



by **Mary Sakai, Carol Sakai-Feiteira, Patti Laba**

#### **Tak & Sumi Hattori**

**Kiyo and Mary Fujimoto** moved to Tucson, Arizona after 38 years in Southern California, to be near daughter **Janet**. Want to write? New address: 7050 E. Sunrise Dr. #4103, Tucson, AZ 85750.

#### **Lizo & Yvonne Honma**

**Lizo & Yvonne** will be host and hostess to **Margurite's** nephew and two friends for two weeks.

#### **Masaharu "Petite" Suzuki**

Playing host to a Hattiesburg, Miss. friend **Elizabeth (Gieger) Roland** in Aug. and Sept., Petite took Elizabeth and husband to Queen Emma's Summer Palace, up the Old Pali Road and saw the slanted pond by Board of Water Supply—which was once in Ripley's Believe It or Not—to Pali Lookout, the fishmarket across Ward Whse. She and her husband were educated in the different types of poke, fish, local foods like spam musubi. Petite will take them to pineapple fields and the Okinawan Festival. They already visited the Army Museum at Ft. DeRussy.

If Elizabeth Gieger sounds familiar, you need to think back to Camp Shelby where **Harry Yokouchi** met this 17-year old girl at a Kress store where she worked. Her family befriended them. They welcomed the two Army guys in their home so when they had passes to go on leave, they visited and socialized.

Petite and wife took up ballroom dancing again with the Hawaii Ballroom. Keep those dancing shoes on!

#### **Sally Nakamura**

Sally traveled to Las Vegas in April & plans to go again in October. She also went to the Volcano and Kona on the Big Island in May. In July, she visited friends and relatives in Maui, went to Hana and hiked in Polepole Mountains on the other side of Haleakala. Daughter **Naomi** and son-in-law **Bradley Wong** have traveling in their blood, too because they'll be going to China in October. Sally's youngest son **David** just left to attend graduate school.

#### **Jerry & Alice Ayabe**

More travelers...10 days in September in Vegas as well

as visiting Alice's brother's family's Colorado ranch.

#### **Halo & Kiyomi Hirose, Rugged & Katherine Miyakawa**

Where are you? Traveling, too?

#### **George & Maly Tamura**

I'm sorry to report that **Jim Kuse** passed away on August 12, 1996. He had been suffering from Parkinson's disease and had been a patient at the Kure Nursing Home in Seattle.

**Mac Mamiya, Hi and Matsuko Saimo**, George and I from the A.T. Tank group attended the service. We were invited to dinner and had the opportunity to meet with the family.

Our condolences to **Hifumi** "Jim" Kuse's wife, **Toshiko**, and sons **Glenn, Ronald, and Robert**.

#### **A.T. Excursion to the Big Island, August 27, 28, 29**

Leaders **Jack and Margaret Kaguni** met the vacationers very early in the morning. **Mary Sakai's** granddaughter **Mari** and daughter **Carol** gave handmade leis to the following:

**Ko & Janet Hata, Wally & Yuri Kagawa, Jack & Margaret Kaguni, Oscar Omine, Chilly and Irene Sasaki, Mary Sakai, Minoru Tateishi, Harry & Janet Tokashiki, Shiroku & Amy Yamamoto.**

"Pop" Takemura met us at the airport with colorful ribbon leis made by daughter **Leatrice**.

**Tadao Tanoue**, a replacement to the 442nd A.T. group also greeted us. Genial host Mits and hostess Shiz Akiyama welcomed all of us with much aloha.

Wonderful drivers Jack Kaguni, Shiroku Yamamoto & Chilly Sasaki drove us to Hilo Pancake House. There we met **Jack Kouchi**, from Kauai with daughter **Marlese Malicki** and husband **Barney**, granddaughter **Justene** and grandson **Braiden Malicki**.

The golfers departed with Jack to Muni Golf Course. The rest of us went with Shiroku and Chilly. They took us to the Rainbow Falls and past the old Hilo Memorial Hospital. Now it's a Senior Citizen's Headquarters and Health Office.

Everyone was anxious to go to the Volcano National Park. The museum was a great place to relax and enjoy a lil' bit of "catnapping" during the movie. Part of the chain of craters was closed, however, we were happy to see part of the crater.

Volcano House was interesting for several of us honeymooned many years ago. Some remembered taking steam baths there. **Janet** wished for "stone cookies" so we went



to Mtn. View and found them!

We checked into the "very Hawaiian" Hilo Bay Hotel after we saw the famous Akatsuka Orchid Gardens. We dined with the Hilo Anti-Tankers and spouses at the hotel dining room.

The Hilo group were **Mits & Shiz Akiyama, Masao & Tatsuo Hayoshikawa, James & Shizuko Kato, Gary & Elsie Matsumoto, Mitsugi & Helen Nakahara, Dr. Masaichi & Taeko Sagawa, Robert Takemura, Tadao & Yuriko Tanoue.** We missed seeing Hilo members **Takeo Hamamoto, Noboru & Michi Nagashima.** We also missed Oahu member **Masato Doi** who had planned to attend.

Mits & Shiz Akiyama presented us with beautiful ti-leaf leis made by Mits' sister **Kimie Akiyama.** Emcee Mits introduced all the members. Each gave a clever anecdote about themselves. First, Wally thanked Chilly for bringing the 442nd A.T. flag to the banquet. Talented Harry played his harmonica and gave some real "oldies" and the members' smiles were full of approval as some hummed or moved their lips in happy recognition. Another wonderful jazzy harmonica player was singer "Pop" who played American, Hawaiian, French, and German songs.

Oscar spoke about his connection to Hilo, involving theater work and film work. James retired as a vice-principal for Laupahoehoe High School. Shiz was a school secretary for Hilo High School, now retired.

Doc Sagawa was a squad leader—signed up to be a dentist—became a Captain, went to Japan and married a Japanese maiden named Taeko.

Hilo Gang—You have the true aloha spirit. Thank you so much for a beautiful memorable night. Some had not seen each other for 53 years.

On with our trip...we went to the Open Market where you can park for 25 cents for 5 hours in Hilo Moheau Park. We drove around Papaiko and along the coastline to Hotel Honohaa Club. **Mrs. Moira Dockar** toured us. On to the Macadamia Nut Store and back to where Masato lived. Waimea, Polulo Valley, and Kona were our next destinations. Kona Seaside Hotel is a lovely place.

Host **Goro & hostess Yayo Inaba** graciously invited us to a king-sized banquet. Entertainment included Harry's harmonica solo, Jack's solo on ukulele, group singing. Yori read something that Irene gave her. Thank you Inaba family for everything!

The girls shopped after a delightful breakfast. We

visited the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawaii Aquaculture. A group of high school students designed and built a solar car tested at NELHA and later entered races on the mainland and Australia.

We enjoyed the hands-on with magnets at the Onizuka Memorial. Felt like children again!

This reporter asked each of the men what they thought of the trip:

Harry: Oh yeah! It was beautiful. Got to see my friends that I hadn't seen for 50 years. Beautiful course at the Waimea Golf Course—challenging like the mainland golf course. Great!

Ko: The two days that we played golf had ideal conditions. The game wasn't that good but everything was perfect.

Shiroku: Outstanding event! It was a pleasure to see the boys since I hadn't seen them for over 53 years.

Oscar: I was very happy to see my friends since I had not seen them for so long. And yet happy to be remembered that we are still friends.

Minoru: I'm very glad that I attended the reunion with the Hilo boys and Goro in Kona. I was very fortunate to meet my buddies since I had not seen many of them since war days. Thank all the boys for coming to the reunion.

Chilly: Enjoyable! Saw beautiful sceneries throughout the island. I enjoyed being the photographer for this congenial group. It was good to see everyone!

Wally: Very enjoyable and it was very worthwhile. Jack did very well as a coordinator of the trip. I would like to thank Mits and Shiz Akiyama in Hilo and Goro and Yayo Inaba in Kona for their wonderful hospitality.



by Ed Imamura

#### Camp Shelby News

**Herbert Sasaki**, a long time resident of Hattiesburg, mailed me several interesting articles and photographs of recent visitors to Camp Shelby. As most 442nd veterans know, Herbert is the person who spearheaded the erection



of the Camp Shelby 442nd Memorial Monument and the enlargement of the Camp Shelby Army Museum which included many displays of the 442nd RCT.

Herbert mentioned that on July 4th and 5th, **Ivan Nakamine**, a member of the Honolulu 442nd Sons & Daughters chapter, visited the museum and the 442nd monument. Herbert served as the tour guide for Ivan, who wanted to see where his father received his military training before going into battle in Europe during World War II.

Ivan, the son of **Hideo & Kay Nakamine**, of B Btry, 522nd F.A. Bn of Aiea, is currently a medical student at Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado. Herbert wrote that after the Shelby tour, he escorted Ivan to visit the French Quarter in New Orleans, which has cleaned up its act since WW2, and is now a popular tourist destination.

Ivan wrote to his parents that he was proud and glad that his father served with the 442nd and that the story of the 442nd and the 100th was remembered, honored and perpetuated at the Camp Shelby museum and the monument.

Herbert also wrote that several Bulgarian army officers visited the 442nd exhibit at the museum and the 442nd memorial monument on July 5th and 6th.

Herbert also mentioned **Mr. & Mrs. John Yamada**, a 442nd veteran, visited the museum and memorial on July 10th. Mr. Yamada is currently the President of "Asian Americans Together" in Castro Valley, California.



### Miyake's Trip

**Jimmy & Martha Miyake** took a 10-days vacation trip to California from July 12-21, 1996.

The Miyake's two children, son **Garret** and daughter **Christine**, offered their parents the vacation trip to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Miyake's spent their first 3 days at the Grand Heights Hotel at the Union Square in San Francisco.

The next 3 days were spent as guests of **Royal & Hiro Manaka** at their fabulous home at Seaside, outside of Monterey.

The Manaka's also were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Jimmy said the Manaka's were superb hosts and went out of their way to make them feel comfortable. They took the Islanders to visit the famous 17-mile Drive, the quaint city of Carmel, the historical Cannery Row, the Aquarium and many other famous sites.

The Miyake's spent their last 4 days with their niece in San Francisco. They visited San Francisco's famous and historical sites.

Jimmy mentioned his nephew **Kirk**, who is the son of his late brother **Eddie** of Mike Company, is now a full Colonel in the Army. He is a recent graduate of the War College and has assumed command of a unit in the Netherlands.

### Cataract Operation

I wish to share my experience with the readers regard-



ing my cataract operation which I underwent recently. Please call me at 621-7045 if you have any questions regarding the operation.

Do you believe in miracles? I do. Actually, I believe in the modern technology in medicine and the professional skills of doctors and technicians which are miracles to me.

This past June 4th was a red-letter day for me. I reached my 74th birthday and underwent a cataract operation on my right eye.

In May, I had my annual eye exam with my Optometrist, at the Town Center of Mililani.

I mentioned to the Doctor I'm still golfing three times a week but recently have experienced a blur in my right eye and have difficulties following the flight of the ball. I had to rely on my golfing buddies who stood behind me and told me where my ball landed. Sometimes, they would kid and say, "Nice shot, Eddie!" although I drove my ball in the forest.

The Doctor believed that I had cataracts and recommended I visit an Ophthalmologist. I thought only older people had cataracts.

My wife, Amy, recommended I see her Ophthalmologist, whose office is located next to my Optometrist.

I said, "Doc, I'm having difficulties following my golf ball," and he said, "Ed, you're driving your ball too long." I liked the Doctor immediately.

The Doctor said, "I have both good and bad news for you. The bad news is you have cataracts. The good news is you won't have to wear your glasses after your operation."

I couldn't believe what he said. I've been wearing glasses since I was 19, over 55 years ago. My tired eyes have seen many horrible but also many nice things. What would I do without the permanent indentation on my nose and the marks on the sides of my face.

The June 4th cataract operation was successful although the operation took more than the normal 20 to 30 minutes due to a ruptured sac in the back of my eyes. The Doctor and his technician, were able to fix the problem immediately. I was able to see clearly within a few days.

In the meantime, I had to retrieve my eyeglasses from the trash can because I still needed the glasses for my left eye. For a little over two weeks, I was walking around with only one lens in my glasses.

The operation for cataracts on my left eye was performed three weeks later on June 25 at the same Wahiawa General Hospital Ambulatory Unit.

The operation was a huge success. What a revelation! I felt like a new man. I was able to see clearly within a few days from both eyes. I noticed my vision had completely changed—the colors were more vivid, the skies look bluer, the leaves greener and the TV picture much sharper.

My wife jokingly said, "Eddie, now that your eyes are better, you'll be able to see my wrinkles and trade me for a younger girl." I'm slow but not quite dumb so I replied, "Amy, I don't see any wrinkles and even if you have some, I wouldn't trade you for the best looking girl in the world."

I'm very grateful to the Doctor and his technician for the successful operation. I'm grateful for getting a second chance to see everything clearly. I appreciate the gift of sight and count my blessings. Everyday is a bonus for me.

Now, when my golf buddies say, "Ed, nice shot!" I can truthfully say, "Wow, I can see the ball. It's going on the green and toward the hole."

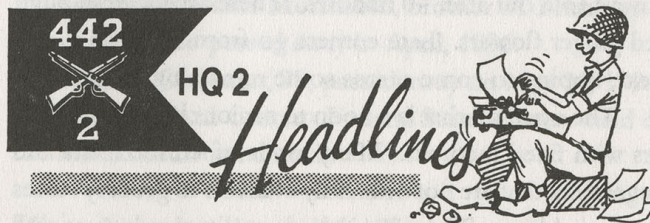
## Condolences

**Tom Matsumori** of Sandy, Utah. Tom passed away from lung cancer on August 30, 1996. He was previously a member of Fox Company but joined Service Company when he was wounded in combat. He served as a movie projectionist for Service Company. Our condolences to his wife **Kiyoko** and the family.

**Masami Endo**, 80, of Los Angeles, California. Masami, who served as a cook for Service Company, passed away on September 5, 1996. Masami was very active with various civic clubs in the Los Angeles area. He was also a member of several golf clubs and V.F.W. No. 9902. Our condolences to his wife **Giovanna** and the family.

**Nobu Kawamoto**, mother in law of our prexy, **Masaji "Shadow" Kurozumi**, passed away at the age of 100 on May 31, 1996. Our deepest condolences to Shadow, his wife **Toshiko** and to the family.

**Harry Komatsu**, Service Company member passed away in August 1996 in Gardena, California.



by **Moriso Teraoka**



With nothing newsworthy to report about our chapter, I'd like to share an experience that I have been enjoying every Saturday morning.

Going to the People's Open Market in Kalihi is a pleasure that is enjoyed by hundreds. Sharply at 8:15 a.m. every Saturday morning, the blast of an air horn signals the start of the short-lived buying frenzy of the People's Open Market at Kaumualii Street in Kalihi. By 7:30 a.m. and earlier, the vendors have been turning into Kaumualii from Kalihi Street and heading directly to their assigned stalls. They lose no time in setting up.

Tony Fraiola's offerings are wing beans, papayas, apple bananas and Chinese taro. "You like help me weigh and bag the beans?" he asks his regular customers. Even while Fraiola is unloading his other produce, his regulars are bagging the wing beans into eight ounce packages. On his right, Nakamura-san is gently placing his apple bananas on a plywood table. The Filipino vendor to his right is piling bundles of bittermelon shoots high on his card table. Red taro shoots, stripped of their leaves, lean against the table legs, a jack fruit is on the ground, sequa squash and pumpkin flowers are piled high next to the bittermelon shoots.

The egg seller is deftly placing a cover over a tray of eggs and taping the flaps together. The Filipino pastry seller is lining up his trays of ensemadas, skewered donuts, sweet rice sticks wrapped in banana leaves, and other ethnic goodies neatly on his counter.

Suddenly, the air horn blares a high pitched blast that rips through the gossips and shop talk. Everybody starts bagging the produce which they had reserved. "Hey, no take that. I wen reserve that you know!" "Tony, how much the wing beans?"

Wing beans are 75 cents, papayas are 60 cents a pound, and cucumbers are disappearing at 80 cents a pound. The buyers are moving from one stall to another, filling their carts and bags.

The frenzied buying ends too quickly. Fraiola's wing beans are gone in 15 minutes. Blue pincer live crabs are always sold out after 40 minutes. There are never enough red ginger flowers. Late comers go from one stall to the next, hoping to come across some remaining bargains.

The open market is a boon to senior citizens and others with fixed incomes. Many kinds of ethnic fruits and vegetables that are not ordinarily available in grocery stores are found here. There is grade-A quality produce as well as off-grade items; there is something for everybody.

The open market has come a long way, from its humble beginning of seven vendors in 1973 to more than 70 vendors today. It serves people from Ewa Beach Park to Ha-waii Kai, from Monday to Saturday at 21 locations. The market is under the direction of the Department of Parks and Recreation and is managed by a supervisor and four assistants.



by Ron Oba

### Circumnavigation and Titanium Clubs The Heartbeat of Fox Members

#### The Lonesome Voyager

The prodigal son has returned to his island paradise--wiser, older, weather beaten and looking like a guru with his neck-long flowing hair, mustache and goatee. Most noticeable were his sense of humor and his ability to give a frank and jovial account of his adventures on the "GO FOR BROKE." Mineo "Bambino" Inuzuka has been interviewed by the dailies, and invited to be a guest speaker to the 442nd Board of Directors, 100th Infantry Battalion, Anti-tank, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, the Veterans Clubs of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii. Mineo has remained stoic and unabashed throughout this fanfare.

Fox Chapter held a lively reception for Mineo and his wife, Sachiko, at the Pacific Beach Hotel on May 26. A four page summary of his 715 day's meandering across the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans appeared in the Hawaii Herald in July. A brief reprint of the article appears in this issue for your perusal. Mineo intends to take it easy, fixing up his house that he has neglected for ten years. Offers to help clean up the GO FOR BROKE has been met with deaf ears since Mineo wants to do a thorough job putting back the cutter into ship-shape before selling it. Don't forget to retrieve the daily Log before selling it, Mineo. Those attending the reception were: Shige and Rose Higa; Dr. Roy Iritani; Mary Muranaka; Richard and Dorothy Murashige; Kats and



Grace Nakamura; George and Myrtle Nakasato; Ron and Michi Oba; George Kawakami and Yuri Tasaka from Kauai; Fred and Yoshino Okada; Jo Okazaki; Yoshio and Clara Shibuya; Mich and Shinako Takata; Kiyoshi Takeuchi; Tommy and May Tamagawa; Joe and Sharon Tanaka; Bill and Audrey Tanaka; Junior and Ruth Uranaka; Paul and Clara Yamashita; and Frances Yorita.

### Titanium Never Ages

Dr. Roy, Mich, Joe, Ron, Bill Jr. Toshio, Bill, Shige, Yoshio, Tommy and Michi Oba played for high "stakes" at the Kunia golf course for the Memorial Day tournament on May 20th. Besides monetary prizes, Jr. Uranaka donated a dozen golf balls to supplement prizes for all. And the winners were: First place - Doc Iritani, net 68; second place - Mich Takata, net 69 with his Seiko titanium driver; third place ties - Bill Tanaka Jr., Ron and Joe Tanaka with net 70's. Closest to the pins - Bill on #8; and Toshio on #10. Front nine by Ron and Back nine by Dr. Roy. There's only one word for high tech golf equipment--TITANIUM! 6AL-4A means a bundoola 260-300 cc club head that literally can go to your cerebrum. It is light, strong and never ages. The clubs pick up the difference as your swing gets slower and shorter so the distance remains the same as we age. That's exactly what we all need to play in the Senior's tournament. Tommy announced that the next Fox tournament will be in September.

### Reunion Update

Approximately 152 Fox members from Hawaii and the mainland will be attending the reunion at the Gold Coast Casino in Vegas. Everyone has been informed through the registration forms and flyers. The reunion has been extended to two days at Gardena through the courtesy of the Los Angeles Fox Chapter by President **Hiro Takusagawa** and golfing arranged by **Mas Tamayei**. By the time you read this there will probably be about 58 attending the Gardena portion and that the reunion will be all pau after this August report of the Bulletin will be published sometime before Christmas.

**George Nakasato** and his committee has added a happy hour or an ice breaker at the Gold Coast Ballroom for the first day since many of you frenetic gamblers will not see each other until 'tis time to go home. The Sayonara

banquet will be held on Sunday night with a memorial service for those who passed away (37) since our last Fox reunion in 1992. A hula by Clara Shibuya, Myrtle Nakasato and Shinako Takata, guessing games and speech making will conclude the reunion for the Vegas portion.

I would appreciate if many of you would recount the various happenings of yourself, family, friends and incidentals that we would all be interested in reading about for the next issue - thanks.

### Tid Bits

**Mits Kodama and Tuney** (no, not his girl friend) have moved to Las Vegas. We also reported that Donna Okuhara has moved to Vegas.

Eligibility expands for decorations: the 1996 Defense Authorization Act has expanded awards categories to veterans of WWII which includes the Purple Heart for prisoners of war before April 25, 1962; WWII veterans with valor decorations could be eligible for the Medal of Honor. Contact your Veterans Administration for further information.

"*Looking Like the Enemy*" produced by **Karen Ishizuka** and directed by **Robert Nakamura**, sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles premiered in Hawaii on Friday, May 17 at the Kapiolani Community College. It portrayed the prejudices and discrimination encountered by Japanese American veterans during WWII, Korean, and the Vietnam wars. Incidents were humorous, sad and pathetic at times. Copies of the video are available through the Museum at \$20 plus S and H.

### In Memoriam

**Mrs. Natsue Oyasato**, 75 years, succumbed at the St. Francis Hospice on July 23, 1996. We were happy to see her attend the Fox Chapter dinner meetings after Hank passed away, to keep up his legacy. It was short lived but we enjoyed her company the past two years.

**George Kanami Morimoto**, brother of **Frank and Yuri Morimoto** passed away in April, 1996.

**Mitsuo Okinaga**, 79, passed away on May 26, 1996, at Tripler Medical Center. Funeral Services were held at the Makiki Christian church.

### Mineo Inuzuka: Around the World



A 71-Year-Old Nisei Vet Sails Around the World, were the by-lines in the July 5, 1996 Hawaii Herald. At least it made the cover story. Due to several requests, the following is an abstraction of the story due to limited space in the Bulletin--we're reminded time and again to keep our chapter stories as short as possible.

What challenges a dreamer? Are they crazy or inspired in their thought processes? Mineo "Bambino" Inuzuka was more than a casual dreamer--he had that fierce glint in his eyes as he announced that he is going where the wind blows. That's what his father had advised him--go where the wind blows. In truth, Mineo had served in three theaters of war and emerged as a Lt. Colonel with 32 highly commendable medals for valor. As a former 442nd combat infantry veteran, he had volunteered his services and know-how at the most critical times and put his life on the line to emulate his personal motto: "Go For Broke." He had seen many of his friends die in battle. Others returned home wounded. He felt lucky to come back alive and felt that he had to carry on the legacy of doing the impossible. He carried over his thirst to prove to himself that he can accomplish whatever he dreamt he could do.

The Go For Broke slipped quietly into the night on May 31, 1994, not to be heard from again until 715 days later. An occasional salt encrusted letter to his daughters was all that revealed Mineo's whereabouts. It was on May 6, a little over four months ago, that Mineo triumphantly returned to Hawaii in his battered, oil-smearred cutter. Physically, the captain showed the ravages of the open sea with skin over his neck and arms as tough as leather. His countenance was that of an enlightened guru. The gleam in his eyes revealed that he can sail by pure reckoning with an indomitable will to overcome obstacles and adversity wherever it occurred.

Mineo was born in Portland, Oregon. His father, **Takashi**, was a florist who insisted in starting his business away from J-town and ordered his children to speak English only so that Takashi and his wife would learn the language and become true Americans so while growing up, Mineo thought he was white. Occasionally he would ask a Caucasian girl for a date and was politely rejected. He didn't know why he was being turned down. He thought he was a haole but found out the truth the hard way.

When World War II started he and his family were interned at Minidoka Relocation Center where he graduated from the Minidoka Hunt High School. After doing

some odd jobs, the 5-feet 3-inches tall Nisei was drafted and ordered to Salt Lake City. After his basic training at Camp Shelby and before going overseas, he visited his father who told him not to return. "I don't want to see your face anymore," expecting his son to die courageously for his native country - the United States. Mineo arrived in England on the Aquitania in 1944 and served with the 442nd in Sospel, France, where he was placed in the first platoon under Sgt. Yukio Okutsu who assigned him to the second squad under Sgt Sunao Sakamoto and Fred "Mugsy" Okada. Mineo was so small the boys started to call him Bambino meaning tiny, in Italian.

Mineo fought through the Gothic Line and guarded German prisoners before being discharged at Fort Lewis, Washington. After a short stint in College and odd jobs, his adventurous heart wouldn't release him, so he enlisted in the Infantry Combat Outfit just to go to Japan. In 1950 when the Korean war started, Mineo noticed that the Stars and Stripes was filled with the names of combat casualties. Once again Mineo was compelled to offer his expertise from the 442nd to go to the front to offer his know-how. He soon advanced from corporal, to 2nd Lt. and then to 1st Lt. He flew 110 combat sorties with the 5th Air Force as an Army observer directing fighters to strike zones that he had picked.

Throughout his distinguished military career which spanned three theaters of war, Mineo was awarded 35 decorations: service medals and badges including the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, three Air medals, Purple Heart, two Combat Infantryman Badges and the Parachutist Badge. He retired from the army in 1968.

### The Start of an Odyssey

Mineo moved to Hawaii in 1970 and after sending all three of his daughters through college, he felt that he should take the opportunity to pursue his dreams. So he decided to use his time to sail and feel the unfettered freedom of the sea. While looking for a suitable sailboat after hurricane Iniki, Mineo found a man with a blueprint for a cutter and the Go For Broke's keel was laid in January of 1984. He knew nothing about boat construction but five arduous years on a six-days-a-week work schedule yielded a half finished steel hulled cutter. He slipped the cutter into Keehi Lagoon in 1989 to finish the interior--galley, head and sleeping quarters. He said, "I was a novice with



only a few hours of navigation, chart reading, radio, safety and operational procedure training. At that time I had no commercial radio but used a pocket radio to find directions. He spent weeks sailing around Waikiki until he felt confident enough to sail to Kauai and Maui. A few setbacks meant nothing to him as he prepared to go to Tarawa, and Thailand with a companion who wanted to go there. On the trip down they soon discovered the fury of the sea and encountered at least two dozen squalls that ripped their sails until they luckily found the seaport in Pago Pago, American Samoa. The harbor master, a member of the 100/442nd reserve, was about ready to kick the cutter off the pier when he saw the Go For Broke name on the bow. Unfortunately, he lost his only crew member who decided to return to Honolulu.

In August of 1994 he set sail for Darwin, Australia which is the world's oldest continent in the world, alone--all by his lonesome. He successfully plied through the Great Barrier Reef which runs for hundreds of miles along Queensland to the Torres Strait. Confidence is an innate free spirit that has no knowledge of fear or dangers that lurks in the deep blue sea. Mineo blithely sailed toward Darwin through the Torres Strait which harbored many small islands that loomed ahead for three days and nights. He hardly slept in order to keep the ship from striking the reefs as Otto, the automatic pilot was inoperable. He finally reached the port of Darwin where he rested for two weeks. However, it was not without another harrowing experience. He had to fuel his ship but there was no open mooring. So he tied up the Go For Broke at the very end of the wharf where they warned him, "Don't tie up there." Before he could question why, the tide receded and had the cutter in mud at a 35 degree angle. He called the harbor master but they just laughed. After some friendly fishermen gave him some lobsters, fish and a shower he rested until he departed Darwin on November 10, 1994.

He headed for Cape Town but was stymied by doldrums (little or no wind) for two weeks. It took him over a month and a half to get away from Australia. About 250 miles west of Australia were the last reefs that were on his course. "I stayed or thought I stayed 50 miles away. I slept that night by putting on the auto pilot. At 2 a.m. I hit a reef. I jumped up and dropped the sails--nothing happened. With a long pole I was able to hit bottom. I tried gunning the engine--no movement. It was dark so I decided to wait for morning, thinking it was safe. At dawn I saw the big rocks all around the cutter. I again gunned the

engine and after fishtailing the cutter off the rock, there was nowhere to go. I looked back toward the stern and saw a small channel. After 10-15 minutes, I was able to get out. I hit two more reefs and went over them without incidence," he said. Did Mineo think of checking for damage along the bottom of his boat? "No, I didn't," he says, "I can't swim."

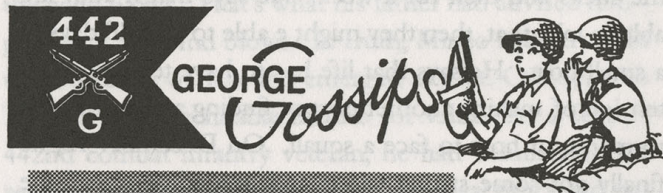
When people asked Mineo about being alone and whether they could take it, he tells them that they should go off by themselves for a couple of days in a tent out in the sticks and then for a week. He says that if they are able to take that, then they might be able to take 40 days in a small boat. He says that life has to have tension. The tension of making another port or finding a piece of gear to mend, or how to face a squall. On December 12, he finally got some strong winds and headed south of the Rodrigues Islands in the South Indian Ocean. He caught his first storm with winds registering 50-60 miles with huge waves of 60 feet. He thought that was the end for him. He hit his head on the steel beam during the storm and stopped the bleeding with a towel. He then headed south toward Madagascar and decided to go to Durban, South Africa. The people there were very nice to him. He was invited out to eat over a dozen times and asked to stay the night with people that he had just met on the docks.

He survived by starting on three meals a day, bought enough eggs to last three months by turning them over everyday without spoiling. Took half a dozen loaves of bread and dried them out on deck because they don't get moldy that way. He ate oatmeal, dry cereals, canned goods, onions and carrots, oranges, apples and lots of instant noodles. He cooked rice, pancakes, and popcorn that had boll weevils in them. At first he took them out one by one, but in the end he cooked and ate them all together. He washed once a week and walked around naked with his long flowing hair. "Oh, what a great feeling, without a stitch to bother me," he declared.

He departed Durban on the 17th of May, 1995 and instead of making a two stop trip around Cape Horn, he went for broke and hit the first of many gales that blew him 50 miles off course in three days. He hit his head a second time when he got rolled out of his bunk. Once again he decided to go for broke and headed for the Panama Canal, a distance of approximately 8,000 miles. The rest of the trip was essentially uneventful after hitting light winds for 3-4 months and sailing backwards in a counter current north of the Amazon River. It took him two days



and a night to traverse the Panama Canal and then followed the sun as his navigation system finally shut down, until he hit the Big Island. The rest is history as he approached Keehi Lagoon and a reception by the Advertiser's staff. He now worries that people won't think that he did this purely for publicity's sake. Anyway, his next stops will be Kauai first, then Maui and Hilo. Yoshio, Bill and Ron volunteered to sail with him to the islands in November. In the meantime, good to have you back, Mineo.



by Harold Fukunaga

### Recognition for Rocky Matayoshi

As previously reported in the last issue of the Bulletin, **Rocky Matayoshi** was recognized for his heroic efforts during World War II at his niece's husband's graduation from the Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. Rocky was given another recognition ceremony at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at Ft. DeRussy, Hawaii, to honor all DSC and higher medals recipients with connections to Hawaii. This ceremony was held on July 6, 1996 at Ft. DeRussy for induction into the Gallery of Heroes in the museum. Included in the large contingent of 442 RCT buddies were a good representation of George Chapter members to honor Rocky. We were proud to see Rocky get this recognition, because he was truly an All-American boy from Kauai, with his clean living habits and consideration for his men and country. **Satoru Gota** who was with him during most of the campaign will attest to that.

The George Chapter meeting was held on July 11 at the Royal Palace at the Stadium Mall to coincide with Rocky's presence in Honolulu, and he was honored by the chapter at the dinner. We hope that Rocky had enough to eat at the dinner, although he claims that he eats very light. We had a good turnout at the dinner, considering that it was located away from Honolulu proper. Prior to the dinner, Rocky received another award, presented by **Retired Major General Walter Tagawa**. It was a special award presented by the U.S. Dept. of Defense. Among those

who attended were: **Richard Ajifu, Al & Helen Amii, Rose Ebisuya, Kenneth & Katherine Fujimoto, Harold & Jane Fukunaga, Satoru Gota, George & Chiyoko Hamada, Ray & Pat Handa, Fred & Dolores Ida, Grace Ishii, Robert & Yoshiko Ito, Taketo & Judy Kawabata, John Kikuyama, Kazu & Fujiko Motobu, Hiromi Suehiro, Eddie & Emily Tamanaha, Robert & Edna Tanna, Ralph Yempuku** and Rocky Matayoshi and his nephew.

### News from our LA Contingent

Many thanks to our good friend, **Mary Karatsu**, who sent us some news about **Jim Fukuzawa's** second hip replacement surgery in May. He seems to be doing just fine although **Doreen** says it's hard to keep him from doing too much. We couldn't get over how fast he bounced back after his first operation—but Jun, we're not getting any younger, so you had better take it easier this time!

The Memorial Day services held at Evergreen on May 27th was well attended. It was good to see the **Sadao Munemori** statue back in place after it had toppled during the earthquake. **Bones and Shiz Fujimoto**, who brought granddaughter **Kelly** for the first time, were there. **George Karatsu** had attended every Veterans Memorial Day service for the past 45-46 years (or whenever it started). His mother represented the Gold Star Mothers for many of those years.

Heard from the **Dois** of Georgia, who were leaving for a European trip. Also, the **Kurodas** and **Roy Greene** have written to say how much they enjoyed the last mini-reunion. Both said they especially enjoyed the Vegas sunshine because they went back to some real cold, snowy weather—they can hardly wait for the next reunion.

On Saturday, June 2, "G" Company met at Sakura of Tokyo in West Covina for lunch. Those able to attend were: **Michi Eguchi**, Bones & Shiz Fujimoto, Jun and Doreen Fukuzawa, Take Handa, George & Mary Karatsu, **Mary Kawabata, Roy & Fumy Machida, Jim & Dorothy Nakagawa, Tom & Sachi Nakamoto, Sue Nishinaka** and **Kay Sekino**. We then adjourned to the Makino's for delicious desserts and an informal meeting.

**Dr. George Hachiya** (Lincoln, NE), who is writing the "G" Co. story, is also a talented fisherman. He called Fumy Machida and said he would be going fishing in Mexico the third week in July and would supply the sashimi if "G" wanted to meet for lunch. (How's that for confi-



dence? We've been promised fish many times that never materialized.) Unfortunately, we couldn't make the lunch at the Machida's but Shiz Fujimoto reports that it was terrific. There was so much food (everyone potlucked it just in case Hachiya got skunked)! But true to his word, there were mounds and mounds of sashimi. Besides the Machidas and Hachiya, others enjoying all of that delicious tuna were Tom & Sachi Nakamoto, Mary Kawabata, Bones & Shiz Fujimoto, Jim & Dorothy Nakagawa, **Eddie & Marie Otsuka, Frank & Hisa Koono, Jim & Masayo Makino and Aiko Yoshida.**

### Last Minute Note

Fred Ida just received information about our next reunion in Las Vegas. He said that date has been changed to March 11, 1997, and a hospitality room will be provided. We will keep you informed about any new development.

### Interesting Episodes from Our G Co. Buddies

A few months ago, I asked a number of our Mainland friends to recollect their experiences while in the Army and send them to me, so that we can all read about them. Three of them were kind enough to sit down and write about their memorable experiences.

**Bob Shoda's Experiences:** While at the 64th General Hospital in Leghorn, Italy, I had a very memorable, and somewhat humorous, experience. Upon entering the 64th General, I was unconscious for several days. On the fifth day, I must have displayed some outward sign of life, and I had a visitor. A Rabbi came to my bedside and quietly asked: "Issac, how are you doing? Do you have any thoughts, or wishes you'd like me to send to your family?" (I found out later my condition was touch-and-go for several hours and the minister was there at my bedside to administer last rites if I went under.) I tried speaking to the minister, but I couldn't. I had multiple facial wounds and my head, for the most part, was encased in bandages—like a mummy. Besides, my jaw was fractured and it was clamped tight with wires. On a note pad, I wrote a message and gave it to the minister to send home. On another sheet of paper I jotted a note to the minister, and asked: "Why did you call me Isaac?" After a moment of silence and rustling of papers, he responded: "According to your medical chart it says your name is 'Bob Isaac Skoda'. Is that correct?" I shook my head and on another sheet I

printed my name, "Bob Isao Shoda". I felt around for my dog-tags, but the chain and tags were missing. I was told my tags were lost somewhere while I was enroute to the hospital. The Rabbi said: "This must be a clerical error. Probably made by some fuzzy-eyed clerk with dumb fingers! But I'll check it out—" He was convinced, however, that I was not Jewish.

Now, everytime I pass a military cemetery, I gaze over the peaceful scenery and I say to myself: "What if the angels had not pulled me out of death's clutches in time? Who knows, I could be lying out there, under the shady pine trees, and blessed with a Star of David on my headstone!"

**Dewey Fukui's Experience:** This occurred to me in Italy, above Carrarra. One morning the company runner came up to me and said that I was going home. At that moment a queer feeling came over me. I told the guys in the squad that I was walking out on them. They kept telling me to go home and not worry about them. I went back to the Regimental Headquarters, but the war in Europe ended shortly. I was sent back to my company. It was good to see my squad and everyone came out all right. I never got to go home.

**Sam Ogawa's Experiences:** This story happened during the formation of the 442nd. There were three of us volunteers walking on the street in Salt Lake City when we met a Nisei who was probably a draftee who had been in the service for a while. His prophecy was that we were stupid to enlist when someday we will be fighting a German division. Well, his prophecy came true when the general from 36th Division pushed 442nd Regiment against a German division in the rescue of the Lost Battalion. It makes me sad to think that so many had to shed blood to satisfy a General's ego.

One other incident that stands out in my mind is the day on Hill 140 where we were pinned down in the hot Italian sunshine. Toward late afternoon we were told to move out. Our squad came up on a little clearing where the Jerries had zeroed in with mortar and machine gun fire. One mortar hit among us and our squad leader took a direct hit. This was the day I learned that you can get scared but followed orders and there were people out there trying to kill you. These things they say we will encounter in training, but it was never like the real thing.

**George Company's Action Report through Hill 140  
by Bill Oda**



(Reporter's Note: We want to thank Bill Oda for the following narrative about G Co. Being the 1st Sgt. and later receiving a commission, he was in a position to see lots of things which many of us in the squads had no knowledge.)

George Co. was first committed to combat north of Rome on June 25, 1944. We departed from a forward assembly area 4-1/2 miles north of Gavarano in Tuscany on the Italian west coast. First contact with the enemy was in patrol action on June 26 during movement north to Massa Maritima.

The following abbreviations will be used in this text for brevity:

KIA - Killed in action  
DOW - Died of wounds received in action  
DOI - Died of injuries received in action  
SWA - Seriously wounded in action  
SIA - Seriously injured in action  
LWA - Lightly wounded in action  
LIA - Lightly injured in action  
MIA - Missing in action  
CAP - Captured by enemy  
RTD - Returned to duty from previously reported casualty status

The listing of "KIA" - Killed in action required statements from the eye witnesses verifying personal knowledge of having seen the individual casualty. Without the two statements, the casualty is listed as MIA with location shown by map coordinates. A Grave Registration Team from the Regimental Headquarters follows routes of companies and locates MIAs from the coordinates given in the daily Morning Reports. The identity of the MIA is verified from dog tags and the company is notified. The status of the casualty is then changed from MIA to KIA.

The June 26 casualties were: **LWA** - Shigeto Niide; **SWA** - Masato Fujita, Takao Ito and Tadashi Kawabata.

Weather in the area during this time of the year was pleasantly warm and dry. The terrain varied from flat to rolling hills. We were dressed in wool O.D. shirts and trousers which seemed to be too much for the mid-day sun. However, sweaty as they became, the wool dried rapidly and was dirt resistant. Also at night sleeping in a fox hole without bedding, the woolens did provide a measure of warmth. Depending upon terrain and existing roadnets, sleeping bags were a second priority after a hot evening meal. It was regimental policy that at least one hot meal a

day would be brought to the front line elements when possible. Unfortunately, this practice was done very seldom.

On June 29, we passed through Castagneto, moving to the outskirts of Cecina to a rest area overlooking the Cecina River. On July 2, we moved from the rest area through the vicinity of Bibona to Casale, meeting no hostile action. During this movement while we were taking a break in a small village, a three-vehicle German convoy drove into the village, unaware of the presence of George Company. The convoy halted in the village when told to halt by one of our men. The Germans, abandoning their vehicles, attempted to flee through the grape vineyards surrounding the village, only to run into the bulk of our company resting in the shadows of the grape vines. A few shots were fired but no one was hit and none escaped. The four Germans, surrounded by an infantry company, readily surrendered. Following disposition of their three vehicles, and an 88mm field piece and the four prisoners to battalion, the company moved on to the vicinity of Castolina.

On July 4 we moved out to attack a hill southwest of Castolina, met stiff resistance and returned to our original position. While in this position, we were subjected to a heavy mortar barrage, lasting an hour and a half.

Casualties that day were six KIA and ten WIA, as follows:

**KIA:** Todd Sakohira, Howard Urabe, Masuto Sakado, William Nakamura, Tsugiyasu Toma, Kaname Enomoto.

**WIA:** Walter Shiigi, Lewis Fukui, Jack Sakamoto, Arthur Tasaka, Michael Hagiwara, Seikichi Oshiro, Kenichi Nishimoto, Bob Maruyama, Lt. Wilbur Blanchard, Lt. Kei Tanahashi.

On July 5 we moved out to and occupied a hill to the north across a shallow valley. Although no rifle fire or close contact with the enemy during this movement, our company was subjected to intense mortar fire and continued to receive mortar and artillery fire after digging in. Casualties sustained were two KIA, five MIA and thirteen WIA, as follows:

**KIA:** Shigeto Niide (who returned from the hospital on June 27 after being LWA on June 26) and Masao Hisano.



**MIA:** Kazuo Goya, Tetsuo Ito, Shinobu Kametani, Leo Kikuchi and Matsuichi Kimura.

**WIA:** Lawrence Takemoto, Edwin Iino, Yoshimasa Yoshiwa, Harry Tanemura, Mitsugi Tagawa, Steve Yagi, Yoshio Ueda, Gary Ishimura, Jacob Yoshimura, Harold Tokeshi, Tsutomu Toyofuku, Tsutomu Sugiyama and Tokue Suzuki.

At 0500 on July 6 we moved onto an occupied hill previously attempted the day before. We were subjected to steady artillery, mortar, sniper and machine pistol fire throughout the day, particularly whenever anyone left his foxhole and moved out into the open. Our objective this date was Hill 140, which overlooked the East-West road into Cassellina. We moved out at 1600 lining up abreast with Easy Company for the first coordinated battalion attack since being committed to combat on June 26. The assembling of the two companies, Easy and George, was made in an area with little or no vegetation cover, all in plain view of the enemy. Earlier, when even a single man leaving the cover of his foxhole brought down a hailstorm of mortar and artillery, this late afternoon assembling of two rifle companies did not prompt any hostile reaction—the silence was eerie. It took several minutes for Easy and George Companies to move into position, align the two companies and initiate the attack at 1630. Precisely the moment that the forward elements of the attacking companies started to move out, machine gun fire from both flanks pinned them as well as the rest of the companies down. That stalled the attack in its track. With two companies pinned down in an area with sparse cover, intense mortar fire began to fall. During that eerie silence before the attack the Germans were occupied in setting up that ambush. The mortar fire was so intense that men lying prone on the ground were being wounded. To continue to stay there would only invite mounting casualties, so the men had to be gotten out of the area. With the two lead platoons receiving the most intense mortar fire, it was difficult to communicate with them, so it was with the reserve platoon to begin movement, evacuating the area and outflank the automatic weapons fire. Seeing the reserve platoon moving out of the area of intense fire, the rest of the company followed. Once the men started to move, speed was of the essence before the automatic weapons could reposition themselves. There must have not been many infantrymen supporting the automatic weapons be-

cause in making a running assault on Hill 140, we received no small arms fire. Hill 140 action resulted in the following casualties: KIA - 1; WIA - 21; LIA - 1; MIA - 2.

**KIA:** Tomiso Okamoto

**MIA:** George Sameshima and Joe Nishimoto

**WIA:** Lt. Floyd White, Lt. John Rock, William Oda, James Adachi, Isami Matsukawa, Sekiji Nakayama, Toshio Numa, Satoru Nomura, Kaoru Noda, James Oda, Kazuto Yoshimitsu, Harold Tsuha, Yoshiomi Mametsuka, Yoshimasa Yoshiwa, Harry Tanemura, Mitsugi Tagawa, Steve Yagi, Yoshio Ueda, Gary Ishimura, Chimata Kimura, Takeshi Takayama and Carl Ogawa.

**LIA:** Henry Chibana

Combat activities during the three days, July 4, 5 and 6, cost a total of 61 casualties. Not counting company headquarters, kitchen and supply overhead personnel, the forward elements of the four platoons numbered 172 men. In 3 days the company forward strength dropped from 172 to 111, which amounts to 35% casualties. It can be said that George Company's introduction to combat was truly a baptism of fire. Most importantly, despite such heavy casualties and attendant loss of firepower, the company continued to function effectively as a rifle company.

The unit discipline displayed was a collective reflection of individual character. Generally, all Japanese families were headed by a strong father figure demanding strict discipline.

So to most if not all Nisei soldiers strong strict discipline was not new and accepted as a matter of fact. Discipline was never a problem from initial recruit days through combat.