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As we trained, the 100th Battalion visited Camp Shelby and rumors were rampant that it would be merged with the 442nd for final training and maneuvers before we all left together for combat in Italy. The younger GIs of the 442nd from Hawaii were especially hopeful that they would be reunited with their older brothers and friends with whom they had grown up in the Pacific Territory.

But the Army wanted to see how the Nisei from Hawaii would react in actual warfare, particularly since they had not been subjected to the tragedy of evacuation, exclusion, imprisonment, and relocation that had been the hard lot of the mainland Nikkei.

So, the 100th was shipped off to North Africa where it was attached to the 34th "Red Bull" Division of Iowans and Nebraskans. Later, in battles at the Volturno River, Rapido River, Cassino, Anzio beachhead, and the liberation of Rome, the 100th first earned the respect of their fellow Americans as the Purple Heart Battlaion.

There is no doubt in my mind that, had it not been for the tremendous battle record achieved by the 100th Infantry Battalion, we in the 442nd might not have been sent into combat. There were already many racists and hate-mongers in California and elsewhere, fearful that the 442nd volunteers might duplicate the gallant feats of the 100th, who were then proposing that the Army relegate the 442nd to training and other duties in the Interior Zone, that is in the United States, or "break up" the combat team and assign its members to logistical support organizations overseas, etc.

The exemplary training records of both the 100th and the 442nd caused the War Department and the Selective Service to reinstate normal registration and classification procedures for those of Japanese ancestry, inducting those who qualified even though most were still involuntary inmates of the WRA camps.

This military service requirement was reinstituted in the fall of 1943. The constitutional rights of the inductees and their families, however, remained abridged.

Just after completing maneuvers in Texas and Louisiana in final preparations for embarkation to the combat zone, many of us suffered our most humiliating experience as American GIs. Many, including one of my four brothers in the 442nd, wanted to return to camp to say "goodbyes" to their mothers and family members, for too many had premonitions of never returning alive to see their loved ones again.

Before they could leave, they had to secure clearances from the Western Defense Command, of the same Army to which they belonged. When they arrived at the Defense Command's jurisdiction, they were given escorts of Military Police wearing the same uniform as they. At the point of entry into

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the detention camps, while their parents and friends often looked on, they were body searched, again by MPs, some with lower ranks than those they were inspecting. My brother was so humiliated that he simply turned around and left the area, not seeing my aged mother at all. That brother was KIA and today lies buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In any event, in May 1943, the 442nd was finally sent overseas, minus its First Battalion. The 100th had suffered so many casualties in Italy that it required as replacements our First Battalion. And, just north of Rome, they joined the 442nd as the 100th Battalion of the 442nd Infantry Regiment.

The 442nd Combat Team was now composed of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 552nd Field Artillery Battalion, the 232nd Combat Engineer Company, and the 206th United States Army Band. It too was attached to the 34th Infantry Division.

The 442nd first saw combat just north of Rome on Hill 140, then moved northward to liberate Belvedere, Luciano, Leghorn, and the Arno River in Italy as part of the Fifth Army under General Mark W. Clark. Then, as part of the Seventh Army under General Jacob Devers, attached to the 36th "Texas" Infantry, the 442nd participated in the invasion of Southern France and the drive north into the German heartland through the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France that had proved so troublesome to the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, liberating the key rail and truck center at Bruyeres and then rescuing the Lost Battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment of the 36th Texas Division. In that rescue effort, the 442nd lost so many troops that it was placed in reserve to guard the Maritime Alps between France and Italy while replacements from stateside were coming over.

Recalled then to Italy to spearhead the final drive to victory on that rugged peninsula, the 442nd, minus its Field Artillery, drove on to La Spezia, Massa, Carrara, and Genoa, bringing to a close the Italian "under belly" campaign that never was provided the necessary arms and men to destroy more quickly the withdrawal genius of the German General Kesselring who took advantage of the rugged terrain to slow the Allied advance of the Fifth Army. In this last campaign, the 442nd was attached to the 92nd Buffalo Division, the segregated Negro Infantry organization which served in the European Theater.

In addition, it should be noted that the Anti-Tank Company was attached to the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team for the glider invasion of Southern France and, after V-E Day, various components of the 442nd served in the Allied Occupation of Austria.

Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Northern Apennines, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Po Valley were the official designations for the seven campaigns in which the 100th and the 442nd participated with such distinction. The 100th Infantry fought as a separate entity only in the Naples-Foggia and part of the Rome-Arno campaigns. Thereafter, it was the 100th Battalion of the 442nd Infantry Regiment.

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Of more than passing interest--to me at least--is that the 552nd Field Artillery Battalion, after being detached from the 442nd and participating in the Seventh Army's ultimate drive into Germany itself, was the first American troops to reach the infamous Dachau genocide camp and to begin to release its holocaust victims.

What irony, and what implications, that GIs from American-style concentration camps helped liberate the near-dead of one of the most notorious concentration camps of Hitler's "final solution" to the so-called "Jewish problem" of Nazi tyranny.

Was The Price Paid Too High

In some two and a half years of some of the most vicious fighting in the Mediterranean and European Theaters, the 100th and the 442nd Infantry together earned a total of some 18,143 individual decorations, together with the impressive unit citations mentioned earlier. The total included one Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 588 Silver Stars with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of additional Silver Star medals, 5,200 Bronze Stars, with 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters, 22 Legion of Merit medallions, 19 Soldiers' Medal, 14 Croix de Guerre, several Italian decorations for military valor, and other official decorations, citations, and awards.

But the most touching and remembered is a small silver plaque purchased by the rescued Texans out of their own pockets, engraved with the Army ensignia for the 141st Infantry Regiment, the 36th Texas Division, and the 442nd Infantry Regiment, and with the succinct words of gratitude: "442nd Infantry Regiment--With Deep Sincerity and Upmost (sic) Appreciation--For the Gallant Fight To Effect Our Rescue--After We Had Been Isolated for Seven Days--1st Bn, 141st Infantry Regiment--Biffontaine, France--From 24th to 30th October 1944". The rescued Lost Battalion GIs also honored the 442nd by designating all of us as Honorary Texans.

But, in winning these many decorations and citations, the volunteers of the 442nd paid a tremendous price. As Vinegar Joe Stilwell, a general's general, put it: "Japanese American soldiers bought an awful hunk of America with their blood."

The price that just the men of the 442nd paid as measures of their devotion to America was in a casualty rate of some 300% of its original regimental strength, paid off in the 680 killed in action and numbering 9,486 Purple Hearts, many with more than one and some with as many as four Oak Leaf Clusters, for combat sustained wounds and injuries.

That we of the 442nd and MIS were willing to undergo the special discriminations of the Army simply to be accepted by the military and to suffer the great losses which we did both in Europe and the Pacific as volunteers, was because we wanted to demonstrate under the most adverse and difficult of situations that the loyalty of the American Japanese is as dedicated,

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unequivocal, and undivided as those of any other ethnic and/or racial minority in the United States.

Most of us easily recall that the Army and the then President of the United States claimed to be able to differentiate between the loyal and disloyal German Americans and Italian Americans but could not in the case of Japanese Americans.

Were we in the 442nd deliberately used as "suicide" troops, as expendable personnel, as some have suggested on the basis of our extraordinarily high casualties in wounded and killed in action? Or, did we consider ourselves as Kamikaze troops, willing as did so many Japanese soldiers to destroy ourselves deliberately in attempts to defeat the enemy?

As to the latter, there is no doubt in my mind that we Nisei GIs valued our lives and would not deliberately plan to be killed in order to take a certain objective. We were willing to "Go For Broke" to achieve military goals, but that did not denote any lack of respect for human life, whether on our own part or that of the enemy. We were willing, as the record so clearly shows, to risk our lives when necessary to gain a particular objective but not to take unnecessary gambles. While it was vital that we accomplish our purpose in the military, it was even more important that we survive in order to assure that what we fought for would not be ignored, overlooked, or forgotten in the peace to follow.

As to the former, that the Army diabolically used us as "suicide" troops, or even as "expendable" individuals, I would protest most vehemently. As cruel, inhuman, and arbitrary as the Army may be at times, as it was in 1942 in its relations with the Japanese population of the West Coast, the armed forces of the United States would never resort to such uncivilized and barbaric behavior. Such depravity is not in the American tradition, even in wartime.

My personal belief is that the 442nd was committed to so many dangerous missions, such as spearheading an Army advance or going to the relief of endangered American troops, because the commanding generals had such great confidence and high respect for our capabilities and spirit, which--in one sense--could be considered a rare compliment to us and our battle record, especially since a few in the War Department who had so much to do with our evacuation and subsequent agonies were not inclined to allow us our vindication as red-blooded Americans.

A buddy of mine, Sergeant Joe Itagaki, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, volunteer from Hawaii, who was later elected Territorial and then State Senator, bragged to me, "We simply are the best. The Army knows that it can count on us to 'Go For Broke' against any enemy position, even those considered impossible by others. And, we've always come through, regardless of the cost. So, why shouldn't the Army call on us whenever it needed the best. It's simply good military strategy."

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Was the price we paid, again in casualties and killed in action, too high? Kats Kunitsugu, once a youngster volunteer who fought with the 442nd, now a much respected journalist businessman, and city planner in Los Angeles, put it this way: "The Nisei soldier's answer to prejudice was to turn the other cheek. To the Vietnam generation, for whom rights go before obligation, the price paid by the 442nd may seem too high. But never let us forget that the price was paid, and we the survivors and the ensuing generations of Japanese Americans owe the boys a debt of gratitude for their sacrifices that can never be adequately repaid."

For me, and others of goodwill, all Americans owe an eternal debt to the 442nd, for no price is too high to pay for dignity, freedom, and opportunity. We evacuees who had lost these attributes of Americanism in World War II know and appreciate their value. And we shall live in and with our lives that "Go For Broke" spirit.

It is also up to this Subcommittee, and this Congress, to make certain that the price we paid on the battlefields of World War II is not in vain; that while the cost of freedom is never cheap, Congress will redeem those willing to pay the price with their just rewards, in this instance enactment of H.R. 4110.

Organization Of "Go For Broke, Inc."

After returning to civilian life in the mid and late forties many Japanese American veterans wanted to help translate their unprecedented war record into significant and substantive meaning, to make certain that the proof of their battle honors would be recognized and the destiny of all of Japanese background in the United States would forever be assured equally with all other Americans.

With that intent, many joined the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the various other national, regional, and even "divisional" organizations, as well as participating in the activities of other civic and patriotic associations, such as the JACL, Rotary International, Lions, and the like, including ethnic affiliations of American Japanese veterans.

But, each of these organizations had agendas of their own and none would--and could--establish a national entity to combine and coordinate the efforts of all concerned Japanese American war veterans into making reality the ideals, aspirations, and even the dreams which compelled us to demand and then to volunteer for military action against the enemies of the United States.

Thus was born the umbrella arrangement "Go For Broke, Inc.", the self-identified National Nisei Veterans Organization, which was incorporated under the laws of the State of California a few years ago as a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational, charitable, and fraternal association of all American veterans and others who believe in our principles and objectives.

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In the main, these are to maximize and coordinate the efforts to secure the rights, privileges, and opportunities for our members and other Nikkei that most other Americans are entitled to as a matter of our birth-right and to disseminate as widely and as permanently as possible the heroic and selfless saga of the Japanese American war veteran who, under the unique and unprecedented circumstances of World War II, performed so gallantly that those actions should be used to inspire generations yet unborn to the "miracle" of American democracy.

Our hope is that our efforts as GFB will insure that no American--individually or as a minority group--in another time of hate and hysteria, will ever have to endure the indignities and humiliations to which we were subjected at a time when all of our courts were in operation, not to mention the tremendous loss of property and the "inalienable rights" to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" guaranteed all free-born Americans by the Declaration of Independence.

In short, we are dedicated to the understandable proposition that our veterans of Japanese ancestry who made the "supreme sacrifice" in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Grenada, will not "have died in vain".

As might be expected, by far most of our members are veterans of the Great War that engaged our nation from late 1941 to mid-1945. They now reside in all sections of the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska.

Generally speaking, being an educational association, GFB does not engage in lobbying, or advocacy, as such. Nevertheless, in this particular instance, we feel that we have no choice except to resort to the constitutional prerogative of "petitioning the Congress for the redress of our grievances". Happily, the instant bill, H. R. 4110, meets most of the objectives for which GFB was organized.

We are particularly pleased with the educational aims of the legislation and trust that the several amendments which we have proposed will be written into law, i.e. (a) the creation of a permanent exhibition in the National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution honoring the contributions of the 100th, the 442nd, and MIS in World War II, (b) the building of a national monument as public tribute and reminder to the sacrifices of the Japanese American volunteers in World War II, and (c) the authorization of a permanent depository or archives for the records, documents, artifacts, memorabilia, etc., of Nisei veterans in World War II.

What greater and more inspirational educational examples to the viability of the American system can there be than those we are proposing. Individual compensation is justified and needed, but within a few years such token payments will be forgotten. If what is proposed is to be a constant reminder that a repetition of what happened to us, should not be tolerated, then we respectfully advocate the program that we have outlined for favorable and prompt consideration.

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Supplemental Information

Earlier this spring, a special film featuring the exploits of the 442nd was presented on the cable television that is available to all members of the House of Representatives, through arrangements made by Congressmen Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui, both of whom are members of the Honorary Committee of GFB, together with Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, with the late General Mark W. Clark as Honorary Chairman.

Produced by Loni Ding of San Francisco's Asian American Film Association, this 30-minute motion picture depicts the background and the actions of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and is titled "Nisei Soldier: Standard Bearer For An Exiled People". Hopefully, members of this Committee and many other National Representatives were able to see this rather remarkable film, even though some of us would quarrel with the statements of some of those interviewed, much of which--no doubt--was taken out of context.

Last mid-November, GFB arranged for its exhibit on the battle record of the 100th, 442nd, and MIS to be displayed in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building. Arrangements were made by Congressman Mineta. Again, hopefully, many members, including Senators, were able to see this inspiring exhibition of Americana at its best.

Similar exhibits were held at the Presidio of San Francisco, ironically almost next door to the former offices of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command who was most directly responsible for the evacuation program, at the Capitol Buildings in Sacramento, California, and Little Rock, Arkansas, at the Arizona Battleship Memorial at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, the Los Angeles County museum, and many other government and public buildings, including military installations.

The two explanatory papers for the San Francisco exhibit, "Go For Broke" and "Yankee Samurai: America's Secret Weapon In World War II", are appended to this Addendum for informational reasons.

Finally, GFB desires to present with its compliments, to the eight distinguished members of the Subcommittee, as well as to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the five members of the Committee from the State of California, and selected members of the staff its 172-page pictorial epic of the 100th and 442nd entitled "Go For Broke", authored by Chester Tanaka, now the Executive Secretary of the GFB organization.

An attorney at law by education, he is now a master book and magazine designer in San Francisco. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he was one of the few volunteers for the 442nd who was not a victim of evacuation. Tanaka served with K Company in the Infantry Regiment and assumed temporary command of that rifle company during the rescue of the Lost Texas Battalion in the fall of 1944

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when its complement was reduced from 187 riflemen to 17 and no officers were left to take charge. One of the first to contact the Lost Battalion, he has earned the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. He is also one of the few original 442nd volunteers to survive all six of the Team's campaigns in Italy and France.

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