rays of the summer sun. We were dog tired from the strenuous work plus the devastating heat. I know I slept soundly in my fox hole. When I woke up the next morning, the hot sun was shining in my face and the entire platoon had left me. They were across the ravine taking over the enemy positions without a shot. I was so ashamed of myself and did not say anything about this episode. If the situation was reversed, H Co. would have lost a forward observer.

While providing harassing 81MM Mortar fire, the 2nd Battalion advance to the town of Luciana with 3rd Battalion on the right. I still remember vividly Lt. WILLIAMS giving some fire orders from Count CIANO's home on the cliff. All three guns were placed in a small area, 50 x 50 yards, because of clearance for the 81MM Mortar shells. The jeep drivers were subject to direct enemy fire. However, we did not stop firing because of enemy counter attacks. We were determined to give fire support to the infantry soldiers at all cost. Somehow, the attack lasted till 10 o'clock the next morning. We disassembled our guns and started to march forward. For about a mile we saw white first aid bandages and dead enemy soldiers along both sides of the narrow country road. According to the Italians, the Jerries were badly defeated in this campaign. On July 18th, Leghorn fell under 100th Battalion's main thrust.

On July 21st, the combat team pushed out as far as Highway 67, the main east-west road between Longhorn and Florence.

After a brief rear area training and rear area defense, the 2nd battalion, on the night of August 20th and 21st, was assigned to defend the Arno River replacing the British First Division

with 3rd Battalion on the left. H Co. 81MM Mortar Platoon's three sections placed their gun positions in a peach garden. Every day for ten days I climbed a 25-foot high tower of a Roman Catholic church, using the top of the tower as an observation post. Nobody wanted to take my place because it was too big a risk to expose yourself to the enemy. Every morning I gave the priest some K-rations for his kind thoughts and letting me use his tower as an observation post. You could see the Jerries fortifying the Arno River and placing machine gun positions at the outskirts of the City of Florence Across the Arno River, the Jerries laid heavy mine fields to prevent easy access of the area. Early on the morning of August 31st, we were ordered to cross the Arno River and wait for orders. About 10:00 AM we received orders to get back to our old gun positions. Somehow I felt that the action of our platoon leader did not show any leadership lately. He just ordered me to take charge and left everything to me, as if it were none of his business. I was furiously mad and grabbed him by the collar and wanted to punch him. Cpl. MUSTARD OSHIRO came dashing towards me and stopped me from punching an officer. This incident was quickly reported to Capt. KEEGAN. He called me in personally but did not say anything. He just warned me of my short temper. I weighed only 120 pounds on a 5'8 frame. However, I was never afraid to call on my right and deliver an honest shot. Luckily, we (3rd platoon) had only one KIA in this campaign.

(To be continued.)

Chapter News

Howe Chapter met on May 21, Sunday evening, at the clubhouse. As usual we had a good turnout, good food, and good fellowship. SADA and MITSUKO TACHIBANA from Hawaii were our visitors. Bingo was enjoyed and as usual BESSIE was the big winner. Again! Making up for Las Vegas?

TOE YOSHINO's uncle AKI passed away and his wife remembered Howe Chapter generously. AKI was always generous in many Howe Chapter reunions.