

AKIO NISHIKAWA, (Medic) came down to help and was with "Brooklyn" when more 88's dropped in hitting AKIO in the gut. (He died there). The only cover we had was a bunch of hay stacks on the forward slope. MASUDA hopped over the hill. Later I took ISODA out with me promising "Brooklyn" that I would get the stretcher guys out for him and NISHIKAWA. When I got to the Aid Station, that's when I saw IKE. I told the medics where the other two were and they immediately went out with a large Red Cross flag and stretchers and as they waved the flag all the firing stopped.....can you imagine? How come they didn't do that when we were out there? As we learned that the phone lines were OK, we returned to E Co area while F and G Companies were ducking shells. That's the way it was 51 years ago.

BOB ICHIKAWA.

The first and second platoons have something here of their combat days. How about the third, fourth and HDQ platoons next time. Its a time of remembrances of things that happened 51 years ago. Just jot some of the things you remember about the war and the column is yours. We are not getting younger.

The last three months was a busy one for this writer. First, he traveled to Spain and Portugal, spending 23 days on the Iberian Peninsula. He spent an awful three days in Barcelona where a thief ran by taking my bag as he ran. The American Embassy staff was very helpful and helped me get my U.S. Passport as well as cancel my credit cards. The Visa credit card people in New York, besides issuing a new card advanced a \$1000 loan which made it possible to spend the time in Europe. All along this writer was actively involved in Dr. HUBERT EVERLEY's campaign to become the first Retiree Trustee on the Hawaii State Employment Retirement Systems Board of Trustees. Pau for now. T.I.



by SHIRO AOKI

Our Summer Cookout

Although our long-time benefactor JOHN GOGIAN can no longer be our "angel" as he sold his meat business last year, we continued our annual summertime tradition with a cookout at the TOMMY KAKESAKO DAV Hall on Sunday, July 9, 1995. As MICHAEL IDE said, "Hey, it's nice that we have these cookouts in the middle of summer instead of waiting until Christmas!" If MIKE had put that into a motion, I would have been the first guy to say, "I second the motion." As I explained at the cookout, this was the idea of FRANK NOMURA and as long as FRANK is our social chairman, these cookouts will continue. And you know that FRANK is forever - our social chairman, that is.

It was a day filled with good fellowship; it was a day filled with good tidings and the unexpected.

First, through the good graces of RICHARD NARIYASU & MICHAEL IDE, we were fortunate to have as special guests the REVEREND & MRS. SUZUKI (friends of the NARIYASUS) and the Reverend gave a unique but beautiful blessing to the gathering and the food that we were about to partake but he did it in Japanese explaining how this blessing came about and ending with "Ita daki masu" which we all understood and responded in kind. That was a very good beginning to this gathering of old friends.

Second, old time former residents of Hawaii, HIROSHI & GRACE YAMASHIRO took their vacation at the right time to be able to make it to the cookout. And GRACE brought us tidings from BILL OKAZAKI & SUMI & DICK TOCHIHARA along with the unexpected news that the "GOGIAN Legacy" is not necessarily over; that SUMI (I don't know how she does it but she always seems to come up with these things) is making arrangements to send us more meat

and stuff before the summer is over. That is good news and FRANK NOMURA already was making plans for our second cookout and to time it so that we can have it before the YAMASHIROS leave town in appreciation for GRACIE bringing us this good news. But now it looks like we have to wait a little while longer. When TOMMY KIKUCHI saw HIROSHI, he said, "I was just thinking about you." "Why?" asked HIROSHI. and JASPER said, "Because we have a guy just as accident prone as you used to be. JIMMY KANEMORI fell backwards from his chair and could not make one of our meetings and now he fell down while taking out the garbage and fractured his left ankle." But HIROSHI does not get hurt anymore since he moved to California ... "Because," he said, "I don't work anymore." Hey, JIMMY, that's the solution, move to California and just take it easy.

Third, ALICE BEPPU made a donation of \$200.00 to the Mike Co. treasury in memory of the late TADAO BEPPU on the second anniversary of his passing. "BEP" has done so much for M Co. and this generous donation from ALICE continues to add to our appreciation of the father of M Co. Thank you so very much, ALICE!

And fourth, talk about the unexpected. MRS. EVELYN AOKI, who happens to be my beautiful wife, won the first prize in our lucky number drawing, a "namahage" donated by the REV. & MRS. SUZUKI. It is a scary-looking Japanese warrior that is supposed to chase away the evil spirits and I sure hope it does that for me before I take my next Vegas trip. NORIO AKUTAGAWA won the second prize, a mini camera and RALPH SHISHIDO won the third prize, a carton of Japanese sake all donated by the REV. & MRS. SUZUKI. ALICE BEPPU was the recipient of a beautiful potted plant that was donated by RICHARD NARIYASU.

Thomas Sakamoto

THOMAS SAKAMOTO (3rd platoon) donated a whole lot of apple bananas for everyone to take home. He grows these bananas on six acres of land nestled between the Pali Golf Course and the new Japanese-owned golf

course. Well, stupid old me asked him if these bananas grew wild on his land and all that he had to do was harvest them. He gave me a stink look and said, "I plant them, I fertilize them, I irrigate them, and then I harvest them." He owns the lease rights to the land and pays a reasonable lease rent to the State. Thank you, SAKAMOTO san for your continuing generosity to us Mikers.

Michael Ide

One of the guys that I have gotten to know a lot better over the past few years is a third platoon guy by the name of MICHAEL IDE. Of course, I knew MIKE back in Shelby but he was in the last row of hutments and I was in the first row of hutments; he was mortar and I was machine gun and that kind of put us in two different worlds. Also, I had Lt. YOUNG and he had Lt. POTTER. That was two different worlds too!

MICHAEL IDE was born in Kaneohe and went to McKinley High School where he graduated from in 1939. After graduation he went on to the old Vocational school taking classes in machine shop and he laughs when he says, "and then I went to work for the Board of Water Supply." He left the Water Supply to volunteer for the 442 and after the war was over he went back to work there until his retirement in 1982. In 1961 he did one of the smartest things he ever did - he met and married a pretty little girl from Olaa of the Big Island (it is called Keau now, but to me Olaa will always be Olaa) by the name of KIMIYO ASATO. That union produced four daughters and one granddaughter.

When the 442 went back to Biffontaine and Bruyeres for the 50th anniversary ceremonies last year, MIKE & KIMIYO were among those who made that memorable trip. If you remember, MIKE wrote a short touching tribute to Lt. POTTER. There are many stories that are told about Lt. POTTER and MIKE remembers one incident in particular. It was back in Shelby and MIKE was getting ready to go to bed when POTTER coming back from the officer's club came charging into the hut and said, "I hear you are a rough and tough guy!" MIKE did not want to get physically involved with an officer so he

put his hands up and gave POTTER a small shove. POTTER went flying back and either got knocked out or passed out, but right then and there the reputation of tough MIKE IDE was born.

Today, in his retirement years, MIKE has volunteered to help the DAV maintain its grounds at Keehi Lagoon and spends every Thursday helping to keep the grounds looking the way it does today.

Phone Volunteers

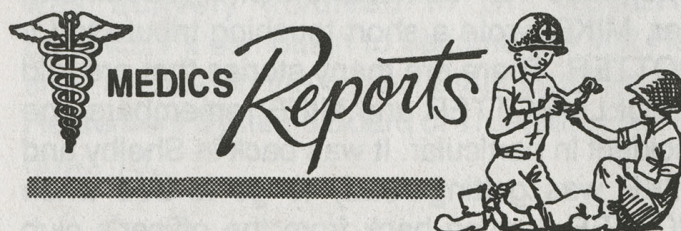
When plans were being finalized for the end of WWII celebrations, a call went out for volunteers to man the phones. Mike Co. responded with PAUL TAKIGUCHI being one of the moving forces and WALLY & PRISCILLA NAGAO as regular volunteers up until the last week.

Condolences

RALPH TOMEI received a short note from Metuchen, New Jersey from the family of GEORGE MAEKAWA (2nd platoon) announcing his death on July 26, 1995 saying, "Please remember us in your prayers." Our deepest sympathies to MRS. MAEKAWA and her family.

SHIRO TAKEI sent us this additional information on GEORGE MAEKAWA.

"GEORGE was in 2nd platoon and served with us from Shelby to the end of the war. We saw GEORGE at the Reno NVR and at the 50th in Honolulu. He married an Italian woman and had 2 girls. He worked for American Express in Security. He visited Honolulu when I was still on the UH faculty and also saw him in Paris in 1970 when I retired from the UH."



by HERBERT AKAMINE

TED MATSUO presided at the Medics meeting

held at the 442nd clubhouse on August 16. He gave details of the coming V-J Day anniversary celebration for the chapter's participating members. Others present at the meeting were CARL MIYABARA, JACK YAMASHIRO, LIONEL IKEBE, ROY SAKATA, TOSHIKI TANAKA, WILFRED TAIRA, ALBERT TSUKAYAMA, SUEO FUJII, JERRY OGAWA, and HOWARD KOZUMA. Contrary to the 50th anniversary 442 parade, most of the Medics chapter marchers of that event plan to be trolley riders in the VJ Day parade. ALBERT TSUKAYAMA brought a copy of the video "Honor Bound" which honors HOWE HANAMURA who joined the 442 from Alameda, California. He obtained the video from his MD son who is associated with Kaiser in Oakland.

JACK YAMASHIRO saw FRANK YANO recently and reported that FRANK is managing quite well in spite of some limitations. They had lunch together in San Francisco where JACK told FRANK about the latest goings on of the Hawaii Medics. FRANK is the only 442 Medic from San Francisco although there are many others from the state of California. Since JACK does not drive in San Francisco anymore, his daughter drove him there from her home in San Carlos. The daughter, a former airline employee, is now a Realtor. JACK says there is a significant Asian population in that area near San Francisco bay and some were former Hawaii residents. His daughter's three children spent part of this summer in Kailua with JACK and his wife.

CHRISTOPHER ONAKA, grandson of JANET and ED ONAKA was a member of the Honolulu Boys Choir that performed in the 50th anniversary rites of the Hiroshima atom bomb attack. Like other members of the choir, CHRISTOPHER was accommodated by a host Japanese family. Young CHRISTOPHER has been on the go quite often this year. Earlier he performed at New York's Carnegie Hall with the Iolani School orchestra.

VIC IZUI gave a vivid description of the Camp Shelby celebration that honored the 442 this year. He wrote:

"WOW! Did we get the VIP treatment, or did we get the VIP treatment?!? I know many were kind

of skeptical of returning to Hattiesburg and Shelby. Remembering 1943. I even kicked myself for signing up, but I am really glad that I did and that goes with the rest of some 300 to 400 who showed up - 9 full busloads, escorted by some 7 - 10 Miss. State Police on motorcycles, non-stop from Gulfport to Hattiesburg, then city police escorts throughout our stay in town and Shelby MP escorts within Camp and Guardsmen giving you the Highball all thru the 2 days. Can't say much for the catered meals, but the special events and ceremonies were great, even the parade and beaucoup TV and news coverage. Wife MACHI got a big bang out of being helped off the bus and escorted to her seat at an event by a bird Colonel! What a difference from 52 years ago.

Couldn't recognize a damn thing. All the wooden buildings and hutments are gone; replaced by more permanent structures. But the pine forest and the red dirt are the same; bringing back a flood of memories. Hey, remember the D-series maneuver with the 69th Division in the cold, wet winter in swampy southern Mississippi? The 69th was commanded by Gen. CHARLES BOLTE. Toward the final phase of the series, 442 was the "red" force and Ltc. SHERWOOD DIXON led 3rd Bn. on an all-night, sleepless, forced march thru streams, snakes, chiggers, etc. to get behind the "blue" force. At dawn he led the noisy "Banzai" charge down the hill to capture "blue" regimental CP with motor pool and embarrassed commander and his staff intact and that commander was none other than Ltc. ALFRED PURSALL! At 34th Div. reunions, Gen. BOLTE often told stories of the 442 running circles around his division. That all-night climb of the 3,000 ft. mountain (Folgorito) to get behind the enemy at the Gothic Line in Italy for a dawn pincer attack sure reminded me of DIXON and his all-night forced march and "banzai" charge.

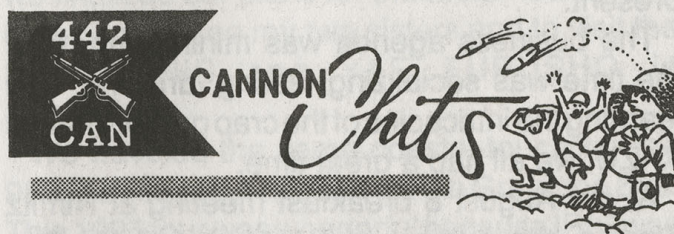
We never go to downtown Hattiesburg, but had the big banquet at greatly enlarged University of Southern Mississippi. When SQUEAKY and I roamed around the then tiny campus, it was a small college with enrollment of only a few

hundred. The coed we talked to were more curious about us, the first Japanese they had laid eyes on, surprised that SQUEAKY was a fisheries grad and I was almost a grad.

Medics who attend and had a good time were JIMMIE KANAYA, TAK & KIMI MOMODA, KELLY & FUMI KUWAYAMA, and us. Wished more Hawaii Medics could have come. You would have really enjoyed it!

STAN SERIKAKU of Chicago also attended the Shelby affair and he gave a glowing account of the reception which helped to ease the effects of the negative statements of the Mississippi senator who did not want the 442 to train in his state during World War II. It seems ironic that the 442 because of its glorious military triumphs has gained for the state of Mississippi a great measure of fame.

SAM YAMADA was one of the few local veterans that attended the Shelby function. He too was overwhelmed by the welcome. He brought us brochures of the Camp Shelby museum and schedule of events for the reception. A welcome he did not appreciate was the one at the Gulfport motel which was the kind that the gals on Hotel Street in Honolulu greet the Pearl Harbor sailors.



by KAORU WATANABE

(Ed. Note: Cannon Co. photos appear at the back of this issue.)

President DOC KOIKE called a breakfast meeting on June 7 at the Nimitz Zippy's Restaurant attended by HENRY CHAGAMI, LINCOLN MAEDA, MAMO MORITA, "CURLY" MURAOKA, CHARLIE ODA, "RAWFISH" OHARA, TOM OKINO, KAZU SAIKI, NORMAN SATO, KIYOSHI TABA, AKIRA TAKAHASHI, and KAORU WATANABE. The business agenda

included and resulted in: Return to JOHN KASHIKI the \$500.00 check from GERALD GUSTAFSON because we shipped flowers for HONEY's funeral. JOHN will be asked to use the money to defray expenses at our next Las Vegas reunion; prefer to avoid having to take the "Red Eye" flight out of Honolulu and yet not lose the better part of a day in Vegas. This means leaving Honolulu a day earlier with an extra night in Vegas. A consensus that Hawaii participants will augment the staffing of the hospitality room - Golfers NOT excepted. A discussion of the possibility that Mainlanders may want to visit Hawaii in '96. The week of November 9, 1996 will be suggested. Election of new officers will be held in 1996.

KAZU SAIKI invited all members and spouses to his home for dinner meeting July 12. Steaks, sashimi, shrimps and all that good stuff made up the kind of feast you don't forget. After dinner, KAZU's friends, experts in "Craps," gave us eye-opening tips on how to play craps. KAZU had built a professional crap table just for this purpose. This night's events were KAZU's way of thanking the members and spouses for the support he received during JUDY's long illness and deceasement. We were delighted that JIMMY and DORA KAMO, rarely seen, were present.

The business agenda was minimal, most of the time was socializing, eating, drinking, and learning the intricacies of the crap game. Thanks KAZU, we all had a great time.

At our August 8 breakfast meeting at Nimitz Zippy's, the subject of September 2 VJ Day celebration was presented by DOC KOIKE. The 442nd will participate in the Punchbowl Memorial Service as well as the Veterans Parade thru Waikiki. These and other events will highlight PRESIDENT and MRS. CLINTON. Watch for the Cannoneers in the parade. This meeting was attended by HENRY CHAGAMI, LINCOLN MAEDA, JOHN MIKASA, "BOLO" MIZUKAMI, MAMO MORITA, CHARLIE ODA, DOC KOIKE, "CURLY" MURAOKA, HAROLD NAKASONE, "RAWFISH" OHARA, KAZU SAIKI, NORMAN SATO, KIYOSHI TABA, and KAORU

WATANABE.

On a very sad note, we report the death of JAMIE SHINTANI on August 8, 1995. Graveside services including military honors were held at the Morris Hill Cemetery of Boise, Idaho on August 15, 1995. TAKESHI HANAMI was one of the Casket Bearers.

JAMIE was born on April 7, 1921. You will recall he was the sergeant in the 4th section gun crew of the Second Platoon. While he did not attend any of the Hawaii reunions, he was active in the VFW, American Legion, and the Idaho Veterans Council in the years after the war.

His diabetic condition resulted in the amputation of his foot and many small strokes and heart attacks. He finally succumbed to heart failure. For those who need the address of his widow, HAZEL, it is: 7120 Sunny Brook Dr., Boise, ID 83709, Phone (208) 376-6884. Our sincere condolences to HAZEL and family.

One of the busiest members of our Chapter is WALLY NUNOTANI, former Lanai boy, and his wife, KATHERINE. They are both known as "Activists" in our common desire to end all discriminatory practices in our country. We all talk about it - WALLY and KATHERINE plunge headlong into the fray whenever, wherever discrimination rears its ugly head. That takes enormous dedication, time, effort, sacrifice, and money.

True to their natures, they didn't remain idle after leaving the Vegas Reunion. The day after the reunion ended, WALLY spoke to a history class at George Washington High School in conjunction with the showing of WENDY HANAMURA's "Honor Bound." Then they were both off to the Camp Shelby Homecoming and Monument Dedication - June 16-18 with a post tour of 50 to Jerome, Rohwer, Branson, and St. Louis June 18-22. See fotos of that trip provided by WALLY NUNOTANI.

Other Cannoneers at the Camp Shelby Monument Dedication were NAOKI & YURI MISAWA, SAM & ALICE YOSHINARI, ARTHUR & OSAME DOI and daughter SUSAN. About 400 people total were at the Dedications.

Can you imagine the feelings and emotions of the Cannoneers and other 442nd veterans as

they entered Camp Shelby - it awakened hundreds of memories stored for 52 long years! Memories of the heat, the humidity, the cold, the chiggers, the hutments, the forced marches, the bivouacs, the PX, the Service Club, coal fired pot bellied heaters, and more. Each had their own memories suddenly awakened in a wave and then they were cleansed.

WALLY wrote that Camp Shelby today remains the nation's largest National Guard and Reserve Training Camp. Throughout the year over 100,000 troops from all branches of the military train there. The Why and How the Camp Shelby Monuments became a reality due to the efforts of Col. HERBERT SASAKI is another interesting story.

Then on July 12, WALLY was the speaker for 40 adults of the United Way headquarters in San Francisco.

On August 4, both attended the 442nd R.C.T. Memorial Highway Dedication at the Stockton Hilton. The highway named "442nd Regimental Combat Team Highway runs 10 miles of Highway 99 between Monteca and Salida. Concurrently, 20 miles of Highway 99 between Fresno and Madera is named "100th Infantry Battalion Highway," and 10 miles of Highway 23 between Highway 101 and 118 is named "Military Intelligence Service Highway."

On August 12-14, WALLY and KATHERINE helped to entertain MONIQUE CARLESSO and grandson LAURENT. Cannoneers will recall that MONIQUE is the widow of SERGE CARLESSO from Bruyeres. Both attended the 50th 442nd Anniversary Celebration in Honolulu and Cannon Chapter hosted them in Honolulu as well as on our post-reunion tour to Kauai.

As an aside from the Camp Shelby tour, WALLY and KATHERINE's group visited Branson, the nation's Country Music Capital. WALLY wrote that this little Missouri town of 3,700 is nestled in the rolling Ozark hills. This little town drew over 5 million visitors in 1994 to their 40 plus theaters - all geared for country music and comedy shows. And these theaters are not small - one of the larger one seats 2000!

WALLY and his group saw 4 shows - continues

WALLY: "...and at the intermission of each of those shows, an announcement was made from the stage that 'Tonight in our audience we have a very distinguished group, the veterans of the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in military history' and when asked to stand, we were greeted with thunderous ovations - and at the Baldknobbers Jamboree, where 1600 patrons filled the theater, we were given a STANDING OVATION.." WALLY continues that "it was one of the proudest moments of my life."

Thank you WALLY and KATHERINE, for sharing those moments with us who could not be there. We, too, "Chicken Skin!" With this, I put my pen away, I cannot top what WALLY wrote.

Sentimental Journey - A post-reunion California Coastal Tour by JUNE OHARA

MASAMI and I enjoyed a terrific send-off and bon voyage luncheon and dinner in Torrance. The KITAGAWAS, the MAYEDAS, LINDA FUJIOKA, and MITSU MIYA are always excellent hosts and fun to visit. Our youngest daughter IRIS lives in Torrance so her apartment conveniently served as a R and R station while we finalized our plans for the motor tour to San Francisco to see my two sisters and to visit the NUNOTANIS and YAE FURUSHO in Sebastopol.

We traveled the same coastal tour after the 982 Los Angeles Reunion via the Gray Line Bus. This 1995 tour was wonderful because IRIS was the driver and tour conductor. We stopped at the lovely jacaranda tree-lined town of Santa Barbara, the Mission, historic La Purisma, beautiful Monterey, the fabulous aquarium. But a most interesting thing happened in Carmel Valley. IRIS wanted to treat us to a special onsen at the Zen Monastery Retreat called Tassajara. While I'm more adventuresome and find it exciting, MASAMI became rather restless towards the end of the 14 miles drive to the retreat through the deep forests, valley and hills, and a few creeks. He was very relieved when we finally

reached a beautiful quiet setting of cottages.

The remote and rustic environment would be just the place for Zazen meditation. MASAMI was most anxious to get to the onsen after the two hour drive. There were two hot tubs and a cold plunge in the flowing stream. It was very relaxing - a true luxury to enjoy it with IRIS. Unlike many Nihon Onsen, there were only three other ladies and you would be communing with nature in the great outdoors.

We decided to have an early lunch because IRIS thought we might be conspicuous with our cold-cut sandwiches, while the guests and students ate their vegetarian lunches. The large patio filled up with young and old people in no time - they all prayed with clasped hands before meals. I saw a variety of salads with different kinds of dressing which mostly smelled like sesame and curries. The people seemed very friendly. Two gentlemen sat beside us. After a few bites, one of them asked if we were from Hawaii since he had been to Hawaii. He said he visited the Zen retreat in Waiomao Valley. That's in Palolo Valley, our valley and just prior to leaving for the Las Vegas Reunion we celebrated Palolo Pride, a first ohana, or fellowship for the residents of Palolo Valley. At the opening ceremony, the blessings were offered by various church representatives located in Palolo and the Waiamao Zen Retreat was one of the participants. Isn't it unbelievable that there is a connection among total strangers in such an unexpected place?

We thoroughly enjoyed Monterey, a charming Spanish town. The tour of the Aquarium is a must. Our tour of Hearst Castle was even better than the first tour in 1982. Tour two takes you to RANDAL HEARST's bedroom, library with a store of paintings and urns and the kitchen. The kitchen is an interesting place as you can imagine. As we drove down the beautiful hilltop castle, I was impressed with the power and energy of RANDAL HEARST's drive to overcome what he thought was a "minor" heart condition to amass such tremendous wealth.

It was so good to be in San Francisco after the brief review of coastal history, geographic, and

scenic beauty. This was our final stop before heading home. It was great to visit with KATHY and WALLY. Their home is like a museum with many impressive citations and recognition for their community services. WALLY carefully wrapped the Proclamation of the 34th Infantry Division dedicated to the 442nd Infantry Battalion to honor their heroes at the 47th Annual Reunion. Thank you, WALLY and KATHY for sharing with us so many treasures, among them the video by WENDY HANAMURA, "Honor Bound" which is being circulated among the Cannon Chapter members and families.

The NUNOTANIS treated MASAMI, MAMO and me to a very busy Chinese restaurant. Here we observed how important the NUNOTANIS are in San Francisco, we were seated after a very short wait from a long line at a very comfortable table beside a crowded room.

WALLY drove us over to Sebastopol. A visit with YAE is worth the long drive through rural apple orchard. While WALLY, KATHY, and MAMO checked on MARK FURUSHO's hot house enterprise of potted vegetables, we chatted with YAE in her comfortable kitchen and dining room. Dinner was most exotic with YAE's specialty, abalone sashimi. The abalone dinner alone could very well be the highlight of our reunion tour. Thank you YAE... you've always been so generous to my family. It's no wonder that FURUSHO's apple ranch is one of IRIS and BRYAN's favorite places in California.

LINDA FUJIOKA came to vacation in Waikiki after her recent retirement about a month after we arrived home. LINDA was very busy as a tour escort and a good one too for her friend who was here for the first time. LINDA sends her best wishes to all of you and is always glad to see so much more of Hawaii each time she comes. MASAMI and I spent a quiet breakfast hour with LINDA and her friend at Pagoda. I couldn't believe when she told me she was surprised that we could drink water from the tap. Imagine that! LINDA has to have a special gadget to take care of her water to make it drinkable.

Happy Holidays to all of you!!



by JACKSON MORISAWA

(The following is a continuation of the memoirs of TAKAO HEDANI, Section Sergeant, 3rd platoon Mortars of H Company. Part I of this series appeared in the last Go For Broke Bulletin.)

We left Naples on September 27th for action in France under the 7th Army and landed in Marseilles on Sept. 30th. At the assembly area, all units drew their combat equipment and clothing. The weather was very accommodating for the first three days. But later the rainy season came along without mercy.

The 2nd Battalion rode in trucks for three days to the assembly area to begin the Battle for Bruyeres on October 10, 1944. We traveled on trucks for over 500 miles.

On Oct. 14, 1944, we moved into position to liberate the town of Bruyeres. We hardly had hot meals, but we managed to eat good C rations. We followed the leading E & F companies, encircling the town of Bruyeres. We gathered in an assembly area and sat for lunch under the bushes just outside of Bruyeres. For the last three days the weather was cold and the rain came down without mercy. As I sat under a tree to munch on my C ration, I noticed a bunch of "shiitake" clustered on the bark of a hard wood. I took out my canteen and cut the fresh mushrooms and put them in a watered bouillon soup. The boys watched me eat the warm soup, but most of them thought I was crazy eating poisonous mushrooms. After about an hour later I was rejuvenated by the warm soup and ran around in preparation for the assault on Bruyeres. The boys realized that I was OK. About 4:00 P.M., I wanted to have some more of the warm bouillon soup for dinner. I had to travel quite a distance to get those fresh mushrooms. The morning of

the 15th we received orders to secure the town of Bruyeres. While the entire 3rd platoon was marching towards the town of Bruyeres in single file formation, the enemy fired a volley of harassing artillery fire. One of the enemy shells hit a lonely pine tree top. The flying fragments of the shell hit Pfc. MASAO F. SHIGEMURA from the top of his left eye down to his left jaw. He was two persons ahead of me, so I could hear him yelling "AH" and he fell flat to the ground. 2nd section S/Sgt. MASAYUKI OTAKE protected the wounded Pfc. SHIGEMURA's face with the base plate of the 81MM mortar. I ordered the 1st section to march into Bruyeres as fast as possible. Pfc. SHIGEMURA died instantly without uttering a word. The entire 3rd Platoon marched into the town of Bruyeres without any further mishaps. There were about 50 houses in the small town. That night we slept wherever we could find a dry place.

Orders came down for us to come back to the town of Bruyeres. The Regimental objective of Hills A, B & C were secured by 9:30 A.M. Hill D was recaptured by the Jerries and they threatened to stop the supply chain established by the 2nd Battalion supply section. Since there were no reserve rifle company nearby, the 3rd Platoon with 45 men were ordered to stop the German attack. Everyone grabbed a rifle and went to Hill D without any enemy information. I instructed the boys to take cover and wait for the opportune time to fire at the enemy, while I made a right circle about 30 yards away from the group. Strangely, S/Sgt. ROBERT T. KURODA swung 25 yards to my right alone. He had no cover or concealment from the enemy. The pine trees were 20 to 30 feet tall so visibility was good for 50 yards. The Jerries kept their machine guns quite active. Sgt. KURODA's right flank was unprotected but he was calm and very much alert to the dangerous situation. I noticed that he fired at a German soldier, who fell to the ground dead. A machine gun opened up on Sgt. KURODA, but he was on the ground aiming at the machine gun nest. His fire power was effective and the gun and crew were silenced. I crept

about 5 yards on my belly towards the enemy. A German rifleman was aiming at us, so I immediately fired my M-1 rifle. There was a thud and the enemy fell down. In the meantime, Sgt. KURODA was shot by a German sniper. I heard him moaning for 1-5 minutes but could not get close to him because there were no soldiers covering me. A German soldier came down about 5 yards to see how bad Sgt. KURODA was wounded. I fired at him, killing him immediately. I knew relief was coming if I remained there for a couple of hours.

Then about 1:00 P.M. another Jerry came out alone from the bush and tried to shoot me. Then I heard S/Sgt. MASAYUKI OTAKE yelling, "HEDANI, watch out!" By that time I had my M-1 rifle aimed at the Jerry. OTAKE and I fired simultaneously and the poor soldier fell down dead. I stood up quickly and walked towards friendly forces.

I must have looked pale and nervous. The 81MM Mortar Platoon boys looked at me and did not say a word. Just about the same time, a platoon of F Co. boys joined us so we had now a good sized fighting force. Fortunately the platoon leader of F Co. was my friend S/Sgt. AKIRA "BUDDHA" HAMAGUCHI. He and I discussed strategy, and I agreed to take the right section for H Co. and the left section was taken by F Co. We all had a bandolier of M-1 ammunition. With the signal to attack, the soldiers would fire from the hip and hit the ground while the others advanced forward, leap frogging each other. Somehow the boys were fired up and charged the enemy without a moment of rest. About the middle of the assault, the boys got "heated up" and started to yell out "WAH" - "WAH" everywhere. During the assault not a single shot came from the enemy positions. We marched through three machine gun nests in our sector. Dead Germans were all over. The wounded were taken care of by the First Aid group, while able bodied prisoners were marched to the rear area. The enemy force was totally defeated. I estimated 100 enemy soldiers dead, wounded or taken as prisoners. The battle was over about 2:30 P.M. When I returned to the H

Co. area, I was exhausted because of the tense moments I had endured. The rest of the soldiers were equally fatigued.

About 4:00 P.M. in the afternoon when the situation was quiet, Chaplain HIRO HIGUCHI went to see if any friendly troops were left wounded in the battlefield. He then came across Sgt. KURODA's body, with a shot in the throat. He also estimated that over 50 German soldiers dead on the battlefield. I noticed that not a single officer from H or F Cos. participated in the attack. Again I should say the AJA soldiers were very courageous and united in a solid fighting unit.

Early in the morning of the 10th of October we were ordered to move out as riflemen to repel the attacking Germans on Hill D. About 8:00 A.M. in the morning I saw S/Sgt. TURK TOKITA, his right arm in a sling, going back for further treatment by the medics. I bid him good luck and gave him the direction to the main body.

The town of Biffontaine was captured by the 100th Battalion on October 23rd, but the unit was stretched out in enemy territory for about 2,000 yards. Ammunition, rations and First Aid supplies were critically short. The 2nd Battalion was ordered to rescue the 100th Battalion without delay. We had just showered and dressed in clean clothes and dry socks. The orders came down to attack the enemy position confronting Biffontaine. As soon as we moved into position the 100th Battalion was safely rescued.

The front line was fluid. The enemy had the advantage of knowing the terrain and the roads. Early on the morning of the 24th, H Co. had orders to move and help rescue the 1st Battalion of the 141 Infantry regiment of the 36th Division. At the hastily built forward Command Post, Major General JOHN DAHLQUIST and his Aide-De-Camp, Capt. LEWIS, saluted us and wished us well. Capt. LEWIS was killed by an enemy sniper later. The General looked stern and determined to have his Lost Battalion rescued. We marched about 2,000 yards and rested on the mountain road. About noontime, when we had our C rations to munch on, orders came down for us to organize a rescue squad to get P.O.W.s

from G Co. on our left flank. Every unit was committed so it came down to the Mortar Platoon to furnish the necessary manpower. The rifleman was eager to get back to his unit. The 3rd Section of the 3rd Platoon took the assignment. The sky was gray and the ground was wet. We marched for two miles into the left flank of G Co., 2nd Battalion, which occupied a strategic hill, and dug in for the night. I still recall the last 200 yards to our objective. I was bringing up the rear end when suddenly Pfc. JAMES GANEKO, with flushed face, said, "Houdini, leave me behind. I am no use to the outfit and I will die here." His utterance was very sincere and truthful. The footing was very slippery from constant drizzling. The climb was extremely difficult and hazardous. Without a word I put my right hand on his combat pack and started to push him up the hill. We all reached the objective hill about 2:00 P.M. Then we got combat wire and tied each German separately. We started down the hill with our prized prisoners of war in column. When we reached our platoon area, the friendly forces were waiting for the P.O.W.s.

The 3rd Platoon of H Co. was used as a rifle unit up to October 29th, when the Lost Battalion was rescued. The days and nights of the 24th to 27th were covered with mystery and anxiety. On the right side of our unit the 232nd Engineers were clearing minefields and building roads. There was a big gap between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. The Mortar Platoon was used as a filler for these gaps. We advanced about 500 yards and dug in for the night. On the morning of the 27th we reached our objective and helped rescue the 1st Battalion of the 141st Infantry. What really surprised me was that they looked like new recruits with shiny shoes and well-dried winter clothing. Their rifles were in spic-and-span condition. I just ordered our men to position their guns in whatever clearing the occupied area provided. I hurried up the hill to look for a good observation post. Advancing about 2,000 yards in the thick pine forest, I came across elements of F Co. riflemen. Again, like on "Banzai Hill," I met S/Sgt. "BUDDHA" HAMAGUCHI. I also met Sgt. SADA CHAGAMI from Aiea, a

radio operator for the forward observer of Cannon Co. I placed my C.B. about 100 meters back from the forward Observation Post. I zeroed in my guns to the right ridges to repel enemy self-propelled guns and tanks, but hit directly on the ridge that faced me. An enemy sniper killed an F Co. rifleman right in front of me, making my position extremely untenable. I quickly ordered my 81MM Mortars to fire on the likely enemy position, about 200 yards down the slope. I directed about 50 rounds of 81MM Mortar shells on the likely enemy gun positions. About a minute later the German wounded called out "Medico," "Medico." Obviously the enemy was hurt and calling for help. I ordered each of the 3 guns to fire for effect another 10 rounds each at the same target. The enemy was confused and appeared to be in panic and disorder. The tree burst of the 81MM Mortar shell was plainly too severe for the enemy foot soldiers. Somehow, they stopped yelling for medical aid and attended their wounded by applying bandages and first aid, to quell further commotion. I could hear only the shuffling and movements down in the enemy position. Two days later, when we went down into the valley, we noticed enemy Band-Aids and first aid kits all over the underbrush.

On the 28th of October, through the combat wire, I heard the gunner yelling, "There will be K Co. boys coming up the valley so don't shoot at our own boys." The entire K Co. led by Sgt. KOIZUMI comprised of only 9 men. I ordered Pfc. HISA KANAGAWA to direct them down the ridge to the friendly occupied position. Sure enough, the enemy pounded the hilltop with artillery shell without mercy. Added to the artillery shell from the right flank, two enemy tanks from 500 yards began shelling us. Pfc. KANAGAWA and I kept ourselves in a deep foxhole for 4 hours with overhead shelter until about 5:00 P.M., when the enemy tanks started to retreat. During the time of enemy tank attack, we continuously used wire communication to direct 81MM Mortar shelling into the likely enemy tank position. Within 2 hours, HISA and I