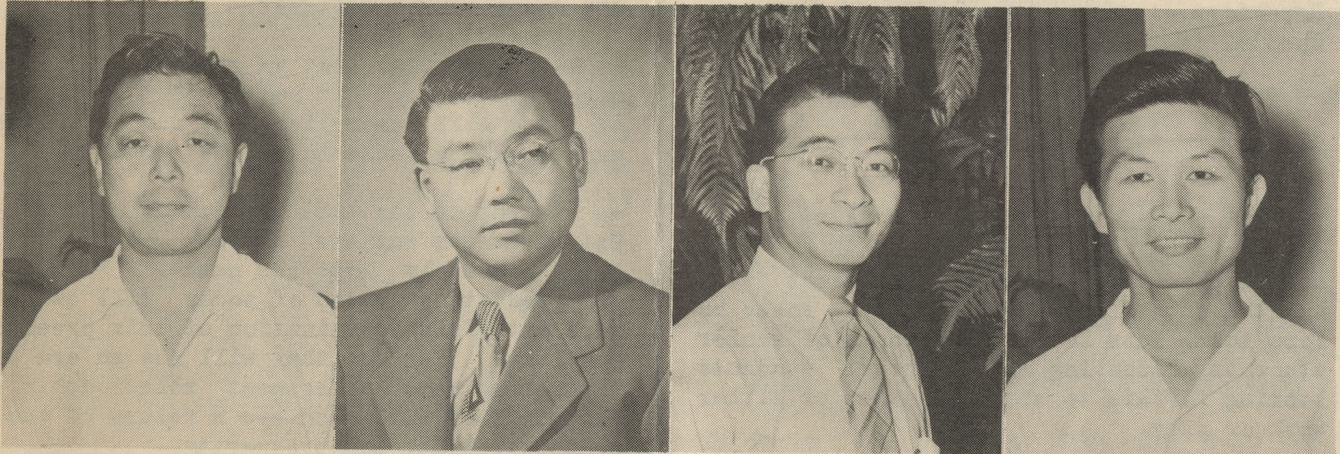




"GO FOR BROKE" 442nd Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 13

June, 1952



JACK KONDO

MITSUO AKIYAMA

JAMES HAMASANI

ISAMU KANEKUNI

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In behalf of the newly elected officers and directors, I wish to thank you, our members, for your faith in us. We ask for your continued cooperation and support as in the past so that we may accomplish the many tasks that lie ahead of us. Let's all pitch in and pull together.

(signed) JACK KONDO
President

JACK KONDO REELECTED PREXY

Three officers, tried and true, were reelected to the posts they held over the 1951-52 term. Heading the club for the 1952-1953 term is smiling, hard-working JACK KONDO. Others reelected at the Hune dinner-meeting at Cafe 100 are: MITSUO AKIYAMA, vice president, and JAMES HAMASAKI, secretary, a testimonial to their ability to lead the club. ISAMU KANEKUNI, former finance chairman, was elected treasurer. Kanekuni replaces WILLIAM THOMPSON who has done a bang up job of keeping the books the past year. Directors elected for a three year term are KUNITO KAMIMURA, AKIRA SATO and RICHARD TAKEMOTO, joining holdover directors, HIDEO KUNIYOSHI and DR. ROBERT M. MIYAMOTO. Outgoing directors are SADA O NISHIDA, ROBERT HATA and TERRY IHARA.

Our THANKS to the outgoing men who have done such a good job. Our GOOD LUCK to the incoming men to whom we look for leadership in the year ahead.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

ATTENTION, ALL MEMBERS. The next dinner-meeting will be held at the Palm Terrace on July 11. Please note: Friday, July 11, the SECOND Friday in July. The change of date from the first to the second Friday is necessitated by the 4th of July celebrations. Installation of our newly elected officers will be the main business for that evening. Wives, girl-friends and special guests are invited to join the members for dinner, for the ceremony and for the dancing which will round out the nite. The club is buying out the Palm Terrace for that nite, Tommy Jitchaku, program chairman, announced, so that we can have a good time in complete privacy. Come one, come all, and be sure to bring your wives and girl-friends!

HONORARY MEMBERS

SATOSHI MORI and YOSHIWO ARIKAWA were voted to honorary membership at the club's June dinner-meeting. Both gave unstintingly of their time and skill in our cemetery project. SATOSHI and YOSHIWO join EARL FINCH & S. K. ODA, bringing our honorary membership to four.

NOTICE: pressure of work has kept several of our reporters from submitting their work. These features will be resumed in subsequent issues. Sorry!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
442ND VETERANS CLUB OF HAWAII

Editor-in-chief.....Dr. Robert M. Miyamoto
Business Manager.....George Kishi
News Editor.....Ryo Shinoda
Sports.....Kiyoshi Sekomoto
Rusty Kamimura
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Photographer.....Tommy Jitchaku
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Reporters.....By Companies
Special features.....William Thompson
Lefty Kuniyoshi
Isamu Kanekuni

EDITORIAL

This is the month of June in the year of our Lord 1952. This is the month of June brides with their beaming and radiant faces and the cute flower girls strewing roses before them. This is also the month of senior students graduating and the other students looking forward to about 3 months of either work or play.

We cannot help but look upon these graduates with a twinge of envy. They have YOUTH and to them nothing seems impossible; they are young and brimming with faith and confidence

It is unfortunate that the present is not any brighter than it appears to most of us. There is the Korean conflict. Although it actually is WAR, some brilliant statesmen have decided to call it a POLICE ACTION. Was it the first or second anniversary of this POLICE ACTION recently celebrated? I can't remember exactly because I keep wondering just how those flat-foots up in that particular front must feel when their buddies keep falling, never to rise again, in this POLICE ACTION.

There is CONFUSION evident everywhere. The SUP calls a strike and 500,000 people in Hawaii are made to suffer - a half million innocent bystanders caught in the grip between the ship-owners and the union. The governor sends an appeal for relief ships and right off the bat he is accused of "cheap propaganda." The steelworkers strike and the President takes over the steel mills only to be batted off his perch by the Supreme Court. The President, in turn, dumps the problem right into the lap of Congress and we again wonder: in an election year, should we expect much more of Congressmen other than to campaign for reelection? AND should the steelworkers get their raise, the management will ask for price increases. Which we feel will be granted since it has ever been thus - and we poor guys are right in the middle again. This results in striking for higher wages which results in increased prices - and

this is where we came in. COULD THIS CYCLE EVER END?

Business is unsettled also. Here in our own little community, we are witnessing a "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS" sale at both Ben Franklin Store and Okamoto Store (Mamo St.) This certainly is not indicative of great economic prosperity in our community. Will the workers there be absorbed by other enterprises or will they have to seek help in the unemployment offices?

It may simply be that we are too old to be more optimistic. It may be that the youth of today will accomplish more than we in the past have been able to do. We hope so!

We fought in the last war and although the United States and its allies won the war, they certainly lost the peace. Perhaps, the graduating youth of today will see a more satisfying termination of this present conflict. Perhaps they will see an era of harmonious labor-management relationship. Perhaps they will soon see a return of economic stability and prosperity.

Maybe in their youth and optimism, they already see these things. Whether they do or not, we wish them the best that is possible with this simple added remark, "Try and show us up!"

NOW WE ASK YOU.....

We have a pretty good county government and officials who, although members of the opposition may violently disagree, manage to spend the county's funds with more than a reasonable amount of sense. They have even managed to keep the roads in this county in pretty fair shape. They have even managed to execute major paving projects such as the recent Kamehameha Avenue job - of course the fact that activity is most energetic just prior to elections should not be construed as "intent to deceive." But even then, it is a blessing that elections are held every two years so that the process of keeping roads in shape is a rather continuous one. Admittedly, they do better than a fair job when one considers the finances of this county.

The Hilo Gas Company also has shown more than outward evidence of being a progressive organization. As of recent years, it has actually managed to eliminate the odorous and noxious fumes emanating from its plant here in town. Their sales office has been converted to an attractive spot and better than that, registers as a friendly spot to the mind of the viewer. This organization has carried on repair work to improve the service to its customers.

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Continued from page 2

Now, it would certainly seem that adding one and one should result in the figure two. It should be so and no other result is possible. Here we have a pretty good county government and a pretty good gas company. Putting the two together should result in something that is also pretty good.

It hasn't resulted as expected. The gas company has been busy digging up roads and except in a few instances such as the work on Haili Street before it was paved, the workers have been seen at their work of digging AFTER the street has been paved. Of course, they patch it up after their work is completed, but the roads still look patched-up after it's finished. True, it is a patched-up job to begin with.

We pray that the two groups will be able to get together and plan their work. There is too much dust and dirt and traffic delays and noise and general discomfort to make it anything but unpleasant.

We realize that gas mains can't be expected to leak only at convenient times. But we are sure that something can be done to make the inconvenience less disagreeable.

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SUMMER CAMP TO BEGIN

Stafford L. Austin, President of the YMCA, has written the club a letter of thanks for our Summer Camp donation: "Your substantial gift of \$450.00 to the YMCA for the purpose of conducting a camp at Hale Aloha for the unfortunate boys of this County is appreciated by me and the Board of Directors of this organization. By your generosity you are helping to make better citizens and helping to put some of our wayward youth back on the right track. This is an outstanding project and we appreciate your kokua in this matter. Kindly visit the boys when they are in Camp as I am sure they will appreciate seeing you. Kindest personal regards and thank you again for your Kokua."

Let's make it a point to visit the camp!!!!

THE QUESTION BOX

- Q: What is the new policy concerning Nat'l. Service Life Ins. premium receipts by VA?
 A: As of Aug 1, 1952, VA will discontinue issuing receipts for government insurance premiums. Therefore, veterans, and wives who usually do the paying, are urged to save cancelled checks and money order receipts. Since no receipt will be issued, it will be entirely up to the insured to prove payment of premiums.
- Q: Will VA continue to mail out notices of premiums due?
 A: Yes. The premium notice (yellow envelopes) will be mailed as in the past.
- Q: When is the 1952 dividend on NSLI be paid?
 A: VA Regional Office, Honolulu, recently announced that the first checks are now being received by veterans in the Territory. Most checks are for policies with anniversary dates falling in January. The 1952 dividends on NSLI is considered payable on the day before the anniversary date of a policy.
- Q: Under the new law, effective July 1st, how many percent will my service-connected disability compensation increase?
 A: Under the new law recently signed by the President, service-connected disability compensation will be increased 5 percent for disabilities in the 10 to 49 percent group, while compensation will be upped 15 percent for those rated 50 to a 100 percent disabled. At present, 10 percent disability rates \$15.00 and a 100 percent disability rates \$150.00.

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WILLIAM Y. THOMPSON married MISS MARJORIE OKA at the Church of the Holy Cross on Sat., June 24. The REV. MASAO YAMADA read the marriage lines. The bride is with the County Engineer's office. The groom is a civil engineer with the Board of Water Supply. WILLIE's goose is cooked - but good! - and we do mean GOOD!

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BENNY TACHIBANA conducted the May 19th meeting with all the aspects of a field general, and DEFENSE HILO was detailed down to near perfection. Club 299th was chosen as the site for the initial evening's fireworks, and Coconut Island the following night. Memorial Day plans preceded DEFENSE discussions.

Our annual Memorial Day project, which was discussed at the last meeting, came through as gallon-size TORCH inscribed cans replaced those of last year at the Veteran's Cemetery. Members contributed flowers and paid tribute to their fallen comrades - SHIZUO MATSUSHITA, JACK TAKAYAMA and JAMES OKAMOTO - and to the late MRS. NOBUO KIMURA.

Our SALUTE of the month goes to our reelected prexy, JACK AKIRA KONDO (Co. G). If ever there was a difficult position to fill, we believe it was the prexyship of the 442nd Club during his past term. Jack unselfishly gave his best and did a magnificent job. We know he will do equally well in the year to come - even better, if that is possible.

PERSONALITIES: GEORGE KISHI operated a mean pen - much more than he does his strong right elbow and smooth Carnegie lips. He did our last two "King's Report.".....If any of you would care to see the most handsome mustache in the world, look up our silent one - yes, none other than AKIRA DOI! His is a beaut of a tickler.....ROBERT ISHIMOTO will be approached for KD-s of the "curves" he left behind before he "parked" on the present one....We saw KEN KIMATA donning an old man's uniform and swinging a mean aged bat. We're still wondering how he bluffed his way into the army when the draft called him up.....PLUMPY HARADA and wife, ROSIE, are tabbed the sweetest couple on this side of the world. They were recently "crowned" King and Queen of the sweet breads. Our most active country member, ROY HIRAOKA, has submitted his subscription to the NEWSLETTER. With the first issue go our "hello" and best wishes for moments of enjoyable reading.... Pau for now.....

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STORK REPORT

MASATO ITOZAKI turned proud father on June 10. His daughter, 5 lbs-13 ozs., arrived at 4:50 AM.

MITSUO TACHIBANA of 693 Kilauea Ave. greeted the stork with a big smile. The stork left a son at exactly 8:23 AM, June 10.

The June 11th editorial of the Honolulu Star Bulletin, "Fitting Record of an Outstanding Achievement," makes us feel proud all over again. For those who missed this message of appreciation of our efforts, the NEWSLETTER quotes in part:

"At Hilo on Memorial Day, residents who went to the Veterans Cemetery to pay tribute to their fallen sons received a little booklet from the 442nd Veterans Club of Hawaii.

It's called "Operation Cemetery" and it tells how, on 14 Sundays, on holidays, on weekday evenings, in fair weather and foul, an average of 75 to 80 members of the club pitched in last fall to give Hilo a Veterans Cemetery worthy of the name.

The story is told in words and pictures and it is an inspiring story of club and community spirit.".....

"Both the mission itself and the booklet reflect credit upon the Hilo club.

As Mitsuo Akiyama, chairman of the Cemetery project, notes in the booklet, "Operation Cemetery" accomplished several things:

It solidified friendships within the club. It gained respect for the club in the community. And it saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

A hearty well done to the men of the 442nd Club of Hawaii, and the community spirited citizens who helped them with this unique project."

Thank you, Honolulu Star Bulletin, for this gratifying message!

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AKIRA SATO, owner of the Hilo Battery & Glass Shop, is the instructing officer for the new "Three-Wheeled Watchdog" which the police department recently acquired. Akira was pictured in the Tribune Herald and tagged "local motorcycle authority." Hey, Big Noise, no!!

Members who were absent at the LOOPSTERS get-together at the Onekahakaha Beach on the night of May 11 missed the GO FOR BROKEShow of all shows. The food was good and drinks were plentiful, but the highlight of the evening was the hidden-in-the-shadow talent that came out and defied the bright rays of incandescent bulbs. One never knows what happens when a microphone is placed in front of you as the following examples will show: Put Bob Hope, Fred Allen and Jack Benny together and the net result will be SEIGO NAGAO. Auwe! A natural who nearly brought down the pavilion rafters! AKIRA SATO was overcome with laughter when he absentmindedly mixed a beer-high instead of a water-high for a guest....AKIRA FUJIMOTO swooned the crowd with a Filipino number erasing Frank Sinatra completely off the map. His wife out-did Rikoran and sent the menfolks to dizzy heights.....He may be a cook, but SHUSO NAKATSU has all the polish of a vaudeville performer. He can joke, sing and - ah, yes - dance a la Arthur Murray style..... Ever seen ATSUO NISHIOKA dance? Well, we found out that his legs are just as educated as those carpentry hands of his.....One thinks that a tailor just sews and mends, but when you mention the name of HARRY TACHIBANA, you're mistaken. Egads, he surprised everyone with a Japanese Ondo - yes, Ondo and not shirts and pants....And who do you think displayed a similar versatility? None other than our little secretary, JIMMY HAMASAKI, who stepped out to do a neat I-wa-ku-ni donce.....STANLEY TAGUCHI, in his silent way, out-did Humphry Bogart. We know why, but we won't tell.....TON HORI can be best compared to movieland's Bugs Bunny - a little better, we think. He was all over the place.....KEN KIMATA and JONAH MORIMOTO can give you any time the indoor effects of their musical ancestors - the bullfrogs.... KUN-CHO MARUO gave TACHIBANA a run for his money. We never thought he could yodle out an Ondo.....STANLEY AKITA put Arthur Godfrey's ukelele presentations to shame..... RUSTY KAMIMURA's "Anniversary Waltz" wasn't quite as mellow as a good bottle of beer. We suspect he had a cold.....Talent galore! The LOOPSTERS certainly have it in them - and we have an idea there's plenty more in the club. Incidentally, RUSTY was general chairman, assisted by GEORGE KISHI who turned out a masterful performance as M.C. (Carnegie pays off.)

SOUND ADVICE: Our guest speaker for the June dinner-meeting held at Cafe 100 was HAYATO TANAKA, first 442nd veteran to run for the Board of Supervisors. He was formerly with the 100th Bn. His message urged "Get at the business of defending our county from within by learning and practicing the art and science of government."

The NEWSLETTER is rapidly gaining a reputation for getting around and for making friends. Here's what our old friend, Mr. Frank Ochs, has to say: "The Newsletter is a fine medium through which to keep in touch with what the men in Hilo are doing and so I enclose a dollar to insure my receiving it in the future. I would bring the buck in to the next dinner meeting, as you suggest, but for the doggone miles between you and me"

Mr. Ochs is also getting his money's worth by having his say, this in regard to the Pro and Con question on Political participation contained in the April issue: "I pass along my feelings on political activities for what they may be worth. I agree that individuals should be interested and active in politics as individuals but as a club, No, for the very good reasons expressed by your Mr. Teizo Sumida and Mr. Hideo Sugihara." We hope Mr. Ochs will continue to say his piece anytime he feels like it.

Members will remember Mr. Frank Ochs and his article, "Prove you Are An American - They Did," reviewed in the January issue of the NEWSLETTER. He is a member of the Naval Historical Foundation and an associate member of the U. S. Naval Institute. He is now an associate member of the 442nd Association in New York.

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BERT MITSUNAGA, chairman of the Red Cross Mop-up Drive Committee reported that \$581.87 has been collected and forwarded to the Red Cross Office to date. He stated that other collections would be reported in soon. He thanked the members for the wonderful support given by the members to make the drive a success.

P. O. Box 982
Hilo, Hawaii

OCCUPATION - GHEDI, LECCO AREA

June, 1945

June, 1945, saw the elements of the Combat Team come to the parting of the ways. The 442nd Inf. Regt, 522nd Field Art. Bn., 232d Eng. Combat Co., and 206th AGF Band, all made up of young Nisei volunteers, had formed the 442d Regimental Combat Team that had gone through war together. The 522d had been left in France. The Band was attached to the IV Corps and left Ghedi Airfield for Milan on June 9. The Engineers left Ghedi for Florence.

After almost a month of processing the surrendering German Army in Italy, the Combat Team again folded its tents and packed up for movement on June 14 for another assignment. By truck convoy made up of American and confiscated German vehicles, the outfit journeyed to Lecco, 61½ miles from Ghedi. The battalions bivouaced in Lecco.

The 442nd was designated as Category I, to be retained for continued service in the Mediterranean Theatre, and reverted to the control of the 5th Army. An extensive army education and recreation program was proposed for personnel of the regiment, with opportunities to participate in unit schools, technical schools, army and foreign universities, and on-the-job-training courses. The men prepared for a pleasant stay in the beautiful lake country of northern Italy. Excursions to the famous resort of Como to enjoy the many lakes that abound in that section were begun. But on June 19, after only five days of anticipation of a "good deal," the bubble broke; the 442nd was designated as a category II unit to be transferred to the Pacific or Asiatic Theatre. The war came close to the Unit again, and a full training program was instituted to prepare for operations against Japan.

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