

by CHARLES WATANABE

There is no report for the month of June, 1995. The reason is that although the long-planned mini-reunion in Las Vegas (LV) is over, we are still recovering from the full activities of the four days. Our memories linger over the wonderful and exciting time we had. Some of us may be wondering when and where will the next reunion be. Perhaps our tour leader the Reverend ERNEST UNO has given it a thought.

Unlike the reunions of the past, the Hq3rd hospitality room in LV was no place to look for social gatherings, except for opening day. The casinos were the crowd drawers.

One morning, a group of us decided to take a break and get away to Laughlin for fun and adventure. The tour included a 2-hour drive through the desert wilderness. Laughlin, Colorado Belle is located on the mighty Colorado River banks. It's popular Riverboat theme attracts many visitors from all over. The Arizona residents from across the river are regular patrons of this resort. Arriving at the boating site, we learned that the operations were closed for the day. Can you imagine how disappointed the ladies were? However, we enjoyed an excellent complimentary buffet luncheon and took in some casino action at the Golden Nugget. Included in the group were HARRY & HARRIET NAKAYAMA, GRACIE UNO, FUMI TADAKUMA, and CHARLES & CLARA WATANABE.

HAJIME MATSUURA had a personal chauffeur who got him up at 4 a.m. to drive to the Grand Canyon. HAJIME, wasn't the Grand Canyon's magnificent view worth sacrificing a few hours of sleep? Let us hear your experience sometime soon.

Despite all the brochures available in LV publicizing their beautiful woman and the sexy shows, TOMMY TAMASHIRO, attired in his tennis shorts, couldn't pass the golf course authorities.

My, my, I never gave it a thought, but TOMMY must have looked too sexy, so it cost him a bit of moola to get into something more conventional to get on the course.

Having visited Las Vegas; a fabulous city with all its glitter, block after block of neon lights, the spectacular shows and grand entertainment, one can easily understand the lure to return again and again. For those of you who missed our LV mini-reunion, you may find interesting the following Post Reunion Communiqué by ERNI UNO.

ERNI's Communiqué

By all accounts everyone had a good time during our 4-days stay in Las Vegas. Unbelievably, there were those among us who we hadn't seen since we left Italy, but renewing old acquaintances is what reunions are all about.

Highlights

We doff off our *papales** to KAREN at Travel Adventures for her detailed planning to make our trip go smoothly, even to setting aside tips for the bus drives every time we used them.

A Hospitality Room provided by HORSE and FUMI TADAKUMA - can't thank them enough for being such a wonderful host and hostess. And of course, those of you who brought tasty food items - kippered and smoked salmon from the northwest, cherries and strawberries from the fertile orchards in California, favored bakery goodies from Philadelphia, and the always-favorite macadamia nuts from Hawaii just to name a few.

The Mystere show of superduper acrobatics, trapeze, and high-wire acts that were breathtaking.

The fellowship among the guys, as mentioned above, many who hadn't seen each other for half a century, provided some poignant moments of recall and reflection.

Yes, the doilies for each family, crocheted by EDNA will be lasting mementos of this gathering of 3rd HQ-ers.

And perhaps, the *creme de la creme* of the reunion was SAM's reflections based on his trip

last fall to revisit old battlefields culminating in the memorial commemoration at Bruyeres and Biffontaine. You bet, those were real tears we shed along with SAM.

It may seem redundant, but I think a listing of those who attended the mini-reunion will help us to remember who 'n who were there to whom we might want to say "hello!" AL & IDAKARIYA from Tacoma, WA; SHIGE & RITSUKO MATSUFUJI from Leemore, CA; KEN & TAKAKO MIYAMOTO, of Winton, CA; SHIG & KO MIYAMOTO from San Francisco, CA; VICTOR MORIYASU of Sumner, WA; HARRY & HARRIET NAKAYAMA from San Jose, CA; MICKEY OGATA from Livingston, M; TED & SUNKIE OYE from Vineland, NJ; BUNNY & DORIS PERLSWEIG of Havertown, PA; TED & TOY SHIMIZU from Salt Lake City, UT; NOB & BLANCHE SHIMOTSUKA from Los Angeles, CA; ORVILLE & MAUD SHIREY from Thurmont, MD; SAM & SHIZ SUGIMOTO from Columbia Heights, MN; JOE & MIYO TABATA of Santa Barbara, CA; and not the least HORSE & FUMI TADAKUMA of Gardena, CA.

The local guys making up the Hawaii contingent were: ISAMU & HARUMI FURUYA, FRANK & GRACE ISHIKAWA, DAVID KAIURA, ROBERT & EDNA KUNIYUKI along with their daughter VALERIE and son-in-law JOHN HOWE, BILL & YAEKO KUWATA, HAJIME & LANI MATSUURA, TAKESHI & IRENE NAKAMURA, SAM & MICHU SASAI, TOMMY & POLLY TAMASHIRO, ERNI & GRACE UNO, and CHARLIE & CLARA WATANABE. Oh yes, "JUNIOR" OGAI dropped in at our hospitality room to chat with a few of the guys.

As the glow wears off in the coming months, our yearnings may turn to one more reunion - who knows? One last word from me to each of you: Thanks for all your help and cooperation. Without you guys, it would've never happened. With that, ciao.

(**Papale*: Hawaiian for hat.)

Meeting for July 1995 was held at the club-

house with the wives in attendance and busy circulating pictures of the mini-reunion. SAM FURUYA briefly reported on the following:

- The memorial to be built on the grounds of Ft. DeRussy is back on the drawing board.

- The 1996 Anniversary will be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel.

- The Japan-Hawaii Goodwill Baseball Tournament will be taking place in August. Officials are seeking families with spare rooms to accommodate visiting players.

- The trip to LV ended with a surplus of funds, and consensus of those present was to donate the money to the 442nd RCT Foundation.

- The Sons and Daughters had a picnic at the Keehi Lagoon. Chapter members participating with their families were the NAKAMURAS and the UNOS.

The rest of the evening was spent listening to EDDIE ICHIYAMA of 522C report on and offer pep talk regarding the upcoming 50th anniversary commemorating the end of WWII. EDDIE asked the men of the Hq3rd for their full participation on September 2. A flyer will be mailed for members to complete and return. See you all on September 2?

Attending the July meeting were ERNI & GRACE UNO, SAM & HARUMI FURUYA, HAJIME & HINAYO MATSUURA, DAVID KAIURA, TAKESHI & IRENE NAKAMURA, JANET MATSUDA, and CHARLES & CLARA WATANABE.

Clubhouse was again the place for the August 18 meeting, but there were only a handful in attendance, like SHIGERU GOTO, SAM FURUYA, DAVID KAIURA, ERNI UNO, and CHARLES WATANABE. With barely a quorum present, it was agreed that a donation be made to the baseball team here from Japan. Having concluded one item of business, the rest of the evening was just talk, talk, yak, yak.

All pau...



By Mary Sakai, Carol Sakai-Feiteira, Patti Laba

Chapter Meeting

On May 10, 1995, Anti-Tankers and their spouses met at the 442 V.C. Hall. Present were: JERRY and ALICE AYABE, MASATO DOI, MIKE FUJIKI, SACHI FUKUNAGA, KO and JANET HATA, LIZO and YVONNE HONMA, WALLY and YORI KAGAWA, JACK and MARGARET KAGUNI, TSUNETO and THELMA MIZUSAWA, SALLY NAKAMURA, "OSCAR" OMINE, CHILLY SASAKI, MASA SUZUKI, MINORU TATEISHI and SHIROKU YAMAMOTO. Information on the A.T. Co. Mini-Reunion scheduled for Oct. 9-13 at Las Vegas was given by WALLY KAGAWA. Costs include \$15 per person for registration, \$62 per person for 4 nights at 4 Queen's Hotel including 2 meals per day, double occupancy; and golf at \$40 per day. A tally showed 13 persons intending to go. A discussion on future programs for A.T. Chapter took place, including types of meeting, locations, and possibility of different areas sponsoring a meeting. Also the possibility of forming a Visitor's Committee was brought up. Bento lunches of Korean delicacies were enjoyed by all. Soft drinks were donated by MASATO DOI. THELMA MIZUSAWA kindly brought delicious desserts. MINORU TATEISHI brought a bagful of large red chili peppers which were eagerly received...to take home - not to eat! After the lunch, the group enjoyed the video "Honor Bound" which is about HOWARD HANAMURA of "L" Company and their actions in Bruyeres, Biffontaine and the smashing of the Gothic Line in Italy. Documentary films about the Japanese evacuations and combat films made the video one of the best ever made.

TOM NAKATA: These reporters will be quoting from The Record, a newspaper serving Stock-

ton and San Joaquin County. Manteca correspondent TOM NAKATA sent a follow-up to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Highway sign. Last year, Governor PETE WILSON signed a resolution by the State Legislature dedicating sections of state highways to be 442nd, the Military Intelligence Service and the 100th Infantry Battalion. A 10-mile stretch of Highway 99 between Manteca and Salida was dedicated to the men of the 442nd who fought in "one of the most courageous American fighting units in the history of our country" said DEAN ANDAL, one of the sponsors of the resolution and a former Assemblyman. RICHARD HAYASHI said "This is a memorial to the friends who died in the war." EDDIE MURAKAMI felt he had to demonstrate his loyalty and TOM NAKATA felt it was his duty to help defend the country. "We didn't expect anything like this" said TOM NAKATA. To celebrate a 442nd Highway dedication is a banquet "...to honor the Nisei—who fought during World War II" said BARRY SAIKI, coordinator of the successful event.

HENRY and MILDRED IKEMOTO: HENRY shared that AT secretary, TAK HATTORI, is taking another short vacation with wife SUMI to Europe a couple of weeks ago. "...being President of the Association in addition to our AT Chapter keeps me a little busy, but it has been a great experience. I have lots of support from everyone who I have asked. When we decide on a project, I ask a person or two to work on it, and it's just as good as done." He also shared a part of his busy, past schedule with "4/28-30, the 522nd Bn had their reunion here. It was a big event and the Jewish community participated in the ceremonies. That is a story in itself. On 5/13, we had a great time at the Association Memorial Hall with the annual Reverse Raffle. Our DAVE KAWAGOE made the raffleboard that keeps track of each number that is drawn. It shows the winner and how much was won. I don't have the exact figure, but our net is near the \$6,000 mark. F Company was in charge of the event this year. On 5/20, the Association participated in the 37th Annual Armed Forces



Shiro Yamamoto, Chappie Kishaba, & "Stud" Oshiro at Lt. Ben Roger's grave in Epinal, France.

Day Parade and events in Torrance, California. Our Association was one of the first units in the parade of 87 units. As always, we received a very good reception by the crowd. We had a WWII jeep and a large 'GO FOR BROKE' banner tied to the side of the truck. Ten or so fellas participated. Our Associate Chapter boys, clad in khaki uniforms, carried the Colors. They looked like the way they did 50 years ago. They looked great. On 5/29, Memorial Day, the Association was in charge of the ceremony at the Evergreen Cemetery. JIMMY SAKIMOTO is interned there as are several of the other 442nd men. The ceremony was held at SADAO MUNEMORI's monument. On 6/10, the HWY 23 in Simi Valley, near the Ventura County line on the Northern end of LA County is being dedicated to the MIS which we participated in. On 6/15-18, we went to Shelby for the Memorial's dedication. On 7/29, the Association is participating in a portion of HWY 99's dedication near Fresno for the 100th Bn. which AT is joining in on this event. On 8/4, we participated in the Dedication ceremony of a HWY 99 portion near Stockton, California. A stretch of hwy. is dedicated to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. I'm not much of a Las Vegas type, but I love to meet people and talk story. I'm looking forward to the mini-reunion on October 9-13. FRANK SETO and CHAPPIE



Banquet tent in Biffontaine - Richard Takahashi, Kazuo Kiyonaga, Stud Oshiro, Henry Ikemoto, Dave Kawagoe, and Chappie Kishaba

KISHABA are working on the hospitality project." Also, "KUNE HISATOMI had surgery and is recovering. He is faithful in coming to the AT meetings and we have missed him for the last couple of them. KIMI says he's walking around and doing well."

LIZO and YVONNE HONMA: The HONMA's continue to have French guests despite YVONNE's illness. YVONNE left the hospital bed to greet more of her French guests who slept in the HONMA's master bedroom while LIZO and YVONNE slept on the reclining beds in the living room. YVONNE has a difficult time breathing. She also uses crutches at her home and a wheelchair to get around outside. Right now, she's troubled with gout attacks. LIZO is a good cook now and he is enjoying this new job of caring for YVONNE. LIZO is planning to attend the function on Sept. 2 at the National Cemetery.

MARY SAKAI: The Sakai clan was at the airport a lot this past 6 months. MARY flew in July to celebrate her brother TOSHI HIRABAYASHI and wife DORA's 50th wedding anniversary. Children GLEN, DEAN, JOAN and MARK and grandchildren hosted and entertained the guests. She also had the opportunity to meet her cousin MASUKO HIRABAYASHI and her cousin's son

EARL. She visited all her other relatives and enjoyed her visit. Grandson EDDY and dad GLENN FEITEIRA flew to the Big Island with EDDY's 4th grade class from Heeia Elementary. Daughter CAROL and grand-daughter MARI flew to Maui where the males joined them. They visited GLENN's mother, CAROLINE and his sisters GWEN LOPES and SUSIE and families. The FEITEIRA's hosted a couple of children from Japan who played a soccer Goodwill Tournament against EDDY's team. EDDY and Grandma MARY will be traveling to Japan next year when EDDY plays baseball against the Japanese teams. Second daughter PATTI was a co-presenter at the National Asian and Pacific Educators (NAAPAE) Conference for a breakout session titled "Discrimination in the Work Place and Classroom" in Toronto with Dr. AIKO ODA from UH. Flying here and there!

JERRY and ALICE AYABE: JERRY and ALICE are planning to take DANIEL KAWAKAMI and wife MARIAN as their guests for the October 9-13 get-together with the Vegas group.

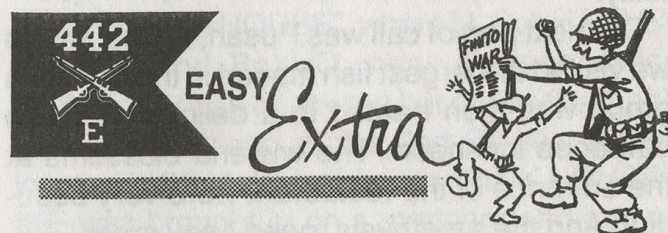
A.T. Co. Mini-Reunion

WALLY KAGAWA reported that the following persons will be attending the Mini-Reunion at Las Vegas on Oct. 9-13: JERRY and ALICE AYABE, DONALD and MARION KAWAKAMI (AYABE's in-laws), GORO and YAYOKO INABA, WALLY and YORI KAGAWA, JACK and MARGARET KAGUNI, SHIROKU and AMY YAMAMOTO and MASATO DOI. Four from Seattle and two from Washington D.C. have signed up.

Chapter Meeting

The A. T. Chapter met on August 2 at Pearl Country Club for a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. The following attended: JERRY and ALICE AYABE, MASATO DOI, SACHI FUKUNAGA, KO and JANET HATA, LIZO HONMA, HALO and KIYOMI HIROSE, WALLY and YORI KAGAWA, JACK KAGUNI, "OSCAR" OMINE, CHILLY and IRENE SASAKI and their grandson from California, HARRY and JANET TOKASHIKI, MINORU TATEISHI, MASA

SUZUKI, and SHIROKU and AMY YAMAMOTO. Most of the meeting was devoted to the disseminating of information about the "50th Anniversary Celebration of the End of World War 2." The veterans and their families are invited to participate in 2 events on Sept. 2 especially — the 7 a.m. Memorial Service at Punchbowl and the 2 p.m. parade at Waikiki. PRESIDENT CLINTON will be the keynote speaker at the Memorial Service and will also review the parade. Information on the gathering place, bus-sing to and from Punchbowl, lunch and bussing to the parade starting place and reservation forms were passed out. WALLY KAGAWA urged all vets and wives to participate. Also a vote was taken to determine consensus of opinion whether a KIA Honor Roll should or should not be included at the AJA WW2 Memorial at Fort DeRussy presently being designed. The majority voted in favor of the KIA Honor Roll, with a few abstentions. The group enjoyed a Japanese lunch of their choice, topped off with a gift of chocolate candies from SACHI FUKUNAGA. After informed chit-chat and visiting, the party disbanded about 1:30.



by TERUO IHARA

My invitation last March for contributions from fellow EASY Company members towards the Chapter's 442nd NEWSLETTER received a very early reply. As such YAE TAKEMOTO, TSUNE better half's contribution titled "EASY COMPANY NEWS FROM THE BIG ISLAND" will introduce the Chapter's Newsletter for the September/December quarter. Thank you YAE.

"On April 29, 1995 Easy Company members LAWSON & MINEKO SAKAI of Gilroy, CA and TSUNE & YAE TAKEMOTO of Hilo joined by nine others from California, Seattle and Hilo in

Beijing, China. They spent three days at the beautiful Swissotel (courtesy of the Royal Cruise Line) and went sightseeing visiting places such as the Great Wall, Tinneman Square, Forbidden City, the Emperor's Palace and the Zoo where they were surprised at the size of the Pandas. The group also enjoyed the opera and had a Peking Duck dinner although they thought the Honolulu version of the Peking Duck tasted better.

The groups (18 busses) were then bussed to Xingang where they boarded the *Royal Odyssey* which was to be their home for the next 11 days cruising the Yellow Sea, China Sea and the Sea of Japan. The first port of call was Yantai, China where a home visitation was arranged by the cruise line in addition to sightseeing. We were treated to afternoon refreshments and show by young Chinese students. They performed a beautiful Chinese play and sang several songs in English. Peony and Peach blossoms in the church yard added much to the scenery. At the pier the student band in their red and white uniforms bade us farewell as we returned to our ship. The Chinese people were very gracious and we enjoyed their hospitality.

Our next port of call was Pusan, Korea where we visited the largest fish market in the city. The group was then treated to a delicious Korean barbecue luncheon. The wisteria blossoms at the entrance of the restaurant were very beautiful. And the amethysts, need I say more.

The next port was Vladivostok, Siberia. Ours was only the third cruise ship ever to enter the port. Immigration clearance was very strict so everything was delayed. Another visitation was arranged by the cruise line and although we had to walk up five flights of stairs we enjoyed the hospitality of the retired Colonel, his wife and granddaughter. We had an excellent guide, a young university student of Russian and Korean ancestry who spoke fluent English. We were entertained with dance and singing performances at the Russian Dance Academy by some very talented young men and women. Although the dollar was very strong, the State

Department Store had little to offer for sale.

After a day and half at sea we sailed into the port of Nagasaki, Japan. We received a royal welcome as Miss Nagasaki and the Mayor and other dignitaries came aboard the ship with children's dance and taiko groups to entertain us. After sightseeing and some shopping we reboarded the cruise ship and headed for Osaka, Japan, our next port of call. The trip to Osaka required sailing out in the Pacific Ocean and we caught the tail end of a storm. Most of the passengers did well except myself. The storm lasted only a few hours so it wasn't that bad. Stayed overnight in Osaka and toured to city during the day. Saw the gold tea room of *Toyotomi Hideyoshi* at the Osaka Castle which was very impressive.

Sailed into Tokyo's *Harumi Minato*. The Tokyo welcome group included two magicians who put on a great show. We disembarked and went to the *Ginza* and back to the ship where we spent the night and we disembarked the next day. The whole trip was fabulous with excellent food and services. The weather was great except for the one day in Osaka. This was the same ship that LAWSON SAKAI took 53 EASY Company members to Europe in July, 1994. We had a new Ship Captain, refurbished rooms and an upgrade so we thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

GUESS WHO WAS THE BLACKJACK CHAMPION??. None other than LAWSON SAKAI and he has a certificate to prove it. Watch out Las Vegas!!! and EASY COMPANY reunion in late October.

CABBY FUJINO, a fellow EASY COMPANY member from Honokaa met us at the Akasaka Tokyu Hotel and we wish to thank him for making our hotel accommodations at a terrific savings. Thank you, Cabby.

LAWSON & MINEKO flew to Kumamoto to visit relatives and returned to Tokyo to spend some time with her cousins. TSUNE & YAE spent a few days in Tokyo visiting with friends and relatives and flew to Hiroshima to visit several cousins and go "*Ohaka Mairi*." Returned to Tokyo and both couples left after a week extra in Japan. CABBY visited his friend in Kyoto and

returned at the end of May. A good time was had by everyone. Having made nine trips to Japan, the TAKEMOTOS always enjoy Japan.

Before including BOB ICHIKAWA's contribution, mention will be made here of several news items this writer failed to include in the last newsletter. It is something that can be considered as "better late than never" variety. The first had to do with the passing of PAKALA TAKAHASHI'S mother early this year. EASY CHAPTER members expressed deep sympathy to PAKALA'S family as the Chapter, through GLENN NAKASONE, made the normal contributions to her Funeral Services on Maui. No information of the birthright of PAKALA'S father was available but PAKALA is at least half sansei since the obituary listed his mother's birth on Maui. On the mainland we learned of the passing of GEORGE KANDA of the Seattle area and MAY KATAOKA, spouse of TOM KATAOKA of northern California near Fresno. EASY CHAPTER wishes to extend its belated sympathies to the bereaved families.

The one very happy event which took place in late June which failed to make the last Newsletter had to do with the 50th wedding anniversary of LEFTY & KAY SUGIHARA. All EASY was there including a couple from the Island of Hawaii-TSUNE & YAE TAKEMOTO. Both of these men came home early before the end of hostilities in Europe because LEFTY was wounded so bad that he was considered pau for combat, and TSUNE had sufficient combat points so he received a furlough home from Southern France. Fortunately for TSUNE cessation of hostilities made it unnecessary for him to go back to rejoin the unit which was doing guard duty in the Leghorn/Pisa area. If TSUNE came back from his furlough he probably would have earned a field promotion to Lieutenant. As an aside, when word came down that TSUNE earned a furlough to go home to Hawaii, Captain TOM AKINS was not happy. Any Company CO. will be unhappy losing such an outstanding platoon sergeant. My advice to TSUNE was never mind the Captain, just go. My advice was based on my

experience with S/Sgt. FRANCIS OYAKAWA who was killed on Hill 140. FRANCIS had bloody eyes that needed an operation. He told me he'll get the operation after this next battle. He didn't make it as I let him stay on to fight because the 1st platoon was short of NCOs.

LEFTY & TSUNE were probably two of the earliest 442nd veterans to return to Hawaii and start a family. Fortunately for the two, they left for War in March, 1943 with two very beautiful girl friends. Thus there was no need for them to go shopping for girls.

The following is an account of the battles around the "PINK HOUSE", a remembrance of 51 years ago, by BOB ICHIKAWA based on an article in the last 442nd Newsletter by RON OBA, of Fox Company. The account is in a letter to RON. RON called me to tell me he had this letter and that he thought it would look better in EASY'S columns than in theirs so here goes the letter in its entirety.

"Mr. OBA:

I read with interest, your article in the April-June Issue of the Bulletin. I don't mean to be nosy but IKE MASAOKA, F. Co Medic, was hit by shrapnel on July 11, 1944, after Hill 140, past the "PINK HOUSE", where Lt. Col. HANLEY had the 2nd Bn HQ. near a place called SCAPETO (was on my tag but not on the map). I remember being at the 2nd Bn Aid Station located in the draw behind the "PINK HOUSE". IKE was brought in on a stretcher and had so many wounds he could only lie down on his left side. He was loaded on a jeep and sent to the collecting Station. Its a wonder how he survived. That day E Co was in reserve and F & G were several hundred yards ahead of us. The terrain was a lot of low lying hills and not much cover. 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, that's us, were sent out to fix the phone lines to F & G. No sooner we hopped over the hill we were pinned down by machine gun fire and then came the 88's, two at a time, Boom! Boom! Sgt. DON MASUDA (Shrapnel through the elbow and arm), SEISHI ISODA (in the knee), SEIJI "Brooklyn" KANETA, (in the knee) and myself (in the lower right leg).