

for our tour. She conducted group singing on our bus and held a musubi birthday party for ISHIBASHI.



by ALLEN NAKAMURA

Mini-Reunion '94

Received a letter from "FUDGE" KITAGAWA of Seal Beach, CA, that she was compelled to write on some of the goings on at the super get-together at Las Vegas. Altho' I was there for the first time ever at the mini-reunion, it is always nice to have expressions of others of the event.

Her assessments of PAUL K. & GENNY MATSUMOTO having worked hard at the reunion are very real. Every accolade forwarded to them for organizing this venture are well deserved. However, her quote that she heard they finally will receive some relief has far more reaching effects than she realizes. P.K. made announcement at the banquet that this will be the last time they will handling the mini-reunion. He cited that GENNY, whom we all know as someone that always gets involved when it comes to work, gave her all to the success of the hospitality room, has finally reached the exclamation point that a body can only have so much energy to give and endure only so much pressure and work. We all understand GENNY - thanks for your dedicated hard work for the enjoyment of so many these past years!

This mini-reunion certainly can be classified as one of the more exciting one's held in Las Vegas the past 3 years with the presence of San Francisco's KPIX-Channel 5 TV reporter WENDY HANAMURA and her producers, MICHELLE RIDDLE and JOAN SHAFFA and TV cameraman. They were there to interview the Company L veterans for part of their documentary "Honor Bound," a personal story of S/Sgt. HARUO "HOWE" HANAMURA's service in Company L.

Modest "HOWE" is very reluctant to be placed in the spotlight as related by daughter WENDY. As GENRO KASHIWA in his many phone calls from WENDY and MICHELLE on the project stated to me: "Hey! We gotta help HOWE." Help is what he got as the guys there were more than willing to be interviewed on their wartime experience and with loads of photographs, etc. The project worked out better then expected to everyone's relief. Altho' not present for this even, MARIKO NOBORI (TAY NOBORI's grandniece) is also an associate producer for KPIX.

Talk about bad timing - it couldn't have been worse for GENRO. On the night of departure, I received a phone call from him, asking me to bring his photo album and other memorabilia he had from WENDY's project as he's bleeding again and that he had to go to the hospital. Of all the rotten luck as he was so worked up on going. "HOWE" was in his 1st platoon. GENRO was hospitalized earlier for diverticulitis, the culprit for his bleeding. He recovered well enough from his latest illness and was able to leave for Bruyeres with MURIEL on the 2nd Battalion Special Tour on September 29, where he'll finally get-together with HOWE, WENDY, and rest of the TV crew.

JIRO & FLORA WATANABE had to cancel their trip as I learned at Las Vegas that he is now on & off the oxygen tank. LARRY & BARBARA TAKAI of Sacramento canceled also as LARRY had undergone a by-pass surgery. Our prayers and best wishes for quick recovery to you both. BEN SUGAWARA who also dropped out but we welcomed his sister RUTH OKADA in his place with KIKI.

Room 203 - Four Queen's Hotel/Casino

All activities were centered in this hospitality room. Securities at this hotel/casino is very tight, that a room key must be shown before you'll be allowed to enter the elevator to go to the rooms. The first-timers at Four Queens must be impressed with the security systems. Most of the interviews were held in this room by WENDY, MICHELLE, and JOAN. I believe that First Sergeant TAKERU IJIMA, who incidentally is now

an associate member of the 442nd VC having paid \$6 to receive the bulletin, together with JACOB JICHAKU, who arrived a day earlier and left a day early and TOSHI NAKAHARA were interviewed at length separately.

The hi-lite of the project, the TV interview, came on the morning of the last day held at the lower level Magnolia Restaurant with the following on camera: HARUO "HOWE" HANAMURA, BEN KITAGAWA, SAMIKARI, KEN NIHEI, ART KOURA, LAWRENCE FUJII, RICHARD FURUKAWA, CASEY KASADATE, HIDEO HIGA, TOSHIO NAKAHARA, & PAUL K. MATSUMOTO. This one-hour documentary will air on January 1, 1995 and will be accompanied by a week of special reports on Channel 5's Eyewitness News, San Francisco, and possible PBS distribution nationwide in May, 1995.

I asked TOSHI what were some of the questions that were asked that I can put in my article. He being a jovial and always with the innocent look, complied with a list of questions, after all, we sat together on the plane coming over, watching over each other's mischief - big deal! Ha!

TOSHI's contributions:

Reaction of me on December 7, 1941? - I never knew it was Japan attacking Hawaii.

Why I volunteered and that attitude of my parents on the issue?

Why my younger brother was told by me to stay home and look after my parents? - I told him later to volunteer as I did, 'cuz his friends did the same.

How the buddhaheads and kotonks acted towards each other during basic training and at the front?

How did the kotonk get this name and why the buddhaheads were called buddhaheads?

Explain the last push on the gothic line before embarking in the evening at midnight.

Hospitality Rooms & Dis & Dat

It's always nice to renew ole' acquaintances again. It was especially good to see that HIDE KIYOMURA and SACHI IZUMI, who lost their spouses, MERRY KIYOMURA & ELBERT IZUMI

recently, were able to make it to the mini-reunion. We want to thank SACHI for her generous \$100 donation towards the hospitality room expenses and \$100 to "L" Chapter, 442nd VC. We were also happy to see MARY HIGA who had surgery on her knee and BETTY KISHIMOTO who had a stroke to be among us. Both needing wheelchair assistance to board the plane.

Conversations shared is knowledge gained. This is exactly what happened as we learned of the great and happy event that took place for MEL & KIYONO TOMINAGA of Kensington, CA. They celebrated their Golden Anniversary this past year. Congratulations on your special occasion, MEL & KIYONO! Not too good news from ART KOURA of Bainbridge Island, WA., is that because of pollution, clam digging is now tabu.

We also found out that BEV YAMAMOTO of Hollywood, CA, had a mastectomy. I called JUN on my return home from the mainland to follow up on BEV's condition. JUN related that she is on her last chemotherapy treatment from her surgery in May and that she is much better now. JUN having organized a cruise trip earlier this year to coincide with the Bruyeres event, has BEN & FUDGE KITAGAWA and SHIG & ROSE YOKOTE among the 68 in his group. MARY KAMINISHI of Gardena, CA who had a massive stroke just about the time of the 50th Anniversary Celebration that had MINO cancel his registration, is now a walker but is unable to speak.

Another casualty at this reunion, as we learned on departure day from TAK HASHIMURA, is that RUTH is hospitalized in Las Vegas. RUTH, who had contracted pneumonia prior to the reunion, evidently wasn't fully recovered. Doctor's recommendation is that she should be in the hospital a few days longer, rather than take the long route home on the car. The HASHIMURAS drove to Las Vegas.

YOSHIJI AOKI, who has been troubled by a sore back for quite sometime, after a series of different doctor's opinions, finally had a micro-surgery done on his lower back on September 19 to relieve the pain after his return from Las

Vegas. The surgery was a success and he recuperated very well, as he is now able to attend chapter meetings. VICTORYAMASHITA, a faithful congregational church member, who had many anxious moments from a troubling benign tumor and painful shingles in the groin area and having endured interval hospital stays, it was thrilling to say the least to see he & TIMMY at the Cole Porter music show at the Weinberg Memorial Hall, DAV, evening of October 29. Both YOSHIJI and VICTOR look extremely healthy now. Our sincere good wishes and warmest thoughts to all for early recovery and good health.

TAYNOBORU of Berkeley, CA -this is one guy needed at every reunion. We missed him at the 50th Anniversary as he had by-pass surgery at that time. He is well now and present at this mini-reunion. The result? We had an impressive 442nd, 50th Anniversary banner taped on the wall in the hospitality room with O'Conner Task Force, Rescue Lost Battalion, Mt. Folgorito, and Co. "L" remembers on the banner. Because of limited space in the room, the banner wasn't as large as the 40th Anniversary banner he brought over to Honolulu. All the more amazing is that the banners he never fails to have at reunions are done free hand by him, all imagining and creations are his works!

Musubi, Musubi

Room 203 was buzzing with all the interviews while the unsung heroines, the wives, were busy in their kingdom, the bathroom transformed into a makeshift kitchen headed by GENNY MATSUMOTO preparing all kinds of pupus and endless rows of quaint oishi musubi wrapped with nori. Taking a page from an old adage "Battles cannot be won on an empty stomach," the wives saw to it that there'll be no shortage of - you guessed it - musubi to properly conduct interviews! Maybe I was impressed by the numbers, but believe me, the wives must have cooked a ton of rice. A larger rice cooker could have been a godsend. On GENNY's request, no wives names will be published as they all contributed. So - thank you ladies, you deserve the

best, such as a luscious dinner at an exquisite dining room?

A rarity in pupus made a appearance of the table. RAY ORITE of Sacramento had made "uri" from his mother's special homemade recipe - "uri" we know as narazuke. It was mouth watering to say the least that was a perfect combination to go with the musubi.

There were other oishi gochiso that I hope my notes are accurate. If perchance that it is not correct, I offer my apologies so please no huhu! GENNY MATSUMOTO had maki sushi, mochi, imitation crab, cookies & arare. Marshall Field's Frango from SACHI IZUMI. Dried fish (Ika) from MAS SAKAGAMI. BEN SUGAWARA sent over salted salmon. KEN HIGASHI's salmon roe to go with hot rice & sanbai zuke. SAM IKARI's roast beef and salami, GEORGE DOI's coffee, genmai tea, salami, peanuts, pistachios, beef & turkey jerky; SEIJI IMAMURA's Courvoisier and J.B. Whiskey; TOM MORI's Cyndi's manju, beef jerky, char siu, salami, dried apricot, and layered rice; LARRY TAKAI's Japan nashi; HIRO NISHIKUBO's juicy and mouth watering S. Calif. pears; Amos Cookies from BEN KITAGAWA; SHIG KIZUKA's candy pretzels; KEO TAKABAYASHI's (who asked for BILL OSHIRO) & GEORGE KOMATSU's senbei (fortune cookies); McNuts from CHICKIE SUMIDA; MARGARET KLEEGER's pretzels; TAK HASHIMURA's pistachio nuts, AKI MINAMIDE's 2 watermelons; BILL TOMURA's cashew nuts and name tags (valued at \$100). Kim chee made an appearance also!

Thank to Las Vegas residents, FRANK & FRANCES NOMURA and part-time residents TOM & YO MORI who were responsible for the purchase of beers, soda, juice, etc. Info from P.K. is that these guys refused to be reimbursed for their purchases. The So. Calif. group led by HIRO NISHIKUBO also brought loads of beer, sodas, juices, etc. TOMIO MUKAI of Seattle donated \$50 for expenses. There were bottles of liquor and other pupus that I was not quite able to identify the donors. MAHALO NUI LOA to all you good friends!

It was quite a sight to witness the parade of

guys carrying loads of leftover beer, soda, etc. to FRANKNOMURA Infiniti and TOMMORI's BMW in the parking area, much to the delight and humorous remarks from the casino's patrons. After all, it would have been a real humbug to lug it all the way to Honolulu!

Golf

The golfers, under steaming high 90's temperature, played at Sahara course on the first day with ISA TAKIYAMA coming in with low gross. FRANKNOMURA, TOMINOUE & JOEY ISHIHARA came in with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd low net. The 2nd day play was at the Las Vegas course with ROBERT SASAKI having low gross. MATSY TAKABUKI & WALLY KAWAMURA came in with low nets on scampi info received. BETTY WAKAMATSU was the only wahine golfer.

Banquet

The elegant Four Queens Hotel & Casino banquet hall held the finale of the mini-reunion activities. PAUL MATSUMOTO had arranged for the Nevada Hawaiian Quartet for the evenings entertainment. This is the quartet that plays regularly for love at the California Hotel for the many Hawaii groups that organizes reunions, etc. They have a lovely lead singer in LANI, a yonsei who's a hostess at Treasure Island's coffee shop, the home of Buccaneer Treasure Island outdoor show. STANLEY "OLD MAN" TAKEMOTO of Torrance, CA, a former islander himself, provided the lone karaoke performance of the evening for the pleasure of the diners. By the way, he brought the karaoke equipment all the way from Torrance - quite a guy, this STANLEY. Love of music and singing must've kept him spry all these years!

There was an abundance of leftover donations of all kinds of items given away as prizes to nearly everyone. The winners list is too long to mention. So all you lucky winners, one big congrats! All the tables had individual white caps with "L" Company, Las Vegas 1994, 442nd RCT which we learned were compliments from the LA group who were in attendance for this

event. I thought it was strange that SAM IKARI was collecting cash from only the LA group during the performance of the Nevada Hawaiians. It turned out that they had collected \$200 plus as an appreciation to the musicians. I understand that they also made sizable donations for prizes in past reunions. Some generous this group!

WENDY HANAMURA, par excellence TV news reporter, gave an eloquent speech at the banquet which had a familiar message of the 51st Anniversary banquet's "Talk to me, Dad." WENDY related her years of accompanying her father to the 442nd reunions in Hawaii, and hearing wartime stories, that her greatest dream is to capture the camaraderie and spirit of the 442nd for television. While visiting my son LLOYD in Fremont, CA after the mini-reunion, I had the chance to see WENDY on the TV on the news hour.

WENDY's inspiring speech

"Probably many of you wondered what's going on with all the camera and everybody taking notes, so I just want to explain what we're working on. Everybody has a cross to bear. My father's cross to bear is the fact that his daughter ended up as a television reporter. And about 3 years ago, I was a correspondent in Tokyo working for Today's Japan and other shows, but the show got canceled and I was without a job in Tokyo. I thought to myself, 'If I could do anything in the world, what would I do?'"

It occurred to me that what I really wanted to do was to tell my father's story - not because my father is great, but to tell the story of you, the 442nd. Because like you I have grown up hearing these stories, when I went to the first reunion in Honolulu in 1968 and back again in 1979 and met DONKEY, and TOSHIO although they called him by a different name at that time and JAKE and others. I grew up hearing my father's stories about how they stole the potatoes from the Germans, carried it into the middle of battle - these great stories but my father never told me the story of fear, or the pain of seeing your friends die, or even the stories of what it was like

being wounded in a battle - what it felt like to have 800 of your buddies get hurt or killed to save 200 others. I had to learn those stories from the history books, from other books, and from a few documentaries that had been done.

I thought to myself that the real stories have yet to be told - the story of all of you. It was my dream to capture the stories. But I've got to tell you, this is my secret, my father doesn't really like it - 'I'm not a hero, I didn't do anything great, I was just foot soldier' and as I talked to many of you this week, you told me the same thing - 'aw, we didn't do anything great, t'was nothing, it was just the time, it was just what we had to do.' But I think you are wrong, you are all part of a very special moment in history that you are the authors of. All of these stories are so important, and in many ways, because of what you did, you changed the course of history. I just interviewed the historian named ERIC SAUL, many of you know him, and he said that because of the 442nd, we have redress; because of the 442nd, RONALD REAGAN signed a bill apologizing to all Japanese Americans; because of the 442nd, you can be a television reporter in 1994; because if you hadn't proved that Japanese Americans are American, no one would want to see you on television, no one would let your kids enter the best colleges in America, it's true, you guys changed history, and that's the story we need to tell. So I thank all of you who have taken the time out of your busy week to talk to me, to MICHELLE, to JOAN and share with us your stories, and your pictures, and your spirits because all I really hope to do is capture something real, something in the bond that you guys feel for each other that brings you guys together year after year, and I feel if I can capture some of that, it will be worth it.

I have a 2-year old son, his name is JONATHAN THOMAS HARUO OKAGAKI, he's a real grandfather's boy. And I know, although my father doesn't want us to focus on the documentary, he doesn't feel like telling the story to everybody, his heart does want his grandchild to know. Probably you do too. To tell the story, you are not telling it for yourself, you are telling it to

your children, your children's' children, and their children's' children so that they will know. There won't be a footnote in history if they had to read it in history books. If they can hear it in your own words, and I wish I could tell every one of your stories, you have tremendous stories, I wish I had 100 hours of television time because every-one of your stories are so special, so unique and what you want to be cherished. But I can't do that. Somehow I guess my goal is to tell one story, that somehow captures what is universal in everyone's story. I'm not looking for heroes, the national medal of honor although he is a great man, we're looking for stories that are a part of you. So tonight, that's what we're doing is trying to capture your songs, your spirits, and your camaraderie and love for each other, and I hope that as we go forward, we're gonna follow guys like GENRO, my father and his friends who were there. We're gonna go to the Gothic Line, and see that dark mountain you all climbed, and we're going to try and recapture some of that and share it with a broader audience. So if all goes well, sometime next year in May, 1995, see the 50th Anniversary victory over Europe day - turn on your television to see the documentary, "Honor Bound."

O'Connor Task Force

TAY NOBORI gave a brief background of the engagement of the Task Force under command of Major EMMET L. O'CONNER, 3rd Bn executive officer.

"O'CONNER Task Force, L & F companies, one night they went behind the German line and they completely surprised the Germans, and right off about 35 prisoners were captured. Later in the afternoon, a group of Germans were coming up an area about half-mile wide, and all of the sudden they just ran and as they ran, more of their soldiers came from their back and they all ran towards the forest area. So we completely demoralized their line. What happened here is that the 141st, 36th Division, they came in and relieved the company out and they just went too far, and the German reformed their line and they were cut off, so actually we were the cause of

how the Lost Battalion came about. 3rd Battalion received the Presidential Citation for the rescue of the Lost Battalion."

Participants

Northern California: HOWE & MARY HANAMURA, HIDEO KIYOMURA, SHIG & RUBY KIZUKA, TAY NOBORI, ANN NAKAMOTO, KEN & MASINIHEI, TOM & TSUKI TERAMOTO, JOE & MARIAN TOMINAGA, BILL & MIYO TOMURA, SHIG & ROSE YOKOTE, FRANK & KATHRYN UDA, JOEY ISHIHARA, RAY ORITE, KEN NISHIMURA, SAM & GRACE ITO, SAM & MRS. SHIMONO, TOM & JEANETTE INOUE.

Southern California: GEORGE & FAYE DOI, TAK & RUTH HASHIMURA, SAM & YOSHIKO IKARI, SEIJI & HAZEL IMAMURA, BEN & FUDGE KITAGAWA, AKL & TAKI MINAMIDE, HIRO NISHIKUBO, BETTY WAKAMATSU, CHICKIE SUMIDA, MARGARET KLEEGER, KEO TAKABAYASHI, GEORGE KOMATSU, STANLEY TAKEMOTO.

Seattle/Northwest: KEN & AKI HIGASHI, ART & FLO KOURA, TOMIO & NAMIKO MUKAI, MAS & BEULAH SAKAGAMI, RUTH OKADA, KIKI SUGAWARA, BOB TAKESHITA.

Houston, Texas: DOC & SHANI CORBIERE. Morton Grove, Illinois: KENJI & LOUISE TANI. Chicago, Illinois: SACHI IZUMI, BYRON & PAT YOSHINO. New York: TAKERU & KAZU IJIMA. Las Vegas: FRANK & FRANCES NOMURA, TOM & YO MORI, SHIGERU MURATA.

Oahu: YOSHIJI & BETTY AOKI, LAWRENCE & CHIYOKO FUJII, MABEL FUJIMOTO, LINDA KAULA, RICHARD & CHIZUKO FURUKAWA, HIDE & MARY HIGA, JACOB & TERRY JICHAKU, CASEY & KIMIE KASADATE, WALLY & MABEL KAWAMURA, PAUL & GENNY MATSUMOTO, COWBOY & MARIAN MATSUMURA, TOSHI NAKAHARA, ALLEN NAKAMURA, HIDE NAKAYAMA, KAZUMA OGATA, JOE & NANCY OSHIRO, FUMIO & MICHIKO OHASHI, ROBERT & LILY SASAKI, YOSHITO & PAULINE TOME, MATSY & AYA TAKABUKI, ISA & HILDA TAKIYAMA.

Maui: KIYOSHI & BETTY KISHIMOTO, YASU

& MARGIE OKINAKA.

European Pilgrimage

GENRO KASHIWA a few years ago, started to write about his personal experiences as a infantryman of the 1st platoon of Company L, but due to lack of time and motivation, he was not able to complete it. However, he found this motivation when he became a part of the "2nd Battalion Veterans European Pilgrimage" traveling to Eastern France, Italy, Switzerland, and finally northeastern France, specifically Bruyeres and Biffontaine in the Vosges Mountain and forest.

After much prodding as he described my involvement in he being able to finish writing it, I was able to receive his permission to write excerpts of his memoirs for the GFB Bulletin. GENRO hopes that you will be inspired to write your own personal experiences and probably take it up as a project, which has much merit in line with WENDY's great speech. I can only quote a few excerpts of his narration as it is a long one, 55 pages in all. His vivid memories of events is remarkable after all these years! For copies of his complete narration, call GENRO (373-1578) or ALLEN (373-1341). He asks for criticism or supplements to his narration as his recollection may not be all that accurate at times. His memoirs are written in order of the travel group tour stops and not arranged in chronological order of the battles of the 442nd.

Profile of 442nd (1945)

"The town of Carrara was liberated by the 442nd RCT composed of "Buddhaheads" and "Kotonks." The liberated Italians were cautious and skeptical, for the liberators were small in stature and looked oriental, but they had American uniforms. They referred to us as "Chinese."

Though born & raised in sugar plantations, we from Hawaii were worldly by then. Kotonks on the other hand had hardened and grew up overnight upon experiencing incarceration in relocation camps, losing family fortunes, jobs, and educational opportunities.

Coming from different backgrounds, the Buddhaheads and Kotonks clashed at first and did not get along well, being 20-year olds, resili-

ient, energetic, and full of vitality. But when the chips were down and where it counted, they were one in the "Go for Broke" resolve and attitude.

For the most part, the kotonks tended to adopt the Buddhahead style, including their colorful pidgin English."

Flight to Rome (1994)

"I thought I would not be able to stand the itinerary of the tour. I learned to live out of suitcase without unpacking at each stop."

"I was apprehensive when we approached Rome. This was a trip to revisit battlegrounds. Will it bring back memories? Will it bring back unpleasant memories which I had unconsciously tried to forget? Will it cause me to remember more events than those which have persistently bothered me throughout the years? Will I be able to recognize the places after 50 years have elapsed?"

VE Day, Ghedi, Tombolo (1945)

"442nd was ordered to Ghedi to set up the processing area and to process the German army units reporting there to surrender. The entire regiment was lined up in a row of companies, with each company's pup tents lined up in neat rows - back to Camp Shelby basic training days.

All of the sudden, men of the 442nd were driving German Volkswagens, motorcycles, and trucks.

The most serious incident of misplaced properties seized in the surrender-processing was the disappearance of the German army payroll, which was in a strongbox. It was said that it contained a huge amount of Italian money in 10,000 lira denominations. The whole RCT had to go through inspection, company by company. The search was unsuccessful.

We accommodated by purchasing the cherries from Italian farmers and reselling them to the German POWs, because contact between civilians and prisoners was not allowed. Of course, we added a surcharge for services rendered.

The RCT was ordered to Tombolo near Livorno from Ghedi. Our job was to guard supply dumps containing German clothing, fur jackets, etc. Our men were not very good guards in that the supplies kept dwindling down. The losses were negligible compared to the stories of the disappearance of whole truckloads of PX supplies from quartermaster depots.

Crap and poker games were in progress every night. We even had a day room orderly. The late KAZUO "HAPA" FUJIMOTO was the most suitable person for the job."

Rome, Cassino, Naples (1994)

"He (ALBERT NAKAMA) had forgotten many of the incidents which happened during the war, but as we proceeded through the many places, especially when we got close to Bruyeres, he started to recall many of the incidents and in great detail at that."

Liberty Ships, Naples, Pompeii, Bagnoli (1944)

"There were fights every night at the PX with the Caucasian outfits. Usually because they used the word "Jap," sometimes derogatory. There were times someone actually walked down the rows of bunks and shook our beds to tell us to get up and help.

My friend, probably COWBOY MATSUMURA, went to Pompeii and brought me a present from there. It was a "flying duck," a replica of male private parts with wings spread out, made out of some metal. He said that is was a good luck charm and would keep me from harm as long as I wore it. Giving it to me at a time when we were going into combat, I had no alternative but to wear it with my 'dog tag.' I still have it among my medals. I went through the entire 442nd campaign without getting wounded."

Rome, Cassino, Naples, Pompeii (1994)

"We would be passing the area where the battlegrounds around Grosseto, Belvedere, Sasseta, Cecina river, Vada, Colle Salvetti, Pisa & Livorno were located. Many were disappointed as the bus was unable to make detours from the

highway to get to the hills and farm areas, especially Hill 140."

· Suvereto, Belvedere, Sasseta, Hill 140, Colle Salvetti, Vada (1944)

"For the most part, the 2nd and 3rd Bn were still not battle tested. This writer was especially "lost," Being a platoon guide, I always brought up the rear of the platoon.

One group, a squad a machine gunners from the 4th platoon got a direct hit while running down the roadway and was wiped out.

An enemy artillery shell fell in our midst and three of our men were killed, DENNIS HASHIMOTO, MITSUO FURUICHI, and MARTIN IIDA. I was shocked into the realization that this was real war, and that people close to you get killed.

Sgt. WALLACE DOI decided to reconnoiter the left side further by himself and one of the men. He left "HAPA" and the other person in a ditch to wait for Sgt. DOI to return. Both fell asleep in the ditch. "HAPA" was awakened by someone kicking him. He looked up to find a German soldier kicking him with both arms raised saying "comrade."

I helped myself to a few while on frequent 5 minute breaks. All of the sudden, I blacked out - out cold. I don't know exactly what was the cause, but I believe that it must have been those peaches which were not yet ripe. I was lying down in a ditch next to the road where the companies would be marching in their advance towards Colle Salvetti. I could not move, but I could hear what they were saying. Many of them recognized me and said, "Poor KASHIWA," thinking I was dead."

Florence, Arno River (1944)

"TONTTO had not returned with his BAR, I had to fire for the safety of the guards in the listening post. I fired 8 shots from my rifle in rapid succession, the whole clip. None of the German soldiers fell, in fact, they spun around and bounded off into the orchard. I had missed them, not one of the 8 rounds struck home.

One night I accompanied Sgt. JACOB

JICHAKU and his squad on a contact mission to the British outfit on our left rear. A few seconds later, the door flew open and a British soldier was at the doorway with a weapon in his hand ready to shoot. We were surprised because there was no one on guard, no one challenged us and yet there were soldiers in the house. I should ask JACOB to write more in detail as to what happened there."

Lucca, Massa, Carrara, La Spezia, Genoa (1994)

"We would be passing the battlefield that the 442nd fought in on the second trip to Italy, after 5 months of the holding action between Italy and France, that campaign often being referred to as the "Champagne Campaign."

"I was very excited because we would be passing Mt. Folgorito, which held many detailed memories for Company L, especially the 1st platoon. 'I went outside and studied the mountain tops in detail. Way back there loomed a large white mountain, scarred by much mining. We saw that mountain in 1945.'

"HOWE HANAMURA, daughter WENDY, her assistants, camera crew, and technicians hired a taxi and when the taxi could not negotiate the small road, they hired special small cars to take them up the mountain road to the foot of Mt. Folgorito. 'WENDY even told me about the small tunnel in the rear side of the peak which had housed the German radio, which was used for communication between the observation post and the artillery in the rear.'"

Azzano, Mount Folgorito (1945)

"One night under cover of darkness, we moved into a small town on the mountainside, called Azzano which was exposed to the German army which held the mountain tops across the valley."

"We were ordered the next night to go forward, down the valley to the bottom and then climb up the steep mountain all in single file, without making any noise. It was to be a surprise attack. It was dark and we had to follow the person in front, right behind him so that we would not lose contact."

"1st & 3rd platoon were stalled being subject to cross fire from hills next to their respective objectives. We took casualties. Sgt. SAGIMORI was killed. Among those, HOWE HANAMURA, TONTO AOKI, HIRO NISHIKUBO were wounded."

"The enemy was able to direct mortar fire into company headquarters area. PAUL MATSUMOTO at company CP was hit in the head by a mortar shell burst. Lt. KOIZUMI who happened to be at company CP was also wounded by the same shell burst & was evacuated. Being next in command, I had to take over 1st platoon until returned."

"MASAMI 'CASEY' KASADATE, the squad leader of 3rd squad, decided to look around from behind a large rock. He did not know exactly where the sniper was firing from the next hill. He put his head up and was promptly hit by sniper fire. He was shot through his forehead and the bullet came out behind his ear."

"I decided that we would climb the steep slope, where we were not subject to cross sniper fire. 2 squads were selected to make the steep climb. 3rd squad led by Sgt. KIYOSHI KISHIMOTO, and the 2nd squad led by Sgt. ROY UYENO."

"Upon more careful inspection of the position just captured, it revealed that it was probably the main observation point for the German army defending the Gothic Line in that area."

"I was scolding the German soldiers because someone in the tunnel shot JOE WAKAMATSU and he fell down the mountain, either dead or seriously wounded. It was getting dark and I was cussing out the German soldiers, when someone crawled out of the dark and said, 'Hey KASHIWA, I'm OK.' It was JOE WAKAMATSU."

"I was told that the first night after the 2nd platoon replaced the 1st platoon at the top of Mt. Folgorito, they fought off a very big and fierce counter-attack by the German forces."

Massa, Carrara, La Spezia, Genoa (1994)

Recalling dangerous location of regimental headquarters building in Carrara being too close to the front line in distance and time. They experienced shelling which was not supposed

to happen. The officer who selected the site was reprimanded. 'Had the officer asked me, I would have told him that Carrara was a dangerous town, which was then subjected to bombardment from big naval guns from La Spezia.'

Massa, Carrara, La Spezia, Genoa (1945)

"WHITEY KURASAKI, a Kauai boy, of 2nd platoon, who carried the bazooka was right next to me when the tank came for us. He wanted to fire the bazooka at the tank which I would say by then was 5 to 8 yards away from our men, who were lying in a prone position. I stopped WHITEY as many of our men were right next to the tank."

Weren't the lives of our men more important than destroying the enemy? This haunts me all the time. Having survived the war, seeing my buddies who also survived the war, I feel that I did the right thing."

"I found an Italian typewriter there so I decided to type a letter to my family when it was peaceful and quiet. I was wrong, we were shelled. I was informed that we were being shelled by big naval guns from La Spezia. The explosions were extraordinarily big and loud. I finished my letter and also finished typing my second 1st platoon roster. (I kept the roster after the war and still have the original roster today, 50 years later.)"

"Information was passed forward through our line, each person repeating the info he received to the next person in front of him. The information then, was that President ROOSEVELT died."

"According to FEB YOKOI, he was not able to help the wounded person. He died. So this person was on the front line with the platoon he assigned to for a few hours only and he was killed. I did not get his name as yet and he was wounded and died from his wound. I must try to investigate further to at least the identity of that person."

Lake Como, Lecco, Bergamo (1945)

"Though THOMAS 'SLEEPY' INADA never once showed it, he was a very bright scholar. I happened to come across one of his laundry slips he wrote in sending out his laundry at Shelby. 'I do not have any clean clothes to wear

so please render these an ablution.' I had to make a special trip to the library to find out whether there was such a work and what it meant. (A washing of the body, esp. as a religious ceremony.)"

"The reason I kept this was because this was evidence of why, though the boys of Hawaii spoke pidgin English, their written English was very correct and proper and the average IQ was higher than other outfits."

Venice (1994)

"For me the only battle related area in that day's trip would be Ghedi. Though Ghedi was close by the highway, we could not take a detour to stop there."

"We took a short tour of the grand canal area, visiting the Doge's Palace, and San Marco cathedral and doing a must for tourists, riding a gondola along the Grand Canal."

Menton, Monaco, Nice (1994)

"I had high hopes of seeing Sospel after 50 years. But that was not to be. Our bus was too long to negotiate the hairpin turns in the road over the mountains to Sospel."

"The small town called Luceram, did not ring a bell for me but it did for the Anti-Tank boys on the tour. STUD OSHIRO became very excited when we reached Luceran."

"Those who followed STUD told us what happened. STUD went from one farm house to the next calling out some girl's name. Finally they got hold of a lady who knew the girl. She pointed out the home of that girl. Her brother-in-law led them up the road to the girl's home. The girl came out and immediately recognized STUD. According to those who tagged along, it was like a fairy tale. Witnessing the entire thing made the whole trip worthwhile. (STUD OSHIRO remembered going to a farm house to have dinner with the family.)"

Luceram, Sospel, Col de Bra (1944)

"After the rescue of the 'Lost Battalion' of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division, the Regiment was sent to southern France at the border

of France and Italy. We arrived in Sospel on or about Thanksgiving Day."

"TONTA AOKI was a very good cook, and he did much cooking for the boys on the mountain top whenever he was around. He managed to get very tough winter leaf vegetable from the farm below and used it to make sukiyaki, using the bouillon powder in the 10-in-1 ration box."

"The other platoon had to go on patrol and they suffered casualties. Lt. WILLIAM OSHIRO was seriously wounded and lost his leg when someone in his patrol stepped on a mine."

"They carefully dried the used coffee grinds and repacked them for sale to the unsuspecting Frenchmen. I have the feeling that the French did not have any coffee and so they purchased the coffee grinds from the boys knowing that they were used."

"I remember that I received a letter from a neighbor of mine back home sending her sympathy for the passing away of my mother. It was a shock to me because my family in their letters before did not state that mother was sick or that she passed away. 'I had lost many close friends in combat, but the feeling of losing one's own mother was different.'"

"They drank some pretty weird stuff. Whenever they did this, I was their nursemaid. This was when I first learned of 'snake-eyes,' the eyes with a glassy look. I learned a lot being in the army."

Marseille, Epinal (1944)

"We arrived in Marseille, France by navy ships from Naples. I do not remember much about Marseille, except that we pitched our tent in a very wide open area probably close to the port."

"I remember CASEY KASADATE, with super abundance of energy, making everyone laugh all the time. He used to sing a song over and over about 'someone having to hang his underwear.'"

Biffontaine, Bruyeres (1994)

"I started to feel anticipation of things to come. KARLEEN CHINEN has been asking me this a number of times. Would I break down? Would tears flow?"

"The bus driver not only did not know the location of Bruyeres and Biffontaine, he did not have a road map. I had to lend him my road map."

"Our destination that day was Biffontaine. I know that if I were able to go up there, I would be able to recognize the place where we fought our last battle before we were relieved by the 36th Division. I felt certain that I would be able to locate my unique foxhole I dug up there and locate the huge flat rock which concealed the German machine gun which harassed us and caused many casualties to 1st platoon."

"WENDY had her staff do some research and found out that the monument was in the area where I and K companies mounted the initial attack against the German forces in our effort to break through their defenses to reach the lost battalion. It was in the area where I and K companies did their go-for-broke "Banzai" charges which breached the fiercely defended defense line established by the Germans."

"The ceremony of commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Biffontaine was very impressive."

"In the TV shooting session with WENDY and her crew from KPIX, the camera shot HOWE and I walking in the woods and talking stories as to the events which took place in the woods 50 years ago. I was very pleased at the result of the session, because I was able to talk about certain incidents like the capture of the French Indo Chinese in the hills after the O'Conner Task Force."

"Our next destination was to attend the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres. I was full of anticipation again."

"She motioned me to follow her, we were able to find the building and the street depicted in the photo, which was only about a half block away from the photo shop in front of a parking lot. I was overjoyed and excited to be able to find the exact spot where LAWRENCE FUJII was photographed."

"WENDY wanted me to do a solo interview because when I am with HOWE, we tended to

talk of the more funny incidents, forgetting the mention the more serious side of the war and the frightful experiences or the emotional aspects of combat."

"There the camera was set up at close range and WENDY asked me certain questions which led me to seriously think the incidents which happened during combat in Bruyeres, Biffontaine, & vicinity. It was painful in that I recalled many things that I had subconsciously blocked off from memory."

"I was wrong, while on that solo interview not only did I experience those feelings of emotion, but I went beyond that and I could not talk though I tried. I had to stop for a length of time, gulping a few times and the pitch of my voice changed."

"We were seated by companies. For L Company, those who attended the affair at Bruyeres were BEN & FUDGE KITAGAWA, SAMIRU & YO IKARI, FUMIO & MICHIO OHASHI & son, MR. & MRS. KOJA from Wailuku, HOWE & MARY HANAMURA, & GENRO & MURIEL KASHIWA."

Bruyeres, Biffontaine, La Houssiere (1944)

"The 3rd Battalion was transported from Marseille to an area near Epinal in the "40 & 8" railcars. The cars accommodated 8 houses or 40 humans. The train ride took 2 days. There were no toilet facilities or plumbing. Those who wanted to use the rest rooms at inappropriate times had to make do in whatever way they can devise. It began to get cold and some even went so far to build a fire in the boxcar to keep warm."

"It was miserable to have to dig foxholes in the drizzling rain and to have to sleep in them when water accumulated at the bottom. We usually had to sleep sitting on our steel helmets so that we won't get wet."

"I believe that 3rd squad under Sgt. KAKESAKO together with Lt. KOIZUMI cleared the farmhouse and were able to take some prisoners. While they were in the farmhouse, the German tank by the railroad tracks started to fire their tank guns at the farmhouse. It must have been an 88 mm artillery piece, firing anti-tank armor piercing projectiles. The shells just went through

the farmhouse without exploding."

Rescue of the Lost Battalion

"It was so dark that we weren't able to see our hands in front of our face. We walked in a single file, stumbling along in the dark, hanging on to the person in front of us."

"Sgt. JACOB JICHAKU had dug his foxhole or he had found one already dug. There was a tree burst that night over Sgt. JICHAKU's foxhole, which crushed his cover made of branches. Early next morning in the first light, I went to the aid of JACOB JICHAKU and found that he was wounded. I did not know where or how serious. I did my best to help and pulled him by his arm to get him out. It turned out that he was wounded on that arm and he claims to this day that I made it worse by pulling on it."

"As we approached where the fierce fire fight was going on, 1st platoon was rained on by shrapnel from a tree burst NOBORU FUJINAKA was killed. Sgt. TOMMY KAKESAKO was seriously wounded in the stomach and there were numerous other casualties. Just by that one tree burst, we lost a third of our strength."

"It is reported that I company made the first contact with the Lost Battalion. L Company was not far behind."

"As I lay on the ground 15 yards in front of the holes of the Lost Battalion, one of the men or the Lost Battalion got out of the hole and walked towards me. I thought he was coming to shake my hand in a show of appreciation, but he walked past me and went further, about 15 yards to a dead German soldier lying on the ground. He quickly removed a pistol from the dead soldier and returned to his hole. I guess your senses are numbed when you have too much combat."

"It was about 11 PM that night we heard the engine of a jeep that was coming right to our platoon's position. PAUL MATSUMOTO was driving the jeep. He brought us hot coffee and meal. I didn't have the heart to tell PAUL that the enemy was only 30 yards away. It might scare him."

"I went back to the area of 2nd squad and went

forward to reconnoiter the area in front of the squad. I saw the trip wires for the mines in front of the squad. I decided to crawl through the mine fields to a foxhole just beyond the mine fields. I crossed the mine fields without tripping any mines. I reached the fox hole without drawing any enemy rifle fire. I motioned to the 2nd squad to come forward through the path I made. They all came through without tripping any mines."

"It was snowing outside and warm inside. Many of the men made the mistake of taking off their shoes. Many found out that they had trench feet. Those who did not have trench feet found out that their feet became swollen and could not get their shoes on again."

"I took the opportunity to have my infected finger taken care of at the aid station. They did this the army way. They put me to sleep and lanced my finger. They assigned me to a cot in a large room full of wounded soldiers. I noticed that TOMMY KAKESAKO was sleeping in a cot nearby. He had a very serious wound and they had to constantly drain the fluid that accumulated in the wound. I felt sheepish being there with a mere infected finger."

"Lt. WILLIAM OSHIRO came to the hospital to tell us that the regiment was moving out. I asked BILL OSHIRO to sign me out and get me released so I can rejoin the regiment. Lt. OSHIRO did so and I was able to join the regiment in its move to southern France and the Champagne Campaign."

Reims, Paris (1994)

"I had a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment after the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres and Biffontaine, a relaxed feeling."

Honolulu and Discharge (1945)

"From Italy we landed in New Jersey and was billeted at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. We were transported to a camp in the San Francisco area, I believe it was near Marysville, Calif. Hawaii contingent was housed in one barrack nears the area occupied by the WACs."

"This time our group consisted not just of men

from the 442nd RCT but a racially mixed group of men from Hawaii, the highest ranking person was a Hawaiian first sergeant. The same thing happened, the Hawaii boys got into fights with Caucasians, this time it was about the WACs. The first sergeant did not try to stop the fights; I believe he was in the middle of them."

"Evidently, my father, who was incarcerated in detention camp in New Mexico and other places had been released and came home to Hawaii before me. He was appointed as the succeeding Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii."

"So he moved to the Bishop's residence on Fort Street in Honolulu. That was my new residence while I made my adjustment to coming back to civilian life."

"University of Hawaii had started a new requirement in spoken oral English. We had to learn to speak proper English in the proper way. My stint in the 442nd RCT was no help. I had to speak pidgin English, the proper pidgin English, to get along with the boys."

Camp Shelby Revisited

There will be tours to Camp Shelby on June 15 - 18, 1995. Detailed information elsewhere in the GFB Bulletin.



by SHIRO AOKI

The Mini-Reunion

Our mini-reunion at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas from November 02 to 06, 1994 was greatly enjoyed by the following people:

From Hawaii: JIMMY & FRIEDA KANEMORI, RALPH & ALICE TOMEI, SHIRO & EVELYN AOKI, TOMMY & HARRIET KIKUCHI.

From Illinois, YAHACHI & MINNIE SAGAMI;

from Oregon: SAM & ITSUE FUJISHIN.

From Washington: BILL & MITZI KUNITSUGU,

KAUN & SUMI ONODERA, TOSH & YOSHI MAYEDA, HARRY & MISAYO KUMAKURA, ROCKIE & NANCY MIKAMI, MIKI AKUTAGAWA (Guest of the FUJISHINS).

From California: HIROSHI & GRACE YAMASHIRO, ESTHER YAMASHIRO & TARA McCALL (guests of HIROSHI YAMASHIRO), YOSHIO & GRACE NAKAMURA, BOB YURIKI, DAVID & JANET UMEDA, ISAO & MARION KUDOW, YOSHIO & PAT TAKAHASHI, HOWARD & EMI UYEHARA, FRANK & HELEN KIMURA, SEIKI & ALICE YOSHIMURA, MIKE & JUNE IWAMOTO (Guests of MAYEDA), BILL OKAZAKI, DICK & SUMI TOCHIHARA, MASAO & ELMA TAKAHASHI (Guests of YOSHIO), MATSUO & MASAKO TAOKA (Guests of UMEDA), BILL & DORIS TAKETA (Guests of UMEDA).

From Idaho: MARY INOUE & YOSHI YAMADA (Guests of FUJISHIN.)

In addition to the above, we were joined by JEANNIE & TORU YAMAGUCHI from Honolulu on our reunion get-together night.

To paraphrase JULIUS CAESAR's "Veni, Vedei, Veci," us guys and gals from M Co.: We Came, We Saw, We Played, We Contributed. To be sure, there were some winners but the biggest winners of all were us guys from Hawaii who were gifted by all kinds of goodies by our mainland friends. These are the guys who came from behind barbed wire fences from places like Tule Lake, Minadoka, Manzanar, Jerome, Rohwer, and elsewhere to serve their country. They came to Shelby to join the 442nd and ran into a bunch of Hawaii guys who called themselves "Buddhaheads," who spoke a funny kind of English, and who called all the mainland guys "Kotonks." Today, these "Kotonks" are all right guys, who are generous to a fault as they continue to bring goodies for us Hawaii guys to all of our M. Co. functions. This time the brought the following:

SAGAMIS gave us salami & sausages; FUJISHINS gave great big onions that they grew on their farm - "bragging onions," ITSUE called them; ONODERAS & MAYEDA gave salmon; YOSHIMURAS gave raisins;

TAKAHASHI gave arare; NAKAMURA gave persimmons and apples; TAOKAS (DAVID UMEDA's guest) gave persimmons; FRANK KIMURA brought persimmons, kiwi fruit, tangerines, apples, raisins, sunkist fruit roll and pistachio nuts; TOSHIHARA, OKAZAKI, & YAMASHIRO brought desserts and pistachio nuts; BILL KUNITSUGU brought name tags for everyone.

In addition to the above, SAM FUJISHIN donated \$50 to help defray some of the reunion expenses, and YOSHI NAKAMURA donated \$200 to the Mike Co. treasury. When we left the Gold Coast Hotel to return to Honolulu, us Hawaii guys had boxes and boxes of stuff to bring home. As TOMMY KIKUCHI said, "kinodokuna." MAHALO TO YOU ALL!

You guys remember FRANK KIMURA who was a jeep driver back in Camp Shelby days. But today he drives tractor trailers (he owns them); he used to fly his own airplane to check out his farm in Mexico but gave it up because of all the government bureaucracy; he owns an equipment leasing company, various distributorship and acres of land. TOMEI told me that he is a professional driver. Well, one morning TOMEI wanted to go to the UNION PLAZA HOTEL "because get 10 times odds over there." So FRANK & HELE KIMURA graciously offered to drive us there and off we went. After driving for a short distance, the car began to shake and shudder so FRANK stopped the car and got out to check whether we had a flat but the tires were okay so off we went again. But the car continued to shake and shudder until HELEN said, "FRANK, the red light is on; release the brakes." Boy! What a difference that made. The moral of the story is: "Even professionals can forget to release the brake."

Some of you were inquiring about our next mini-reunion in Vegas. It takes a lot of work; ask his wife FREIDA she can tell you all about it. And JIMMY by his own admission is GETTING OLD. How else can you explain the fact that when we arrived at McCarren, JIMMY led us all to the Gold Coast bus and told everyone to check and make sure that we had our bags. When he

counted the bags, one was missing. He kept telling everyone to check as to whose bag was missing. Finally the driver came up with a bag and the missing bag belonged to one JIMMY KANEMORI. The moral of the story is: "Even tour directors can forget their own bags."

GRACE & YOSH NAKAMURA (third platoon) and his family continue to hone their creative talents. GRACE's brother, LAWRENCE SHINODA, creator of the CORVETTE was honored at the opening of the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY, on Labor Day, 1944, with a life-sized statue of himself climbing out of his corvette.

YOSH's son JOEL had a one-man art show in Pasadena, CA where GEORGE TAKEI, Mr. Sulu of "Star Trek" fame came. He said, "It is a seminal art exhibit, exciting and breaking new ground."

The entire family, YOSH, wife GRACE, 3 kids and one son-in-law will be exhibiting work at Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts at their church on the last weekend of February, 1995. The church is located at 2000 West Road, La Haber Heights, CA. EVERYONE WELCOME! What a talented family!

Hey, don't forget. As RALPH TOMEI announced at the reunion, if you mainland folks want to get on the mailing list for the 442 GO FOR BROKE bulletin, send \$6.00 to 442 Veterans Club; 933 Wiliwili St., Honolulu, HI 96826. This is \$6.00 per year.

It was a great reunion. Thank you, JIMMY KANEMORI for all the hard work and for giving us a chance to continue to build on our wartime friendships.

The Second Cookout

"And the second shall be better than the first." And our second cookout held at the DAV TOMMY KAKESAKO hall on August 26, 1994 was better than the first mainly because we had so many people there that were not able to make it to the first. At the first cookout, the following attended: NORIO & MARY AKUTAGAWA, MAMORU & EDITH FURUYA, BARNEY HAJIRO, TOMMY KIKUCHI, ERNEST & DOR-

OTHY KAMISATO, MICHAEL & KIMIYO IDE, SHIGEO & YORI INOUE, EDWIN MATSUZAKI, WALLACE & PRISCILLA NAGAO, ROBERT NAGATA, RANCE & NANCY NOMURA, THOMAS SAKAMOTO, RALPH & MITSUE SHISHIDO, ISAMU & KAY TAKAYESU, PAUL & YUKI TAKIGUCHI, RALPH & ALICE TOMEI, JOSEPH & HAZEL YASUDA, TOSHIO & AMY TSUJI, SHIRO & EVELYN AOKI.

As the second cookout, SUMI TOCHIHARA was there. She worked for our long time benefactor, JOHN GOGIAN and she always said the right things and did the right thing that ended up with JOHN sending the meat out to us. Others who were there who were not present for the first cookout were: HATSUKO GUSHIKEN, ESTHER HAJIRO, HAROLD & JANE KUDO, EICHI MATSUDA, YOSHINOBU MATSUSHIMA, WALTER NAKATA, YOSHIO & ELSIE TERUYA, TORU & JEAN YAMAGUCHI, ALICE BEPPU, SEIKI & DAISY ARAKAKI, JAMES & FREIDA KANEMORI.

JIMMY and FREIDA are regular attendees to all or out functions but missed the first cookout because the date clashed with their daughter's and granddaughter's Japanese classical dance recital presented by the Hanayagi Dancing Academy, with the participation of honored guest artists Headmaster SAKICHI KINEYA of the Kineya School of Shamisen and SANICHIRO HANAYAGI, classical Japanese dance instructor of the Hanayagi Schools in Tokyo. The recital as held at the RICHARD T. MAMIYA Theater, St. Louis Center for the Arts.

Their daughter ANN T. HIRATA, whose professional name is HANAYAGI MITSUHATSU performed the dance "Urashima." Their granddaughter DAYNA M. HIRATA was given the name HISAMATSU MITSUKO by the Hanayagi Dancing Academy danced as the "Ushiwaki-Maru" in "Hashi Benkai." She also danced in "Kiyoi Jishi" as one of the lions.

ANN and DAYNA both played the shamissen for other dance numbers and ANN was given the name of KINEYA SATSUKO as one of the four new "natoris" in shamissen. The school presents this full costume performance every four

years.

The next recital will be held in 1998. The public is invited and admission is free. ANN and her husband ROY HIRATA are the owners of ROY'S AUTO GLASS SHOP, INC. and are one of our advertisers in our Go For Broke Bulletin. JIMMY and FREIDA are rightfully proud of the accomplishments of their daughter and granddaughter. CONGRATULATIONS!

The second cookout was also a financially lucky day for us, too. Our Mike Co. treasury was enriched by a donation of \$50 from HATSUKO GUSHIKEN and \$100 from ALICE TOMEI. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

MAMO FURUYA, HAROLD KUDO, FRANK NOMURA & NORIO AKUTAGAWA reminisced about the Mike Co. powerhouse softball teams that were virtually unbeatable until the league came up with the "Padaken Rule" that said no pitcher could pitch for more than four innings. Mike Co. had MIKE PADAKEN and JIM NAKAO who threw nothing but smoke and for a change of pace, they brought in AKU AKUTAGAWA who dazzled opposing hitters with his slow stuff to the corners of the plate. And they talked about TOMMY "JASPER" KIKUCHI who when you look at him today sure does not look it, but in those days was one of the fastest out in centerfield. And they talked about the "wild" captain that they had - AKU AKUTAGAWA who went after anybody and everyone that he felt were not giving it their all. AKU said, "Yeah, even my son used to tell me, hey Dad, take it easy on the boys." And that's the stuff that winners are made of.

And then there was ESTHER HAJIRO who was good enough to give revitalizing neck and head massages to beat up old bodies like RALPH TOMEI, JIM KANEMORI, and SHIRO AOKI and even the younger guys with strong bodies like SHIGE INOUE and FRANK NOMURA got in on the act.

And of course, we had old reliable RALPH SHISHIDO, using his wok to prepare delicious chicken hekka that was enjoyed by all. All in all, it was a day of great enjoyment for all who came.

Condolences

Received word that MASAJI DEMURA from Maui recently passed away. Our deepest sympathy to MRS. DEMURA and family.

More Bad News from Maui

We were saddened by the news that ITSUO SHIRAKI, a real gung-ho guy who kept Mike Co. members supplied with goodies from his farm every time he came to one of our gatherings in Honolulu, suffered a severe stroke in October. He was confined at Queens Hospital for about a week but left Queens on October 17th to go back to Maui to start his recovery process. Our prayers go to ITSUO and his family for a fast and speedy recovery.

"Our Hearts were Touched with Fire"

Thanks to the wonderful young people of our Sons & Daughters chapter, we were able to see EDWARD SAKAMOTO's matinee performance of "Our Hearts were Touched with Fire" for a special price at the Kennedy Theater on November 13, 1994. Mikers in attendance were PAUL & YUKI TAKIGUCHI, JIMMY & FREIDA KANEMORI, and SHIRO & EVELYN AOKI.

It was funny; it was sad; and it was well done by the cast made up mainly of dedicated students from the Department of Theater and Dance at UH Manoa and many whom had ties to the veterans of the 100th and the 442nd. It started off with the 100th and 442nd songs, and it ended with the same. It featured a scene where the son volunteers for the 442 and the father tells the son, "Mak-e all right but no make shame." It brought back poignant memories of a time 50 years ago when we were so young, so eager, and so ready to Go For Broke.

At the conclusion of the play when the lights came back on, the audience consisting heavily of 100 and 442 vets gave the cast a standing ovation. Then DEVON NEKOBA, one of the stars of the play, asked that all 100 and 442 vets stand and be recognized. We did so to a standing ovation from the cast and the rest of the audience. That in itself was worth the price of admission. OUR HEARTS WERE TOUCHED!

The 50th Anniversary Reunion at Bruyeres/Biffontaine

For those of you who may have missed it, I quote in part from an article written by GREGG KAKESAKO in the Honolulu Star Bulletin on October 03, 1994. He was writing about French businessman JEAN BIANCHETTI who was on hand with a large banner welcoming a group of 32 (that SHIGE & YORI INOUE were a part of) when they arrived in France.

Following are excerpts from KAKESAKO's article: "He met JOHN TSUKANO who told BIANCHETTI to join him at a reunion of the 442nd soldiers of M. Co. At first, BIANCHETTI refused, believing he didn't fit in a reunion of Japanese-American soldiers held at the Keehi Lagoon DAV Hall. 'I just didn't want to go, but JOHN kept urging me.'

It was there that BIANCHETTI met BARNEY HAJIRO. During the barbecue, BARNEY lifted his shirt, revealing a large, large scar on his chest. BIANCHETTI apparently misunderstood HAJIRO's action, thinking that the scar was a result of a combat wound that HAJIRO got while fighting in France. 'It was at this point I suddenly realized that all my problems weren't that important.'

A few years after the DAV encounter, YORIKO & SHIGEO INOUE and the members of M Co. ran into BIANCHETTI in Reno, Nevada. 'We had just completed a reunion and we were waiting for our bus,' YORI said, 'when this man came running up to us with this photo in his hand. He kept pointing to the picture and saying, "This is you - this is you." What he was holding was a group picture of some of the wives in my husband's company.' INOUE said she has continued to correspond with BIANCHETTI ever since the Reno encounter."

SHIGE & YORI renewed their friendship with JEAN BIANCHETTI on this trip. SHIGE & YORI along with SEIKI & DAISY ARAKAKI were part of the volunteer group that entertained the French delegation at the 50th Anniversary reunion in Honolulu.

As you all know, BIANCHETTI went on to build a granite monument in time for the 40th Anniver-

sary reunion in Bruyeres.

Following are articles written by SHIE & YORI INOUE and ERNEST KAMIMOTO regarding their experiences during the past 50th anniversary reunion at Bruyeres/Biffontaine.

50th Reunion - Bruyeres & Biffontaine by SHIGE & YORI INOUE

We boarded Canadian Pacific Airlines Flight 34 at 12:15 AM Sunday morning, September 25, 1994 bound for Vancouver, Toronto, and eventually Paris, full of excitement and anticipation. There were 32 veterans, wives, and children on this OBA/HONMA-BIANCHETTI tour group. There were several tour groups leaving later on. We were the only Company M members

As we were airborne, we had time to reflect back on events 50 years ago. On October 10, 1944, a petite, brown-skinned, black-haired slip of a girl from Kauai was a sophomore at Waimea High School. Over 10,000 miles and two continents away, a slender 5'5", 120 pound U.S. Army soldier was about to take part in an operation in what was later to become a life-long bond of friendship and camaraderie.

The two who had never met or known each other were brought together by fate in Honolulu, got married, and raised 4 children. We lived an ordinary life like so many other veterans. However, the 50th anniversary reunion in March, 1993 changed all of that. We were fortunate in being part of the group (French committee) who took care of the French delegation who came. This set in motion events that took over a year in negotiations and correspondence between RON OBA, LIZO HONMA, and JEAN BIANCHETTI. This culminated in a plan for a 28 day tour of France, Italy, & Switzerland. 50 year!! (half a century) later we were on our way to realize a dream come true.

We flew in a Boeing 767 (lots of aisle space and very quiet) and landed in Paris at the De Gaulle Airport at 7:00 AM Tuesday, September 27. We were met at the airport by JEAN & RENEE BIANCHETTI, MARCEL & LILY PARMANTELOT, BERNARD (our bus driver) and VALERIE (our guide) for the next 25 days.

We departed at 8:00 AM on a "Voyages Marcot Bus" and headed south amid the thick fog surrounding Paris towards Burgundy wine country. We spent Wednesday (Sept. 27 and Thursday, Sept. 28) in Puligny where the highlights were wine tastings and 3-hour dinners.

Thursday, September 29: We left at 8:30 for Lyon, Montelimar (City of the famous French nougat candy), the walled city of Avignon (residence of the French popes.)

Friday, September 30: We went on a city excursion of Avignon and departed for Cannes and Nice staying at the Hotel Rivoli.

Saturday, October 1: Went on a city excursion of Nice. They have a fabulous promenade along the entire beachfront. We will take our sand instead of the small pebbles to lie on. One of our group was robbed by pickpockets.

Sunday, October 2: Departed for L'Escarene, Peira Cava, Turin, and Sospel. We saw the plaque in the schoolyard where 3 of our boys were killed by a shell. We had a memorable lunch in Sospel where the restaurant owner remembered the 442nd and had a large cake baked with the words "Remember 442." The restaurant was decorated with a large American flag. It was very touching and everyone felt honored. Returned to Nice via Casino Monte Carlo. Beer was \$7.00 a bottle.

Monday, October 3: Departed for Pisa via Menton, San Remo, La Spezia, Massa, and Carrara.

Tuesday, October 4: We went on excursion to the marvelous city of Pisa (leaning tower). They are using lead counterweights to arrest leaning.

Wednesday, October 5: Departed for Rome, via Cecina, Grosseto, Citta Vecchia. Stayed at the Jolly Hotel Midas Palace on the outskirts of Rome.

Thursday, October 6: Excursion in Rome. The Coliseum and the Vatican were fabulous.

Friday, October 7: Departed for Florence via Sienna.

Saturday, October 8: Excursion in Florence to the usual tourist attractions.

Monday, October 9: Departed for Venice via Bologna, Ferrera, Padova, and stayed at the

hole "Splendid Suisse" near San Marco square.

Tuesday, October 10: We went on a foot tour of Venice, one of our favorite cities on the tour. It is really amazing that the whole city is built on piles driven into the ocean bed. Everything (garbage collection, food, cement, repair materials) is brought in by boats. I hate to admit it but we got lost in the maze of canals and bridges. We ended up only 1 block or so from our hotel but couldn't find it. One of the wives got lost for almost 9 hours till the police finally located her and brought her back to the hotel around 8:30 PM. Everybody was in a somber mood, so we couldn't go on gondola rides or celebrate someone's birthday.

Tuesday, October 11: Departed for Como via Padova, Verona Bergamo, and Leco. Stayed at the "Grand Hotel Tremezza." The streetside elevators weren't working so we had to walk up 60-70 flights of stairs. We had a magnificent view of Lake Como. This was the only place where we had scrambled eggs and bacon with out continental breakfast.

Wednesday, October 12: Excursion to Como. Saw many beautiful villas owned by millionaires (Villa Carlotta, one of the most beautiful gardens in Italy.)

Thursday, October 13: Departed for Montreux (near Lausanne, Switzerland) via Arona, Stresa, and Simplon Pass. The view was spectacular and the first snow capped peaks on our tour.

Friday, October 14: Excursion in Lausanne and departed for Gerardmer, our home base in the Vosges. We had a reception at 5:00 PM and dinner at 8:00 PM hosted by "Le Syndicat" hometown of JEAN BIANCHETTI.

Saturday, October 15: Departed for Biffontaine and ceremony in the forest. Buses can drive right up to the parking area near the monument. I understand that 10 years ago, people had to walk part of the way. The weather was rather warm. No need for winter clothes. Lunch followed later in town.

Sunday, October 16: Departed for Bruyeres. Memorial services were held in the town square, followed by a parade up Chanzy Avenue. Then we bussed close to the monument and walked

the rest of the way. Weather was warm again. The "Friendship Knot" by SHINKICHI TAJIRI (Company M) was unveiled. Then back to Bruyeres for the official banquet. Ran into some M Company people: MICHAEL & KIMIYO IDE, ERNEST & DOROTHY KAMISATO, ISAMU & KAY TAKAYESU, ZUKE MATSUI & wife and KINGO KANECHIKA's wife.

Monday, October 19: Departed for Paris via Vittel, Domremy, and Vitay. Stayed at the Hotel Rochambeau. We had two free days to shop and sightsee in beautiful Paree. Visited many of the tourist spots and even caught the subway with BOB & HELEN IWAMOTO. Pigalle (some of you men on leave during the war must remember this district) is not the same because it is mostly residential now.

Saturday, October 22: Departed Paris amid a slight drizzle for Toronto, Vancouver, and home. There is no place like home, sweet home. This was an experience that was exciting, memorable, and unforgettable. I don't think we will ever forget all the continental breakfasts of croissants, rolls, jams, jellies, and thick black coffee every day, the tiny elevators (capacity 2 people with luggage), the many different systems of flushing toilets, and the lack of shower doors or curtains. You lucky you live Hawaii.

Gifts of Discernment by ERNEST KAMISATO (Dedicated to Sons and Daughters of the 442 Veterans)

What priceless gifts one receives when you travel with an open mind receptive to whatever pleasures and treasures there are, no obligations attached. I had this rare and wonderful opportunity recently traveling with a group of 8 fellow 442 veterans from Maui and their wives, family, close friends (3) plus 5 from Oahu and one from Florida.

M Chapter members from Maui included YOSHIZAKU (ZUKE) & FUJIKO MATSUI (ZUKE was our able and untiring group leader), KINGO & SATSUE KANESHIKA, KENICHI & YAEKO UMETSU, JIRO & KIKUE KOJA; from Oahu, MICHAEL & KIMIYO IDE, ERNEST & DOROTHY KAMISATO, GEORGE & JUDITH

KITAGAWA, MAUI (harmonica player, bartender, and sometime treasurer) & MARION MORIKAWA (world traveler, camera buff, 2nd in command to ZUKA and lasting unofficial comfort station honcho on our bus) is Artillery "C" Battery. WILLARD (nickname LANKY, H Co. member) & JEANETTE MATSUMOTO (enthusiastic song leader) and their lovely daughter MAY (American Airlines First flight attendant and DCA Training instructor out of Miami, Florida...also a skilled hula dancer). Other ladies from Maui were ALICE SUGIMURA, KAY YOSHIOKA, and KIKUE YAMAMURA (KIKUE was born in the same town where I first saw light of day; that is, Honokawai close to Lahaina; talk of coincidence...small little surprises are refreshing.) Also from Maui TOM (Veteran "PAISANO") UMETSU, younger brother of KENICHI UMETSU, LEONARD OKA (Insurance agent, Servco Pacific, photographer, and a leader on Maui for Sons & Daughters of 442nd - father was a 442 veteran who passed away a few years ago), Lastly but not the least NOBORU KOITO (semi-retired Insurance agent). Also lovely lady from Oahu, HARRIET HATAYE, not the least of all of our wonderful traveling companions. (Please excuse if I missed some names, comments, incidents - MERCI BEAUCOU.)

The solemnity and purpose of our trip to Europe on this memorable 50th year anniversary (1944-1994) of the liberation of Bruyeres should not be overlooked; however, it will be amply covered by other chapter members more qualified than I of which you may have read in the July/Sept., 1994 issue and in this issue or perhaps future issues of the 442 GO FOR BROKE bulletin.

So this is it. Throughout the following pages I have tried to capture my personal experiences and feelings via brief "vignettes" of the various places we visited. A brief history of this writer is gladly shared...or where I am coming from so you will better understand and perchance appreciate better what is written. I am a lifelong businessperson and a lifelong "student artist." Relevant anecdotes at the end of this article is included.

50th Battlefield Tour Siel Voyages (Luxembourg)

23 days (9/27/94 - 10/19/94) in 9 countries in Europe which included France, Monaco, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Austria, Luxembourg, and Belgium.

There were 26 person on our bus.. very spacious and comfortable indeed for all of our travelers for which we are very thankful. However, I am pretty sure that for the TOUR CO. it was a very trying experience given their overhead and all expenses expended.

We were fortunate to have an English-speaking guide, MR. NORBERT HANSEN, at least part of the way. Our bus driver, ARSENIO CONZEMIUS was a professional in every sense of the word, always polite and a gentleman all the way and always kept a calm demeanor even in difficult situations. He also, like NORBERT, spoke understandable English, and fluent French and German. As an example, one night ARSENIO helped to find our lost luggage at 11:30 PM after we went through the halls one by one. Our luggage was outside in the hallway next to room 337 instead of our room 437. What persistence. I give to ZUKE MATSUI one BIG THANK YOU for all the trouble he went through to make our trip enjoyable and successful. How about it, fellow travelers? I am pretty sure you would agree with me. I also know that many of you had trying experiences one way or another.

Wed. 9/28/94. Day one. In Paris, we went boat riding early noon and had lunch aboard ship. My recollection of lunch was fries, fish, and bread cooked in the famous French style which was OK with me. Less cholesterol, I understand. After the boat ride, we were very fortunate to have MAY MATSUMOTO, a very energetic young lady, as our "guide" to take us to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Just imagine the DOROTHY and I have waited since 1976 (we missed it then) to visit and see Paris from the very highest building in town. I am sure all 6 of us were thrilled coupled with excitement and wonder to see so many tourists from all over the world on top of the tower to see Paris. Comparatively it is like visiting Nuuanu Pali for the very first time and seeing

the sheer cliffs of the Ko'olau Mountains, the green and verdant grass and trees, the hills and homes in the distance, the shoreline, the ocean blue and white, light green emerald to light yellowish and sometimes pinkish when the sun strokes the surface at a certain angle. What a feast for the eyes. Surely it is a wonder and a blessing. WILLARD & JEANETTE are the proud parents of MAY....LEONARD OKA, DOROTHY and I made up the group of 6. Thank you MAY. Incidentally, LEONARD and MAY our two young adults leading the way led us safely to our Hotel Sofitel via the Metro. And thank you LEONARD for keeping me company at the second floor elevator stop; remember! at that moment I sort of felt like a lost sheep being abandoned. All in all, it was a wonderful new experience.

Suffice to say that we visited the Versailles Palace, one of the most famous castles where once Louis XIV lived. Very ornate interiors and large buildings; it would take another article to write about it fully. I am sure all of us enjoyed it immensely. Ditto Museum of the Louvre.

Fri. 9/30/94.

Trip to Normandy, Utah & Omaha Beach. Veterans visiting the beach were ZUKE & FUJIKO MATSUI, KINGO & SETSUI KANECHIKA, GEORGE & JUDITH KITAGAWA, JIRO & KIKUE KOJA, ERNEST & DOROTHY KAMISATO, WILLARD, JEANETTE & MAY MATSUMOTO, LEONARD OKA, NOBORU KOITO, HARRIET HATAYE, and several ladies whose names I did not write (too much rush, rush - no excuse). My sincere apologies, ladies.

Remember veterans: when we were fighting in Italy (if memory served me correct) we were quite relieved that at last the Big Push had started up North. Relieved for only a moment. Unbeknownst to us, "higher ups" had much more for us to do. Then came the Lost Battalion episode. 50 Years!! 50 years ago. How time flies.

Sat. ,9/1/94

Today we visited Fontainebleau Castle, very famous in the history of France. My mind was

"agog," overloaded with niches, crevices, ornaments, statues. Better leave this one to the experts. Wine tasting was enjoyed by many. Good drinking. Next on our list of visits was the famous Hospice de Beaune. Among the interesting aspect of this hospital besides the caring of the poor was the vast and unbelievable collections of natural remedies that were in bottles and bottles of dried herbs, spices, crushed coral/stones, vitamins and other mineral too numerous to mention here which were used during olden times and which are now being rediscovered by many here and in the U.S. including this writer. "Amen."

As we traveled the length and breadth of the nine countries mentioned before, I was amazed at the versatility, ingenuity, and boldness displayed by the engineers, architects, craftspeople, artists, inventors, and other both in olden times and even today; witness the miles and miles of tunnels, high mountain bridges, roads, castles, homes, etc.

Seeing their old majestic castles and old buildings such as churches, towers, etc., one cannot help but notice the wise and skillful utilization of their most abundant natural resources that were and are available even to this day. The natural riches of Europe I believe is the earth which have blessed them with seemingly an inexhaustible source of granite, marble (Carrara) in many colors and shades, sand and rocks, white rocks, blue rocks, alabastos, or what have you. With these readily available natural resource, they have built castles, houses, roads, monuments, and other man-made objects too numerous to mention.

In addition, with these natural resources to work with, no wonder they have utilized it to their fullest potential. It is no disadvantage to repeat previous remarks. The many forms of architecture and engineering creations is something to "behold and marvel" at; their monuments, statues of great men, humans in various poses and forms, animals, birds, etc. are awe-inspiring, it takes your breath away. Surely, these must be a labor of love for one to create such magnificent statues, art, buildings, etc. and to labor day in

and day out for months, for years, if necessary.

Singing - to relieve boredom, affable JEANETTE MATSUMOTO provided her talent with enthusiasm leading us travelers singing familiar songs which were "simple" Hawaiian, Japanese, and good 'ole American tunes such as "You Are My Sunshine," "Clementine," "Koko Ni Sachi Ari," "Aloha Oe," and others. These sessions were welcomed and pleasant alternatives that made our trip very pleasant and enjoyable. GEORGE MORIKAWA provided harmony on his harmonica. Thank you JEANETTE and GEORGE.

Happenings. There were many amusing incidents and events, some very touching, other happenings were unintentional and a little embarrassing. These incidents however illustrated to me a very humorous, enlightening, and very cherished memory of human behavior or human reaction if you will; strengths and weaknesses, but mostly illustrated concern for one to another which is good. I am sure many of you can relate or recall some delightful, sometimes embarrassing moments in your travels.

Incident in the fast lane: Remarkable, resourceful, recoverable..Forgive and forget. These sterling qualities were amply demonstrated to me during one incident that happened (3rd person narrative to keep the privacy of individuals.) As I stepped on to enter the bus midway and partially opened the toilet door, which was to the right of the bus door, a loud shriek came out from inside the toilet. Wow! I was half stunned and surprised (pretty fair to say the woman inside was more surprised) but luckily hung on to the rail on the door or rail on the inside of the bus or I could have fallen down. Luckily for me, a quick-thinking, observant, beautiful lady yelled out in a soothing and comforting tone of voice: "You are part of the family (Family of Tourists) so no problem." What a relief. To this day I do not know who the lovely lady was. I thank you very much.

For the richness of the many experiences with all my fellow travelers, I'll treasure it for a very long time. Thanks again.

To one and all: keep the faith, hope, good health, and happiness.

Relevant Anecdotes & Flashback Memories of my Youth

1. Grandfather died near the front door of his house when a bomb exploded during the Great Battle of Okinawa during World War II.

2. Father had natural talent. He drew a horse in record time with a sweeping motion in oriental style of painting.

3. Lot of pigeons in town square chased by little boys. Farmer's sons chasing pheasant in the high grass on farm by diving on it.

4. Mother had long black hair. Son inherits thick hair and mother's patience.

50th Anniversary reunion (Bruyeres/Biffontaine) by MICHAEL IDE

My wife KIMI and I were very fortunate to be a part of the 26 member Maui tour group with group leader ZUKE MATSUI.

Our 23-day, approximately 3,600 miles, bus tour took us to the following countries: France, Monaco, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Austria, Luxembourg, and Belgium.

Florence, Italy brought back memories of the day when a patrol made up of CAPT. HEMPSTEAD, LT. POTTER and men from L and M Cos. and led by MAJOR O'CONNOR came under heavy mortar and machine gun fire. CAPT. HEMPSTEAD was killed instantly. LT. POTTER was last seen severely wounded. Among the others wounded were: WALLACE DOI (L), TOM NAKAMURA & AKIRA UJIYE (M). No one knew what happened to LT. POTTER after that. During our stay in Florence, we visited the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial, about 7.5 miles south of Florence. With an area of 70 acres, it is located astride the Greves River and framed by beautiful wooded hills. On the west bank of the River is the grave area covered with an immaculately manicured soft carpet of lusciously green grass. Each grave headstone is a white marble cross. Here, to our pleasant surprise, we found our long-lost comrade in arms, 3rd platoon leader, 2nd LT. RALPH J. POTTER (KIA). He is among the 4,398 servicemen and women interred in this cemetery.