



by TERUO IHARA

Many on the West Coast may remember RUTH KAUHI whose husband, the late HARRIS KAUHI, use to do a lot of good things from his position as baggage supervisor for United Airlines. RUTH also worked for the airlines and the two made a good pair helping EASY travelers on United Airlines flights. The sad news is that Ruth left us to join Harris in the land of eternity on August 20, 1995. May she rest in peace. EASY Chapter extends its deepest sympathies and Aloha to the surviving family.

Did you know that KAY YAMATO is now a practicing minister? Anytime you are in need of a minister to officiate at a wedding ceremony or other times when you need some one to provide the invocation at a gathering he is available. Since it is now his business there may be a charge and he charges as much "as the traffic can bear" or provide his service *pro bono*. He is a lucky man because he now has a young wife, SHERRIE, who worships the ground he treads and tends to his needs to the fullest. RALPH YAGI remembers KAY at a function of the Okinawa Community where he and his wife were seated at the head table. SHERRIE told me that he was there representing veterans of the 442nd RCT on her behest.

The 1995 Easy Mini-Reunion is now over and Las Vegas is better for it. The Reunion was held at the FOUR QUEENS Hotel and Casino and unlike in the past, all attendees enjoyed the Hawaiian Package of one price for Hotel with free coupons for meals. The Hotel provided a suite for the Hospitality Room which was always well attended and serviced by the Los Angeles group. Because no cooking was allowed the LA group purchased Spam *musubi* from the Hotel kitchen and sliced them into finger food propor-

tions. All they needed was *tsukemono* and hot Korean *kim chee* and that satisfied many a stomach. Besides the side table was all always full of chips and all kinds nuts as well as beef jerky and Washington Salmon. No one went hungry. Of course KIYO has the Los Angeles Food Mart wired so boxes of fruits were hauled in members cars for the occasion from L.A. Among the fruits were two types of *Khaki* or persimmons, *Fuji* apples, Bartlet pears, oranges, *kiwi* fruits, honeydew melons and watermelons which the women of LA prepared for the feasting. Then there were the Pineapples which Hawaii contributed. All in all, the Hospitality Room was very well tended to and as said earlier no one went hungry. Our grateful thanks to the Southern California EASY members who hosted the function for a job very well done.

The WELCOME and ALOHA Banquets were also handled with much class. The ladies especially "dressed for the kill" on these two dinner functions. The programs for the evening functions were also well planned with lots of audience participation so that no one was lonely. There were lots of door prizes for the lucky ones but that did not include yours truly.

The Los Angeles group provided round trip transportation from the airport as well to places of interest desired by the out-of-towners.

Las Vegas is gambling and although very few hit it big, TOMO UYEDA must have had some very good bio-rhythm numbers as he hit \$2000 in Keno and another \$1800 on the one arm bandit, all at about the same time. The bandit was kind to another person, AIKO SHOJI of Seattle who won about \$1,250 as well as IKE IKEGAKI who won considerable dollars on a set of numbers he has been betting on Keno for ages. Others like the GEORGE TANDOS played black jack often into the wee hours of the morning. Some others rolled the dice and one who was satisfied with a small win was BEA TSUKAMOTO. That's better than losing. My numbers were not showing up on the Keno Board which meant it was not the time for me to gamble. As much as the one arm bandits



fascinate me throwing hard earned money down the drain was not in my game plan so to stretch the dollars, yours truly engaged in the nickel games, thus minimizing the losses and still have a good time.

EASY HONOLULU members who made the trip were: TERUO IHARA, JUNO & AMY KANESHIGE, GEORGE & HELEN KAWAHARA, NEKA & HAZEL MATOI, MILDRED NAKATA, MAUI & HAZEL OKAMURA, STOOKA & JUNE OOKA, SABURO & TOKIE OUCHI, LEFTY & KAY SUGIHARA, HARRY TACHIBANA and NORA MAEDA, WAICHI & CHIYONO TAKEMOTO, FLY & ELLEN TAMASHIRO, GEORGE & DORIS TANDO, BEATRICE TSUKAMOTO, CHIC TESHIMA, TOMO & MARY UYEDA, RALPH YAGI, YOSHIWO & KINUE YAMAKI, KEI & SHERRIE YAMATO, TADAO & SAKAE YOSHIMOTO and SHIGE & SALLY YOSHITAKE. Word circulated that RAYMOND SHIGENAGA was in Las Vegas but not at the Reunion site. TOMO says because he was hitting well at the CALIFORNIA Hotel and Casino that he did not have the time to join us at the FOUR QUEENS Hotel and Casino. From the Valley Island of Maui the following attended the Reunion: CHARLES ARAKAKI, SHIGEO IWAMASA, HAROLD & WINNIE KISHABA, AYATO KIYOMOTO and PAKALA & BETTY TAKAHASHI. From the Island of Hawaii came CABBIE FUJINO and TSUNE & YAE TAKEMOTO.

KIYO YAMATE sent me the complete attendance list of the Reunion in Las Vegas. From the Los Angeles area the following attended the Reunion: BEN & YUKI AIHARA, KAY & ROSE AKIYAMA, ROBERT & AIKO ENDO, MINORU & FUIKO FUJITA, MARY HIROKAWA, ROBERT & CHRIS ICHIKAWA, ELAINE ITO & son, GARY, GEORGE KANATANI and daughter MEG, KAY KANESHINA, HIDE & SADIE KAWARATRANI, SHIG & YONE KIYOMURA and son ROBERT, RUTH KIZUKA, GEORGE KUBO, MITS & MARJORIE KUNIHIRO, GEORGE & HAGIKO KUSUNOKI, SAM & MARIE MIYASHIRO, SAM & BETY OGAWA,

JOU & KAYE OKITSU, JAXSON & JANE ONO, ROY & MARGE OZAWA & son ALAN, TOK & CAROL SHIOMICHI, STERLING & KAY SUGA, MIKE & NANI TAKAMINE and son ERIC, NOBORU & LILLY TAKASHIMA, FRANK & KIMIKO TAKEUCHI, LILLIE URASAKI, PAUL USHIYAMA, HIDEO & SHIZ WACHI, BEN & HISA YAMANAKA, KIYO & MITZI YAMATE and ROY & KATSUKO YANAI and daughter, ANNETTE.

From Northern California came the following: MUM & MASAYO ARII, HIRO & HISAI ASAI. VIOLA HORI, IKE IKEGAKI, SHIG & KAY IWASAKI, BEN & GRACE KOTANI, LAWSON & MINEKO SAKAI, BILL SEIJI, YUKIO & MOLLY SUMIDA, TOM & ROSE TAKATA, JOHN & YOSHI TOGASHI and MAS & ANN TSUDA.

From Seattle and Washington State came the following: MAS & TOSHIKO FURUHARA, GEORGE & JUDY IWASAKI, JOE & YUKI MATSUZAWA, JOE & MIYO NAKATSU, MAC NISHIMOTO, TOM & MASAKO OKAZAKI, MACK & AIKO SHOJI, GEORGE & MISUZU TANONAKA, NOBORU TAKAHASHI and SABURO TSUBOI. From Lakeside, Oregon, came JOHN SAKAMOTO. From Denver, Colorado, came GEORGE & BESS SAKATO. From Chicago, Illinois, came MAS & EMI SHIOZAKI. From Parma Heights, Ohio, came IKE & MASAKO YAMAUCHI. From Guadalajara, Mexico, came JIEI NAKAMA. And from Alliance, Nebraska, came SKEET & JANE NAGAKI.

Several others were listed by KIYO who were there with no defining reasons and they were MARTIN SNAPP, JIM HENDERSON & LORETTE CORWIN and ALLISON DICKENSON. For your information this writer spoke with MARTIN SNAPP and he has in mind about writing a book about the history of EASY Company if we all help him with oral histories detailing our experiences of the war.

Plans were made for next years Reunion by leaders of the several destination area groups to hold the Reunion at Las Vegas if similar arrangements can be made as was done this year. One distinction was made regarding responsibility for Hospitality Room functions: i.e. respon-



sibility will be rotated among the various groups in attendance at the Reunion with major responsibility for getting the basics to the host group.  
Pau. T. IHARA



by ED IMAMURA

### Service Chapter Profile ROYAL MANAKA

He was considered one of the best among the many good First Sergeants in the Regiment.

ROYAL was born in Monterey, California on January 25, 1920. He graduated from Monterey Union High School in 1939 and received a certificate for completing course work in Ornamental Horticulture from Monterey Peninsular Junior College in 1940.

He was an outstanding baseball player and played left field for his high school team and the Minato Athletic Club of the Monterey County League. The club played against teams in the Monterey, Salinas, and Watsonville areas.

He was also an outstanding boxer and has the distinction of training under JOE LOUIS, the famous heavyweight champion, while they were stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. JOE LOUIS was the coach and was highly impressed with ROYAL's hard-hitting style and natural talent. ROYAL made the Ft. Riley all-star boxing team and was scheduled to fight at the Golden Gloves championship at Omaha, Nebraska in February, 1943, but had to cancel because of his transfer to Camp Shelby to help form the 442nd RCT and assume the First Sergeant's position for Service Company.

ROYAL was inducted in the Army at the Presidio of Monterey, California on November 4, 1941 and took basic training at Camp Roberts, California. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, all Japanese American soldiers

were taken out of combat units and sent to Camp San Luis Obispo, California and given menial jobs; e.g. kitchen duty, cleaning latrines, garbage duty, etc.. Later, ROYAL was transferred to Ft. Riley and placed in charge of the transportation section. The all-black 92nd Inf. Div. was also training at Ft. Riley (Camp Whitside) and that is where ROYAL met JOE LOUIS.

ROYAL was discharged from the Army on October, 1945 and returned to his home in Seaside, near Monterey where he started his commercial fishing business and landscape gardening business.

June 30, 1946 was a red-letter day for ROYAL. This is the day he married HIROKO NISHIDA of Imperial Valley, a farming area located between Los Angeles and San Diego. They have been blessed with 5 children, KAREN, ROYAL JR., SUSAN, CINDY, and CASSIE, and 9 grandchildren; TORRIE, MARK, ALIA, RIANA, MATTHEW, JENNA, DAVID, DYLAN, and LUKE. Such a large and beautiful family!

ROYAL has been semi-retired from his landscape gardening business since 1984. Currently, he has two workers and he works about 3 hours, 3 days a week.

His hobbies included gardening, doing craft work, and taking care of flowers. He is looking forward to his forthcoming retirement and traveling with his wife. They have joined the Service chapter gang in most of the reunions and gatherings. They missed the Bruyeres-Biffontaine reunion last year due to ROYAL's shoulder surgery but were able to enjoy this year's Camp Shelby Homecoming and Monument Dedication ceremony.

In commemoration of the VJ Day 50th year festivities in August, ROYAL was interviewed by a reporter of a popular TV station in Monterey, regarding his life and experiences in the army. He recounted the experiences of the 442nd troops during the war at Camp Shelby and in Europe. He also mentioned that while on a visit to see his parents at the relocation camps at Poston, Arizona, he was denied a haircut by a barber in the city of nearby Parker, who said, "We don't cut Jap hairs." He emphasized that he



was wearing his army uniform when he had the bad experience with the barber.

Top, you did an outstanding job of taking care of your troops - both during and after the war.

Good luck to you, your wife and family. You deserve the best!

### Year-end Party

Service Chapter's annual Year-End Party was held at the Dynasty Restaurant, located in the Ward Warehouse Mall in Honolulu on December 13, 1995. Miss JENNIFER BAKER, the 442nd Executive Secretary was our honored guest.

Members and their wives who enjoyed the delicious Chinese buffet luncheon and door-prizes donated by the Chapter were: SUSUMU & KOZUE AWAYA, RALPH & GRACE CHINAKA, GORDON & FLORENCE FURUTO, EDWIN & AMY IMAMURA, MIKE INOUE, TAKAO & JUNE ITO, TAKEMI KAJIKAWA, YUTAKA KAJIWARA, MASAJI KUROZUMI, ALLAN & SARA MASUDA, JAMES & MARTHA MIYAKE, GEORGE & HISAKO MIYASHIRO, TOSHIO & CLARA NAKANISHI, HIDEO NIMORI, ALEXANDER & JEAN OKA, MASAMI & MARGARET TANABE, NOBORU & MASAKO TANOUE, BILL & BETTY TOMA, and KIYOJI & FRANCES YAMADA.



## Rural Chapter NEWS

by ED IMAMURA

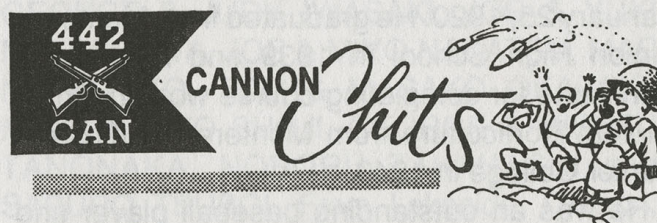
### Class Reunion

The Leilehua High School class of 1940 celebrated their 55th anniversary reunion at the California Hotel at Las Vegas on September 24 - 29th. The 88 who enjoyed the reunion included classmates, spouses, and friends.

The following 442nd veterans/spouses from Oahu attended the reunion: RICHARD (L Chap-

ter) & CHIZUKO FURUKAWA (CHIZUKO is also a classmate), JOHN CHINEN (Svc), HOWARD & APRIL HIRONO (232nd), EDWARD & EMILY TAMANAHA (G), and ED IMAMURA (Svc). Additionally, TOKIO & CAROL SHIOMICHI (E) of Santa Ana, California, and KIYOSHI & DOROTHY SANUKI (100 C) of Torrance, California attended the reunion.

The golf tournament and reunion luncheon which was held at the Leilehua Golf Course and Restaurant on October 6 was attended by 26 classmates and included RICHARD & CHIZUKO FURUKAWA, EDWARD TAMANAHA, HIDEO HIGA (L), and ED IMAMURA. Prizes were given up to net 75s. RICHARD, EDWARD and I all had net 76s. We played junk and didn't win any prizes.



by KAORU WATANABE

### Chapter Meetings

As discussed in our August 9 meeting, KAZU SAIKI reported at our subsequent meeting September 13 that Fremont Hotel will accept the Hawaii contingent one day early for the May 16 - 19, 1996 Reunion. The Hawaii group can leave Honolulu on a day flight on May 15 and arrive Las Vegas in time for dinner which will be at their own expense. The extra day will cost \$33 per room, including tax. JOHN KASHIKI has reserved 15 rooms for this extra night for the Hawaii group as well as for any Mainlanders who wish to arrive early.

At this same meeting, it was decided to invite a Sons and Daughters representative to talk to us about their Oral History program. Members present at this September 13 meeting: MASARU KOIKE, HENRY CHAGAMI, THOMAS "JITTER-BUG" INOUE, LINCOLN MAEDA, JOHN MIKASA, TAKESHI "BOLO" MIZUKAMI, MAMO



MORITA, CHARLES ODA, AKIRA TAKAHASHI, TOM OKINO, TAKASHI "CURLY" MURAOKA, MASAMI "RAWFISH" OHARA, KAZU SAKAI, NORMAN SATO, KIYOSHI TABA, and KAORU WATANABE.

The same members minus INOUYE, MIKASA, ODA, and SAIKI attended the October 11 meeting. We revived memories of Cannoneers TIMOTHY OSATO - Mainland Kotonk triggered by a thank-you letter from his daughter SONO, for a copy of "Close Support," given to the OSATO family as we did for all the other KIA and deceased Cannoneer's families. More about TIMOTHY later in this report.

At our November 8 meeting, KAZU SAIKI reported that he has arranged 15 rooms at both a Waikiki and Maui hotel at remarkable prices for a Hawaii mini-reunion on November 7-13, 1996. We are proposing this mini-reunion in Hawaii because at our last Las Vegas reunion some interest was expressed by Mainlanders to hold the next reunion in Hawaii. The Las Vegas venue won the vote, but we thought a Hawaii reunion would also be nice. KAZU's arrangements are:

In November 7, 1996  
Outrigger Reef Hotel (\$60 per room + tax)  
Out November 11

In November 11  
Napili Shores Condo - Maui  
(Studio \$98.05 inc. Tax - Maximum 3 people)  
(1BR \$111.27 inc. Tax - Maximum 4 people)

In addition, each hotel will assess a portage fee of \$4.69 per person. KAZU has given this info to JOHN KASHIKI who will take the offer to Mainland Cannoneers. Thanks, KAZU!

Also at this meeting, GUY KOGA, past president of the Sons and Daughters and current 3rd Vice-President of the 442nd Veterans Club, joined us at Zippy's to give us a run-down on just what takes place in recording an "oral history." Sounds pretty easy - if you need a beer to whet or wet your tongue, do it before the session!

GUY countered the usual excuse given by

veterans - "no time" not to share in this noble effort by the Sons and Daughters to preserve the legacy of the 442nd by stunning us with his life story (we had to "squeeze" it out of him) of continuing health adversities. He takes a bundle of pills daily to stabilize and maintain his precarious health - YET finds - makes the time to be totally immersed in the Sons and Daughters and the 442nd. He is fully supported by his wife and children in these Nisei projects even though his wife is neither a Nisei nor Japanese. How can we deny his pleas to record for the 442nd legacy, our experiences before, during, and after our 442nd service? You Mainlanders who read this, when you next plan a trip to Hawaii, arrange your oral history recording. You Mainlanders suffered more painful and emotionally wrenching in volunteering for the 442nd than most of us. Your history cannot be left out!

#### **TIMOTHY OSATO - A Profile**

Here now is the interesting life history of Cannoneer TIMOTHY OSATO - hapa haole kotonk. TIMOTHY was one of our younger Cannoneers born 1/1/25. So it's no wonder that our earliest recollection of him was at the immunization processing line at Camp Shelby. We all had to walk down between two rows of medics with our arms akimbo and bared. The Medics were "green" so understandably, they each drew blood with their pokes. TIMOTHY promptly fainted when he saw his own blood. But from that moment on, he grew up fast - he had to!

TIMOTHY grew up in Chicago and in his teens in 1940, he was one of the "Quiz Kids" of the popular radio show. We all recall how we envied those smart kids. He was at the University of Chicago 1942-43 before joining the 442nd.

As a Cannoneer, he was the "Agent Corporal" in the First Platoon under the command of 1st Lt. GERALD GUSTAFSON. TIMOTHY survived the war like most of us and completed his B.A. degree (Magna cum laude) at Yale University in 1948. He completed his M.A. in history at Columbia in 1950 and his M.P.A. graduate degree at Harvard in 1953. All this proves how smart he was!



After Yale, he continued his military service and worked up a distinguished record of 28 years until his military retirement in 1971 as a Lt. Col. In addition to his 442nd service, TIMOTHY's many experiences included:

Parachute & Glider Course - the Infantry School (1948)

Basic Course - the Artillery School (1949)

Advanced Course - the Artillery School (1957)

Assistant Professor of History - West Point (1953-56)

U.S. Army Command & General Staff College (1961)

3rd Infantry Division - Korea (1950-51)

Senior Artillery Advisor to III Vietnamese Corps (1965)

Liaison Officer (Plans and Operations) from Hq. MACV to Vietnamese Joint General Staff (1966)

Nuclear Weapons Advisor to Hq. French Forces in Germany (1960-61)

Associate Professor of Political Science - US Air Force Academy (1962-65)

Member of Van Fleet Mission to Southeast Asia in development of SEATO Treaty (1954)

Staff Officer (Plans and Special Projects) for SAFEGUARD ABM System - Hq. US Army Air Defense Command (1968-71)

He was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit (2), Bronze Star (4), Air Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, Presidential Unit Citation (4), Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Staff Service Honor Medal (1st class), and Honorary Brigadier, French Army.

Most of us will remember that TIMOTHY had a sister - SONO ASATO - famed Broadway ballerina for whom he named one of his three daughters. We remember SONO because TIMOTHY kept her foto at Camp Shelby.

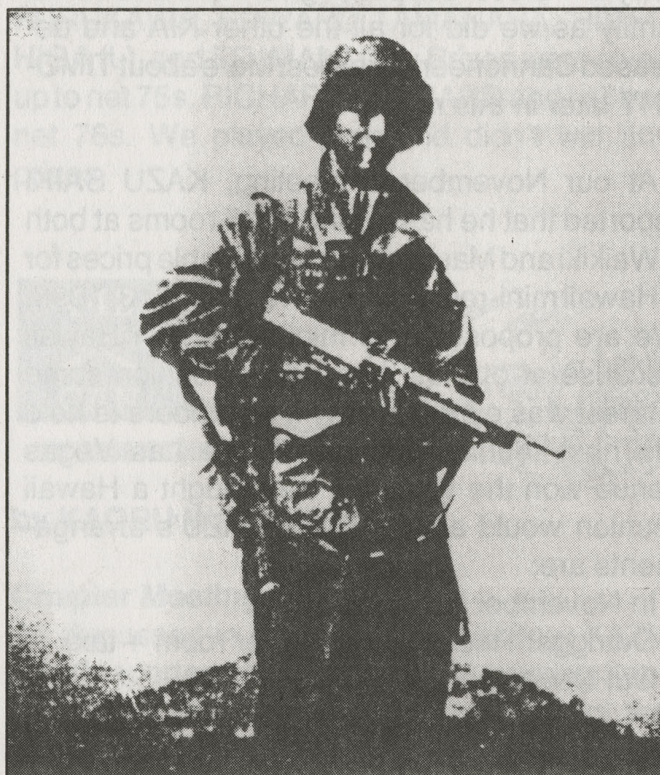
TIMOTHY married RUTH LUDLOW on October 29, 1949 and this union bore 3 daughters - TERU OSATO LUNDSTER of Seattle, THEA OSATO of Baltimore, and SONO OSATO of Tempe, Arizona.

TIMOTHY died on October 7, 1979 but his memory lives on with the Cannoneers.

## Tidbits

We are happy report that CURLY MURAOKA had a hernia operation as an out-patient on October 31 and after a rather painful period, he is just about back to normal. He will soon be joining OHARA for the full morning walks.

CHARLIE and REIKO ODA must spend better than 60% of their entire time flying numerous times to Colorado and California to be with their grandkids. I figure they must travel ten times what they traveled for free during their Pan Am days. And all this at full fare!



by HICHI MATSUMOTO

## World War II—50th Anniversary

Hi-lites from the momentous celebration . . . .

232nd Engrs/Band Chapter members that participated in the Memorial Service, Parade



and other related noteworthy events: George Goto, Walter Higa, Mits Honda, Eddie Kanaya, Gilbert Kobatake, Hichi Matsumoto, Water Matsumoto, Barney Zenigami and Tateshi Hirata our Big Island "War Correspondent" flew in from Hilo with a bunch of his buddies to take part in the festivities, which most likely will be the last Big Hurrah. These people mentioned are da me ni kakatta ones. Excuse if we missed you.. not wazatto. Eh, Hiroshi (Arisumi of Maui) you missed this one — how come?

Bumped into, more like waza waza went out of our way to visit and chat with our 232nd Engrs/Band Chapter, Sons & Daughters. Two Urada (Richard and Clara) girls — nesan Velma and imoto Corinne. Also Gail, daughter of Rodney & Nora Yamashiro. We are grateful having young and caring people like them.

The Sons & Daughters assembled some time about 3:30 a.m. at Central Union Church (Headquarters) to register, issue caps (tada), bus pass, meal ticket, etc., to da signed up set a people attending/participating in the memorial service at Punchbowl and the parade that was to follow in the afternoon.

Velma, hayo karaitte was busy at the registration choba and Corinne was our group bus leader. She cute boy, Corinne yoh — she assisted us honored guests (not to mention makule guys) climb onto the bus and again oriru toki. How time flies. Seems as though only tattai konaida made she used to let us dakko/oppa her at picnics. Now it's — atcha kotchi.

As though helping out in the early morning hours to get things rolling wasn't enough, Velma played the role of "Gunga Din", serving water to da yoh nodo ga kawaku guys marching in the parade. If our walk was 4 miles, she very easily doubled or even tripled that, continuously going through the ranks. She must have accumulated ukupaila mileage plus miles. Good to be young and energetic.

Gilbert Kobatake and Walter Matsumoto our super seniors were leaders while in the service and still playing that role. Both of'em maru 83 years old, imagine, participated in the parade, not as arm chair spectators comfortably sitted in

the reserved grandstand set aside special for the honored guests but as participants and finished in a blaze of glory. No assist no nothing from anybody and under their own power. None of that riding stuff for them. Figuring this most likely being the very last, didn't want to miss out. Challenges is their meat . . . they don't shy away from it but meet'em head on.

Dat guy Gilbert is one tough hombre. No ever tell him no can do because no matter what, he's gonna do it and prove you wrong. Not too long ago, he underwent major surgery for not one knee but ryoho tomo. Dis guy get intestinal fortitude or what.

A young Japanese lady (at our age today everybody looks young) most likely from the old country watching the parade from a vantage point waving both her hands excitedly called out to no one person in particular: "An chan, yoh yatta". Needs lilibit translation here. For da guys not too akamai in Japanese: "Job, well done". For da Pidgin yoh tsukao guys: "Eh, Brah, you wen geev'em". She was just one of thousands along the parade route that boosted our morale. Wit da kine encouragement, no way you going feel erai. Experiencing that, hyokotto namida ga deta. And too when the boys spotted big AJA booster Hung Wai Ching in the wildly cheering crowd gave him a rousing - "Howzit or something along that line. He was visibly moved.

If you never get the good fortune of shaking our president's (Clinton) hand at Punchbowl, no fret. But the next time you see Barney Zenigami be sure to go shake the hand that shook Bill's and him one Republican yet. Nah, nah only kidding. Barney was told not to wash his hand, not just yet. No wait and go shake his hand while it's still free. Da bugga, dekodon agenahatta bai.

Us AJA veterans were in the limelight and hogged the center stage, the duration of the celebration and enjoyed every minute of it - we cannot tell a lie.

Like professional soldiers, when the chips are down, we rise to the occasion. Most of the way, the boys were waya, sloppy and out of sync. But when passing the main reviewing stand (President & The First Lady), Go For Broke pride took



over and sonovagon with that — hop, tup, trep, hor — it was like Camp Shelby days all over again. One man's opinion, we never lose anything. More than a few guys were dragging their okole nearing Kapiolani Park — parade's end. For them mori mo nai yo, they were patai after giving' em their all.

The Sons & Daughters - 100/442/MIS and others thank you all so very much. They are the unsung heros — doing all the work. Us veterans get all the glory. Bless them. With the likes of them eventually taking over, the club couldn't be in better hands. Anshin de yukkori, ni we could all sit back and take it easy.

Security was tight at Punchbowl. Everybody was searched thoroughly and had to go through the metal detecting machine similar to what they have at airports. They even gave our musubi a good going over making damn sure not one bakodan or something.

For da shishi ga chikai guys, no matter where they sat, chanto had a chozuba close by. Drinking water no worry, they had'em all over the place. They thought of and had everything.

Through the years, we made no can count hodo bakana, foolish and dumb mistakes. But going all out and participating in this 50th was one, no, make it the wisest and best decision we ever made in our life. Now, we no need to go kick our own okole for not participating.

This was a no next time you can do thing . . . dis wuz saigo.

P.S. The beauty part, everything was taken care of - the only thing one had to do was to be there.

### **Mata Kita - I**

Saisai Hawaii ni kuru Tom & Lil Masamori of Denver, arera mata kita. The reason for their coming was to attend a friend's wedding. The members & wives that were able to make it even on a very short notice: Tommy & Edythe Hirao, Charley & Margie Ijima, Eddie & Betty Kanaya, Hichi & Janet Matsumoto, Walter & Hazel Matsumoto, Henry Nakama, Monte & Lily Okamoto, Helen Takano and Masao & Yvonne Yamasaki. With the honored guests, brought

the count to 18. It was on a dutch treat basis dinner at Suehiro so never cost the Chapter's treasury anything. Dis wuz a leisure trip for them and no need to lug his shobai dohgu (camera) but had 'em with him. He must feel hadaka without 'em.

### **Mata Kita - II**

Herbert "Kimo" Kimoto comes home to attend his Farrington High School graduating class of 1939 Reunion. Incidentally, they were the school's first graduates. Dekiru dake he attends. Kimo is one of the live wires and very visible whenever reunions were held in L.A.

Getting wind of his coming, the chapter cancelled a scheduled get-together and tsuideni held it in conjunction with his coming. Tsuma Marye to issho ni kita.

Honto yutara, the job of setting up the program and entertaining out of town guests is supposed to be handled by chapter V.P. Kiyoko Kimura, but he's got more than his hands full taking care of wife Blanche, who is not quite up to par. So, President Charley Ijima took upon himself (he no believe in passing da buck) with assist from wife Margie took over.

Lily Okamoto with kokua from Monte handled the money part. And you should know by now that whenever Charley undertakes anything, the end results is the same huge success. He feels kiga suman if he no go all out.

Lunch was more like on "Japan Time" due to some guys took an unscheduled sightseeing tour . . . got lost in the valley. Dam da no pay attention guys when Margie was giving directions (even drew a sketch) at the last chapter meeting. Royal Hawaiian Country Club in Maunawili was the first time for many. A good turnout of members and wives (37) with one Jr. Engr. attended. She was the chauffer for Morris & Florence Miyasato. A personable and yasashii young lady. Beppinna and most important of all, oyakoko. Mo & Flo did a good job.

After a sumptuous lunch, the members were invited to Ijima's who lives in Enchanted Lakes, Kailua for more. Dohmo arigato, Charley & Margie. The ladies watched Kimo ga sekkaku



motte kita "Honor Bound" tape. The menfolks with something tsumetai in one hand and hashi in the other hand watched football on TV in Charley's backyard rec area, a miniature Foster Garden. You name 'em he had 'em.

Kimo reports all our L.A. buddies, mame de pinpin.

### **Camp Shelby Reunion and Homecoming**

Home coming and dedication of the 100/442nd and MIS memorial stone made of granite at Camp Shelby was well attended by veterans their wives and their sons and daughters. The memorial is one of six on Memorial Lane at Camp Shelby.

The reception and program were more than we expected—the weather and chiggers were hardly a problem. The days were nice and clear with humidity as low as can be. There were about 400 of us in ten buses that traveled from New Orleans to Hattiesburg and into Shelby the evening of Friday 16th of June.

First day we all gathered in New Orleans, the staging area for the whole contingent. Hotel, The Monteleone, was bustling with veterans trying to locate buddies that they haven't seen for ages. Following morning we were divided into ten groups and assigned to designated buses for the three days. As each bus got filled they individually headed for Gulfport, Mississippi. There we had lunch and tried our chances with the casino games but no luck, most of us donated to the house.

Leaving Gulfport with State Troopers on motor bikes as escorts all the way to Hattiesburg was very impressive and touching—gave us deep feeling of pride and gratitude the State of Mississippi to honor us on our Home Coming. The next three days the Sheriffs office of Hattiesburg provided motor escort where ever we traveled by buses.

Engineers attending the home coming were the Arisumis (Hiroshi & Edna) Mrs. Yuri Ishikawa, her daughter and grand daughter, myself and my son (John).

The program was well organized from the opening ceremonies to the closing memorial

services on Sunday the 18th of June. Speaking to the group this morning was Rev. George Aki, Chaplain 100/442nd RCT and the 171st Battalion. Following a theme of "after-thoughts" he spoke of the trying days after Pearl Harbor, internment camps, the classification as enemy aliens to the formation of 442nd volunteers and the ramification of post war AJA accomplishments with the remaking of America's thinking. He emphasized challenges facing us and how it was met with dignity and pride to attain the goals we cherish today.

Chaplain Aki was a stranger to me. I am sure many of you original members may not have heard of him but we all knew Chaplain West, Chaplain Higuchi and Chaplain Yamada. Chaplain Aki was with the 171st Battalion until he came over to Europe to be assigned to the 100/442nd RCT. When he got to Italy the war ended with the capitulation of Germany. At the same time he was there Raymond Tanaka of Livorna Chapter was also sent to Italy as replacement after training in Texas. In Italy he was selected as the Chaplain's aide. During the AJA Council Reno Nevada reunion I had the good fortune to be introduced to Chaplain Aki and his wife, Misaki by Raymond one of the functions. Strange things happens—my son and I were waiting for our plane to New Orleans at the Los Angeles airport when a group from LA area came by—there among them was Rev. Aki and his wife. That evening in New Orleans we met again in a restaurant where we had some interesting chat.

To profile Chaplain George Aki, he was interned in a "relocation" camp just two days before his graduation from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Rev. Aki was born in California and ended up in Jerome, Arkansas relocation camp. He volunteered for the 442nd in March of 1943. Rev. Aki, after the war, started a Japanese congregational church in Fresno. He then spent more than eleven years with the Price Congregational Church in Chicago and eight years in Los Angeles, Hollywood Independent Church.

His next was at a white church in San Luis Obispo. He and his wife, Misaki, did volunteer



missionary work before retiring in 1980. His children include daughter Joanne in Fort Worth, Texas, Sons Galen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Jim in North Hollywood and five grandchildren.

Reverend Aki in July took part in the dedication in Fresno of segments of Highway 99 to the various AJA military units.

Meeting Rev. Aki and talking to him and his wife was one of the highlights of my trip. It greatly enlightened my thinking and concept of niseis' plight after Pearl Harbor and why we volunteered. John and I will forever cherish his friendship.

The story of the Home coming you have read through Greg Kakesako's articles in the Star Bulletin and other writers in the 442nd Bulletin so will end it here.

In addition I have an article by my son, John, with some Sons and Daughters point of view and also an article by our Maui member, Hiroshi Arisumi.

## Sons and Daughters of Los Angeles

by John Kawamoto

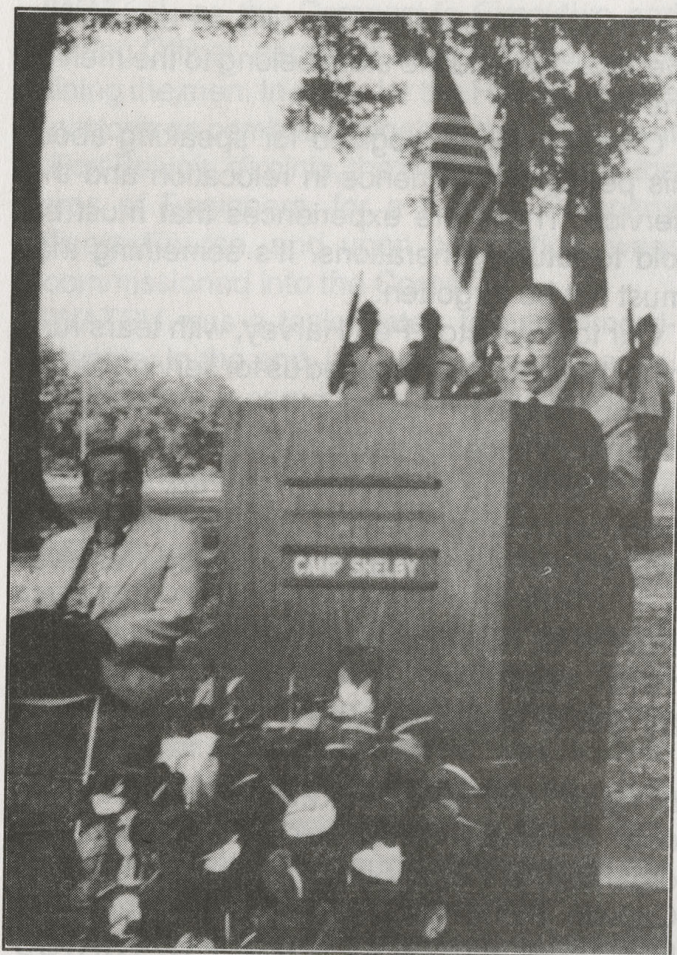
Hi everybody - my father is Shigeo Kawamoto, "Doc" to all of you. I went with my dad, a 232nd Engineers vet, to the Camp Shelby Reunion and Memorial Rededication, and he asked me to share some of my thoughts about the event.

There is a sports columnist in the L.A. Times newspaper named Allan Malamud who has a very unstructured column called "Notes on a Scorecard". I say "unstructured" because he appears to jot down his ideas as they occur while watching a game or following a sports event. Since I'm not much of a writer, unstructured is probably the style that will work best for me. So here is "Notes on a Paper Napkin", my views on the Camp Shelby Reunion in June of this year.

New Orleans is very nice - a city you can have some real fun in, and a lot of the vets were definitely having fun . . . Motorcycle escort leaving Gulfport, Mississippi - very impressive, especially since State Troopers continued it all







the way to Shelby . . . Kind of got a lump in the throat seeing the caravan of buses lined up just outside of Hattiesburg, and seeing the 100th/442nd ROT banner go up on the lead bus . . . Shelby itself looks very nice, peaceful and well-ordered in the late afternoon light - hard to imagine the things that happened here 50 years ago . . . After getting off the buses, just about everyone made a beeline for the 100th/442nd monument - one worthy of the men it commemorates . . . Very nice welcome under a big, open-air tent - I guess back then just about the only thing over your heads was canvas. Army band and color guard (from the 100th/442nd Reserve unit in Hawaii) are very impressive - band does a good version of RCT song, though I have to admit you veterans are no slouches singing this piece either . . . Next day is very busy with a lot going on - mock combat (circa WWII) maneuvers, simulated strafing and bombing runs by vintage aircraft, live artillery rounds in a special demo.

But some of the things that stood out: Nice presentation and official addresses by State dignitaries - they obviously had done their homework on the Combat Team and were genuinely impressed . . . Vets marched in loose (but dignified) order to the presentation area in front of the monument. I could only try to imagine what went through their minds, and the minds of those who chose to come straight to the monument, as they filed along the very roads that younger legs had carried them down so many years ago - whatever it was it sure put a spring in their step. . . Hattiesburg folks that had gathered for the occasion seemed very nice - I wish there were more chances to get to know them. They truly appreciated the words of thanks from Dan Inouye for hospitality extended to "strangers in a strange land". . . During lunch we both heard words of appreciation from and gave our Mahalo back to people like County officials who knew the guys way back when, the current military brass at the Camp, and some of the haole officers that fought with you. A side trip to the site of the original RCT encampment left some of the guys scratching their heads and going, "Sheee - was this where we really were?". . . A lot had changed and got overgrown - I guess the best guide to your memories is the roadmap in your heart. That night at the final banquet, more of a surprise than a disappointment was finding out there was no beer - a dinner with this bunch and no beer?!. A lot of sons and daughters, and grandkids as well, made it to the reunion and we made quite a crowd for the group photo. . That night back at the motel I found out that the best way to hear the stories you guys have to tell is to sit and talk story and share a cold one. . . Good thing there wasn't any beer at the banquet - that was the only way I could hang in there with the vets. . The next day was a time of closure - remembering the men that gave their all, and what that final payment bought for us today. . . Reverend Aki's speech confirmed my impression from dinner in New Orleans - a very decent, caring man. . . Lunch in New Orleans just before the plane left, but what I'm still hungering for is to get to know Hattiesburg better. . .



When I helped out recently at the Nisei Week 100th/442nd exhibit put on by the Sons and Daughters Chapter of Los Angeles, I got the idea for the end of this piece. One of the exhibit organizers was saying to me that he felt it was a shame that an oral history hadn't been done with Pershing Nakada before he passed away, since there wasn't very much material from the Engineers. A little later, one of the vets I was talking with said he was also surprised that there was so little on the 232nd. I am not surprised at this, as publicizing your exploits would seem like bragging to most of you. But I found out on the trip to Shelby that learning just a little about what happened back then (even at the expense of a hangover), went a long way toward helping me understand my father and also to a certain degree, all of you vets. So please, if you can, share your experiences with the younger generation. To the sons and daughters (and grandchildren, too) of the 232nd Engineers, I issue a call to get the stories from the veterans. Only by knowing what happened back then will we understand how we got to where we are today.

### **President's Message by Hiroshi Arisumi**

Under the leadership of Zuke Matsui, 20 veterans and their wives took a sentimental journey to Camp Shelby, Mississippi where the 442nd Combat Team trained 50 years ago.

Unlike 50 years ago, it took us ten days to reach Camp Shelby by troopship train and GI trucks. It took us overnight to New Orleans and another five hours to Camp Shelby.

We were given a royal treatment like heroes, although the real heroes are the men that didn't come home. Our ten buses were escorted by the Mississippi State Troopers from New Orleans to Camp Shelby, a distance of about 100 miles.

It was a very emotional reunion. Senator Dan Inouye thanked the people of Hattisburg for the kindness shown us during our training in Mississippi. He also thanked the haole officers for leading us during training and combat.

Retired General Ono put his uniform on one last time and thanked the 442nd Combat Team

for making it possible for him to become a General. He said the stars belong to the men of the 442nd.

Chaplain Aki apologized for speaking about his personal experience in relocation and the service. These are experiences that must be told to future generations. It's something that must not be forgotten.

Our tour director, Peg Harvey, with tears running down her face thanked us for serving on the 442nd Combat Team. She made a trip to Normandy recently and saw the aftermath of a war. Thank you for thanking us, Peg. We AJAs were happy to be given the opportunity to serve. We only did our duty to our Country that we love.

### **PETER O. IWATSU Remembered 1916 - 1995 by Walter Matsumoto**

In April, 1943, when the 232nd Combat Engineer Company of the 442nd RCT was first organized at Camp Shelby, it had two officers: Captain PERSHING NAKADA (University of Nebraska) and 1st Lt. PETER O. IWATSU (M.I.T.). They had just completed training a cadre of kotonks as nucleus for the eventual 232nd.

Soon thereafter, as the officers and 3000 volunteers from Hawaii arrived at Camp Shelby, they were assigned to the various units in the Combat Team. Three officers, Lt. GILBERT KOBATAKE, YOSHIHARU TSUJI, and WALTER MATSUMOTO, commissioned in infantry, like the others at UH were somewhat surprised to find themselves assigned to the 232nd, to fill the officer shortage. Apparently, NAKADA and IWATSU were the only AJA combat engineer officers in the US Army. Since the Hawaii officers were also graduates of the UH College of Engineering, and with training scheduled to start shortly, the situation called for expedient action. The assignment of KOBATAKE, TSUJI and MATSUMOTO to the 232nd therefore seemed logical and timely.

Lts. FRANCIS FUJITA (UH) and GEORGE NAGAI (Texas A & M) joined the Company later, after training was well underway.



IWATSU, as the Company's Executive and Training Officer, carried the brunt of the load of training the men. In order for the Hawaii officers to perform as combat engineers, they were sent to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the Headquarters of the Corps of Engineers, for a 5-week Company Officers Course, and upon completion, were recommissioned into the Corps.

IWATSU was a taskmaster, fair and knowledgeable. In the end, his dedication, diligence, and expertise in carrying out the difficult year of training resulted in earning for him the highest respect and esteem of the men, as well as his fellow officers.

PETER was the smallest of seven officers, assigned to the 232nd. He was 26, about 5'5", 120 lbs., not athletically inclined, but was tough and rugged, military-wise. Remember those forced marches in Basic Training, when someone, younger and bigger than he, was ready to give up and fall out by the wayside, he would take the guy's rifle and encourage him to continue, until he felt well enough to retrieve his rifle and finish the march?

He never imbibed, but he was ready and able to take on any man in the Company, as at Leaf River, to celebrate the completion of Basic Training, when he downed four bottles of beer, one after the other. I struggled to finish two.

PETER was single - never married. The other officers were all married, two with year-old sons. During breaks, when the benedicts were writing and reading letters from home, he would be studying and reviewing engineering texts and periodicals.

He was the hardest worker among the officers. Many a C.Q. will remember seeing him at his desk well into the night, making preparations for the next day or week.

After completion of all training, and during preparation for movement overseas, the Company received an unexpected jolt, when it learned that PETER had transferred out to another outfit, as irreconcilable differences with headquarters made it intolerable for him to remain with the Company.

Following his departure, we lost track of him,

but somehow after the war, we got to exchanging Christmas greetings. Then, in the summer of 1976, we were able to meet him and renew old friendships, when some 30 of us members and wives, after attending the 33rd Anniversary Nisei Veterans Reunion in Chicago, took a post-reunion tour of the major eastern cities, including New York, where on our initial telephone call to his home, we were fortunate to make contact. We suggested a visit by him to our hotel, the Abbey-Victoria, as the boys wanted to meet him. He went a step further, by arranging for dinner at Mama Leone's Italian Restaurant. There, we also met his brother JOHN and his wife and their mother. The place was packed and noisy, and we had to practically yell talking to the next guy. He was kind enough to foot the bill for the dinner wine. After dinner, we walked back to the hotel for more reminiscing and picture-taking. As he left us, we extended a standing invitation to visit Hawaii, preferably during a N.V. Reunion, and get a taste of our Hawaiian hospitality, while meeting Engineers from the neighbor islands and mainland as well. Sad to say, that never came to pass.

PETER was the third and last kotonk officer to succumb. GEORGE NAGAI (Houston, TX) passed away three years ago, and PERSHING NAKADA (Elmhurst, IL) in October, 1993, seven months after attending the memorable 50th Anniversary Reunion in March in Hawaii. Of the four Hawaii officers, YOSHIHARU TSUJI (Maui) expired in 1960. KOBATAKE, FUJITA, and MATSUMOTO (Oahu) will be 83 this year, all well enough and kicking.

On March 6, I was taken aback and deeply saddened, upon learning from JOHN IWATSU that his brother, PETER, had passed away on February 6. Having received a Christmas card just two months earlier, made it all the harder to believe. In our exchange of greetings, we used to add a few personal lines, but he never mentioned anything about his health. Since JOHN did not elaborate, we are at a loss to know the circumstances surrounding his demise.

Although PETER did not go overseas with the 232nd it was felt that the boys would be inter-