

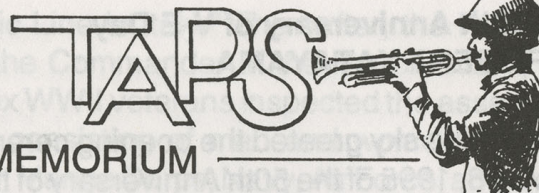
the 442nd RCT was made up of AJA majority or that the subsequent success of the unit was determined by the quality of the men involved.

As we prepared to continue our quest for our memorial, we experienced another unexpected turn. Mr. MIKE HARADA, who is the direct representative for General ORD, Commander of Hawaii Military Command, gave us a new outlook on the memorial. He convinced the General that all four units, 442nd, 100th (Separate), MIS, and 1399th should be honored. Since his office oversees the Ft. DeRussy operation, their word stands above the military contingent from Ft. DeRussy.

The memorial site area has been greatly increased from the original 5100 sq. ft. Townscape Inc. and H. INOUE Associates, the designated landscape developers for the Ft. DeRussy general plan, met with the memorial committee. They showed us their suggested landscaping ideas. One of the plans seems to be very favorable. It maintains a vast park and garden atmosphere surrounding a central theme for the memorial. The four park areas surrounding the central site works well in representing the designated four units. With this as the basic design, many variations can be applied to create a memorial concept for the four unit designation.

Since the army does not want the site to be designated as AJA memorial, we must find an appropriate name. If you have any suggestions, please write to us. Temporarily, it is designated as Brothers in Valor - WWII Memorial.

Although our original concept and rationale has been defused, there is still the possibility of maintaining a viable atmosphere. And in the meantime, Councilmember MIRIKITANI has helped tremendously in obtaining further appropriations for the memorial. In recent news, I read that the island of Maui is working on a 100/442 memorial to the tune of 4 million dollars. Does this tell those of us in Oahu something?



IN MEMORIAM

SAM GOTO, a Fox Chapter member, passed away recently in San Diego, California.

JAMES MUKAI, an Item Chapter member, passed away on October 25, 1994 in Fresno, California.

JACK MISAKA, a Fox Chapter member, passed away on January 13, 1995.

DANIEL HORIKAWA, a Fox Chapter Honorary member, passed away on February 7, 1995.

CARL OGAWA, a George Chapter member, passed away in March, 1995 in Los Angeles, California.

HISASHI FUJIYAMA, a Fox Chapter member, passed away on March 3, 1995.

ICHIRO HASEGAWA, a Service Chapter member, passed away on March 16, 1995.

HAROLD RIEBESELL, the 442nd RCT Personnel Officer, passed away on March 18, 1995 in Colorado.

JACK ANDREWS, a 522 C Chapter member, passed away on March 29, 1995 in Texas.

KENNETH KAWAMOTO, an Item Chapter member, passed away on May 10, 1995.

BARNEY MIYAJI, a Fox Chapter member, passed away on May 12, 1995.

YOSHIO WADA, an Associate member, passed away on May 14, 1995.

TOM HIGA, a Fox Chapter Maui member, passed away on May 21, 1995 in Maui.

The 50th Anniversary of V-E Day by ROBERT KATAYAMA

A clear blue sky greeted the opening ceremony on May 8, 1995 of the 50th Anniversary of the V-E Day Commemoration at Arlington Cemetery. Standing at attention on opposite sides of the stairway leading up to the Tomb of the Unknowns was an honor guard consisting of men and women of the five uniformed services. As President CLINTON approached the foot of the stairway escorted by the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, the Army band played the National Anthem in his honor. The President then ascended the stairs and placed a large wreath at the foot of the Tomb. He

then went to the six WWII veterans, including BOB KATAYAMA, to shake their hands and extend his greetings. The President and the veterans were escorted to the rear of the Tomb where the Commander explained the change in name from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to the Tomb of the Unknowns because those interred there included not only WWI and WWII but also Korea and Vietnam remains.

One interesting side-light occurred when the President descended the steps to meet with the other WWII veterans and families. There he saw BOB's two grandchildren and asked who they were with at this ceremony. They pointed to BOB and said "our grandpa." The President beckoned to BOB and said, "Come over here,



Grandpa." BOB joined him along with BOB's children and grandchildren and had an official photo taken.

Following the wreath laying ceremony, the WWII veterans and their guests were bussed to the Fort Myer Officers' Club for a hearty brunch.

With the beginning of the Fort Myer review almost ready, the six WWII veterans and their families were escorted to a tent in the rear of the reviewing stand. The President appeared again to shake hands with each person. Also with him were the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Secretary BROWN of the Department of Veterans Affairs remarked to BOB that he hoped to see BOB at the November 8 "Salute to the Japanese American Veterans of World War II" ceremonies in Los Angeles.

The President, along with General SHALIKASHVILI, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary BROWN and Defense Secretary PERRY and their spouses along with the six WWII veterans and their spouses or daughters were escorted to the reviewing stands. As BOB came through the entrance, someone in the stands yelled, "Go For Broke!" (This person later introduced himself as from the 141st Regiment of the Texas 36th Infantry Division.)

Following a thundering 21-gun salute in honor of the Commander-in-Chief, General SHALIKASHVILI was the first speaker, who described the exciting events that took place fifty years ago. Mr. F. MACINTOSH, then a lieutenant and a fighter pilot of the Army Air Corps with 104 combat missions to his credit next addressed the gathering and also introduced President CLINTON. The President's message was brief. He offered reverent words for those he called "freedom's warriors" while also acknowledging those "millions of heroes here on the home front." He concluded by saying "and today we the sons and daughters of their sacrifice say, 'Thank you and well done.'" In his speech, the President also listed the achievements of each WWII veteran on the reviewing stand and referred to ROBERT KATAYAMA, a private in the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team which broke through the

Gothic Line in Italy." Thereafter, the President and the Commander of the Honor Guard, and the six WWII veterans inspected the assembled units consisting of men and women from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard along with the bands of the Army and Marine Corps. Upon completion of the inspection, the units then passed in review to conclude the formal part of the ceremony. A fly-over is separate formations by aircraft of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and Coast Guard was an impressive conclusion to the day's memorable events.

The 50th Anniversary of VJ Day by EDWARD ICHIYAMA

The US government has officially designated Hawaii to host a series of events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the End of World War II (also known as VJ Day.)

President CLINTON is scheduled to participate in the core events, which will be held during September 1 - 3, 1995. Defense Minister of about 40 nations have been invited, and it is expected that a substantial number of these nations will be represented.

The core events are:

Friday, September 1, 1995

10 A.M. 25th Inf. Div. Review at Schofield Barracks

2 P.M. Parade of ships off Waikiki including ships of other nations. Official reviewing stand is Ft. DeRussy.

7 P.M. "Hawaii Remembers." This event will honor all veterans as well as personnel who served on the home front such as Pearl Harbor shipyard workers. Local entertainers will be featured. Kapiolani Park.

Saturday, September 2, 1995

8 A.M. Massing of the colors and wreath-laying ceremonies by veterans' organizations which served in the Pacific theater at Punchbowl.

9 A.M. Memorial Service at Punchbowl with President CLINTON as keynote speaker.

2 P.M. Veterans Parade. The parade route will be from Ala Moana park through Kalakaua Avenue to Kapiolani Park. Official reviewing stand for President CLINTON and other dignitaries is at Ft. DeRussy.

6 P.M. Hanger Dances. These will be at various military bases to honor WWII veterans and their families.

Sunday, September 3, 1995

11 A.M. Ecumenical Church Service at Aloha Stadium. President CLINTON will attend. This event will officially signal the "Beginning of the new era of Peace & Goodwill."

5:30 P.M. Visiting Japanese WWII veterans will meet with American WWII veterans at a reception at Hawaii Army Museum, Ft. DeRussy.

Monday, September 4, 1995

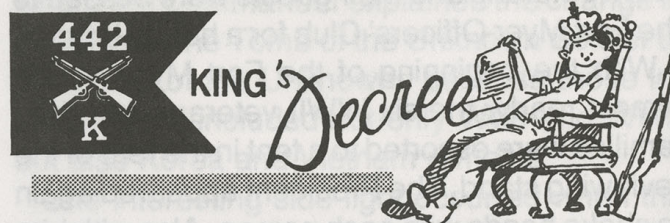
Japanese WWI veterans and American WWII veterans will dedicate a friendship plaque at Punchbowl.

The 442 RCT veterans have been invited to participate in all of these activities. Although generally thought of as V-J Day events, they officially signify the 50th Anniversary of the End of WWII; accordingly I believe that the 442nd veterans should participate actively and enthusiastically as we did during our 50th Anniversary celebration.

I encourage you particularly to attend the memorial service and to march or participate in the veterans parade. The memorial service is significant because IWAO YOKOOJI of MIS and the 171st Chapter is the coordinator for this program. Of equal importance is the parade in the afternoon. The Hawaii public still associates WWII with the 442nd RCT; therefore we should made every effort to participate in the parade. For those unable to march, military vehicles will be provided.

Fellow veterans, this will be our last hurrah so let us all participate and illustrate to the world that 442nd veterans are as patriotic today as we were in 1943. It is expected that over 1000 individuals representing media from all over the

world will converge here during this period to cover these events, so let us once more be in the forefront.



by JOE SHIMAMURA

Long Winded

Effective this issue, any long-winded article is a no-no, due to the cost of putting out such an issue and complying with the wish of the new chief of the Go For Broke News, ED GOTO. This reporter will do his very best to keep the Kingsmen article as the chief desires.

Having done this bit of bulling since my return from college in the early '50's, this should be no task. Should you ask me to make the article longer, this would be a burden as far as this reporter is concerned so come hell or high water, regardless of who, why, when or where, it will be as chief ED requests, we will be keeping it short.

Tuscaloosa

Still hearing regularly from that Alabama hotshot, "SANJI" KIMOTO who took a recent trip to California to get a new seeing-eye dog to replace his original one due to the aging factor of his first one, who had served him faithfully over all these years. A most handsome picture of SANJI appeared in the "Tuscaloosa News." First time in my life I've seen SANJI in a suit and I must say that he does look like a celebrity read to go out for his Easter stroll all dressed to kill. Getting to know SANJI goes back a long way as I met him in the mess hall of Halloran General Hospital where all wounded returnees from the European Theater of operation are processed here in New York, Staten Island, and then sent to various parts of the country, normally to a hospital that specializes in the type of wound that has to be treated. From here, it was on to

Valley Forge Hospital in Pennsylvania, and since nothing else could be done, SANJI was sent to a center for the visually impaired in Connecticut where I visited him one weekend realizing how lonesome he must be all by his lonesome. This visit turned out to be a beer-drinking reunion with SANJI and all his new-found friends. He must have gone home on the point system returning in early December and it's for sure he didn't come home on a K-ration cut purple heart that was worth 5 points. All these incidents sure go back a long way. Having been the last squad, 1st platoon leader, it was no problem getting along with SANJI who was also a 1st platoon rifleman, the only difference being he was in the 2nd squad. (The snapshot should be in the article if things go right.

Headliner

Thanks to that roving reporter, MARY JANE SUYEOKA, we got some first hand report that the great "ARTEEST" JOHN MATSUDAIRA played a big part in an art show held in Seattle a few months back. He may not look it, but there's one VAN GOGH you've gotta meet. Happy to report that I do have one of JOHN's masterpieces hanging in the SHIMAMURA household. If my memory is correct, JOHN was one of the casualties being hit in the stomach on the first day of battle on the hills of Mt. Belvedere. JOHN thought he had a stomach ache from eating the lousy K-rations the night before but found out different. It sure has been a long pull for JOHN, who was a messenger of the 4th platoon during this incident.

All's Well

Getting old but still holding their own are CHIKA NITAHARA and KENNETH UEHARA who both underwent open-heart surgery awhile ago. A follow-up check indicated that the healing process is slow but they are getting there as the days roll by. Well, what can you expect when you hit your 90's? Our very best for a most speedy recovery.

Visitors

Never got to see each one but it seems that the Ks had a rash of stateside visitors during the month of March in the way of MIDORI YOSHI, RUDY TOKIWA & JUDY, and SLIM "LONG STUFF" YEI all the way from Utah. Business, the memorial in D.C., and for MIDORI, it was chasing that white ball all over creation. Whatever it was, we do hope that it turned out to your satisfaction. Must be mighty busy on his farm, haven't heard from NOBU "MINNESOTA SKINNY" KIMURA in a long while. All goes well, we hope? 'Til the next one, keep 'em hoeing.

Man's Beta friend

by CHARLOTTE VOSS, Tuscaloosa News
(Monday, November 7, 1994)

No one knows better the meaning of "a dog is man's best friend" than SANJI KIMOTO.

KIMOTO recently returned home from San Rafael, California, where he received a new guide dog partner named Beta. KIMOTO received Beta, a German shepherd, from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. The two are developing the skills that will be needed for a true working relationship.

While living in Hawaii, KIMOTO was a member of the first class to graduate high school following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. KIMOTO decided that he did not want a career working in the sugar cane fields of his home island.

He volunteered in the U.S. Army at a time when Japanese-Americans were being questioned about loyalty. He was only 17 when the Army accepted him, an age requiring his mother's signature for his enlistment.

"I was a dogface GI," recalls KIMOTO, who was a member of the 442 Regimental Combat Team which was made up of Nisei, Japanese-Americans from Hawaii and the mainland.

He was on the front line and was among the first to advance into battle, rifle in hand.

Shortly after his enlistment, the young warrior was wounded in the shoulder and hospitalized. Upon recovery, he returned to battle, fighting until the war ended. In the months to follow, KIMOTO continued his military duty but began

to notice a loss of vision as he worked guarding prisoners of war. At this time, the experienced soldier was about 20 years old.

"It took about 2 1/2 to 3 months to lose my sight completely," said KIMOTO.

"I remember when I got on the ship to come to Valley Forge Hospital in Pennsylvania I could just see shadows. The voyage took about two weeks and I couldn't see the Statue of Liberty."

While participating in a mobility training activity at Valley Forge Hospital, the young patient learned doctors would not be able to do anything to help him regain any vision.

The next stop was a convalescent hospital where he began to learn rehabilitation by means of typing, learning Braille, and playing the piano. It also included learning to walk with a white cane.

"I was very self-conscious," KIMOTO said, recalling his first cane. "When I went home, I had a white cane and I thought everyone would watch me stumbling around."

The enterprising young man thought of something that might change those glares.

"I sanded my white cane and made it a natural color," adding he was never very good at walking with a cane by himself.

While attending the University of Hawaii, KIMOTO learned of a man, also blind, who was getting around campus with a seeing-eye dog.

"He was going all over campus with his dog and said, 'You should get a dog too. Then you can go anywhere.'"

During summer break, KIMOTO, with his brother serving as traveling companion, made his first trip to California, courtesy of the Veterans Administration. He began four weeks of training with Sandy, his first German shepherd. For almost two years, KIMOTO had depended on others to help him get through everyday activities. Now, he was almost ready to be on his own.

"It was a nice feeling of being independent," he said.

The only drawback to his excitement occurred upon his return to Honolulu - there was a 120-day quarantine.

With his life of independence, KIMOTO married and he, RENEE, and their four-legged friend eventually moved to San Diego where they purchased a cafe.

"That was when coffee was 10 cents a cup and our lunch special was 65 cents," he said.

But the expense of running a business grew while income decreased, so the cafe was eventually sold.

Over the next few years, the family became involved in a variety of businesses. SANJI and RENEE continued working as a team, but for someone else. SANJI sold and RENEE delivered for Fuller Brush Company. That relationship lasted for more than 20 years.

Life took a drastic turn for KIMOTO in 1989 when RENEE died of a heart attack.

KIMOTO decided to make a move from California. His only child, DIANE BURNS, was living in Tuscaloosa where she had landed a job at the University of Alabama.

Tuscaloosa has been home for KIMOTO for more than a year.

Phoebe, the dog KIMOTO brought to Alabama, had been his companion for more than 10 years and it was time for her to slow down.

The new Tuscaloosa resident returned to California to participate in the training of a new guide dog. California is the only state having laws governing the operation of a guide dog school.

"We gave her (Phoebe) a retirement party just before we left," said KIMOTO. But retirement has not been easy to handle.

"She was queen bee and now has been regulated to second fiddle," he said. "It takes a while for a retired dog to get used to retirement."

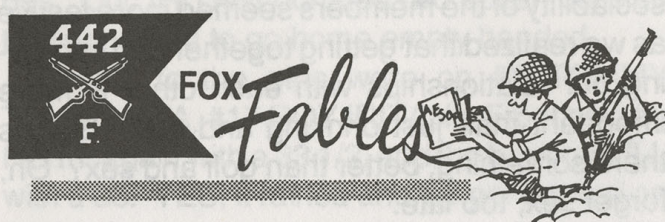
He said when a guide dog, who normally works about 8 years, retires, the idea is to return the animal to Guide Dogs for the Blind who will give the dog to someone for a pet. But KIMOTO's wife and daughter have always refused to allow that to happen in the past. Phoebe, the most recent retiree, is now DIANE's prized possession and her father is learning his way around his neighborhood with his new guide, Beta.

"The first week we returned home, my brother visited and would walk Phoebe on a leash and I

walked with Beta, and when Beta would walk in the middle of the road he would tell me so I could correct her and five instructions to walk along the roadside," said KIMOTO, who added that there are few sidewalks in his neighborhood, making walking difficult.

But man and dog are both learning their way around the area pretty well, although sometimes it gets a little confusing for both.

"I just go to the homeowner and ask for directions," he said. "I am getting to know my neighbors."



by **RON OBA**

*On Hill 140
A Mother's Son reposes
Fulfills a Promise*

ROY KUBO said, "Don't get too close to a buddy. You don't know when they'll die." We "Hawaiians" believed in the buddy, buddy system and practiced a custom, *HO'OPONOPONO*, of problem solving method with each other.

HOWARD CLIFFORD HANA, a hapa haole recruit, was assigned to F Company nilly willy even though he had the genes of the original homo Sapiens but looked more Japanese than haole. The irony is that unlike other hapa haoles, HOWARD turned out not as a Kotonk or a Buddahead but pure and simply Hapa Hawaiian. JO OKAZAKI took an immediate liking to this quiet, unassuming young man who at first seemed out of place in the hutment. Their friendship blossomed. They made a promise to each other before embarking for the front lines that if one of them should die and the other survives, the survivor will personally visit their mother to pay their condolences.

HOWARD died in the vicinity of Hill 140 where

medic IKE MASAOKA was peppered by shrapnel over a dozen places as he tried to tend to HOWARD who lay asleep with a quiet countenance oblivious to the bombardment bracketing his 3rd squad, 1st. Platoon - as he was forcefully plucked from this verdant life.

JO kept his promise and visited HOWARD'S mother in Florida.

One of HOWARD'S three sisters, Mrs. HARRIET HODGES and her husband, a retired Colonel CARROTT B. HODGES, special assistant to Deputy Commander USFK for international relations, visited JO during the Christmas holidays, 1994. Their two sons, HOWARD and KEITH with wife and children accompanied to make this a truly sentimental visit with a sumptuous Chinese dinner for friends and relatives of JO'S and his brother, Dr OSMOND and wife, ELAINE OKAZAKI.

Space does not permit JO's tenacity for details to be printed here but the significance underlying his narrative is his long lasting relationship with HOWARD'S sisters who regard him as a brother.

Brothers, HOWARD and KEITH wish to become associate members of Fox Chapter, 442nd. RCT.

A Sentimental Journey - Camp Shelby

Only five Fox Veterans and their wives plan to revisit our old training grounds labeled the "Hell Hole of the 48th" in 1943. As we found out in Europe in '94 nothing remains the same. Ditto for Shelby. The old training grounds are no more. The whole area has been razed, however someone who bought one of the hutments agreed to have it towed to the area where the 442nd billeted. Those going are GEORGE & KAY KAWAKAMI, PAUL & CLARA YAMASHITA, KIYOSHI & YUKIE TAKEUCHI, BOB KATAYAMA, and RON & MICHIO OBA.. TOKUICHI & FUSAE NAKANO from Naalehu and YURI ISHIKAWA and daughter LINDA from Kaneohe joined our group but have decided to divert to other venues. There are 23 other husbands and wives in this combination of K and F veterans.

Brigadier General EDWARD RICHARDSON was the most surprised when I told him that the 111th Army National Guard Band that performed at our Anniversary Memorial Service wanted to go to Shelby and play on our behalf. I called Col. HERB SASAKI in Hattiesburg, B.G. RICHARDSON called the Pentagon, and now the General decided to go and the Director of the National Guard in Washington said, "I'm going too if RICHARDSON's going." The band will also play big band WWII dance music at our banquet at the University of Southern Mississippi.

BOB KATAYAMA will give a speech, representing our president in responding to the welcome by the Mayor of Hattiesburg at Friday's dinner and RON will lay a wreath at the Memorial and is asked to reminisce about Shelby days by the Hawaiians at a luncheon on Saturday. A mainlander will reminisce their feelings in response to meeting the Buddaheads from Hawaii. BOB has also been invited by PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON to attend the ceremonies commemorating the end of V-E day in Washington D.C. on May 8th. He reported that he was at the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery with PRESIDENT CLINTON. They proceeded to Fort Myer where six couples including himself and daughter were interviewed representing the divergent military services and ethnic groups that served in the military. Hey, they mentioned the 442nd in introducing BOB to the nation. They then reviewed the troops with PRESIDENT CLINTON. A 36th Division veteran there told everyone within earshot that the 442nd rescued the whole Texas Division.

Down Under - A Pacific Tour, 1996

Tour coordinator, JOE TANAKA, says, "As requested by many members who participated in the Fox Chapter European Tour, we have received a proposal from Resch Tours, Ltd. for a tour of the South Pacific in April of 1996." It will be limited to the first forty people responding.

The tour will visit Auckland, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, New Zealand, Christchurch, Mount Cook, Queens town, Milford sound, Rotorua, Waitomo, and Auckland. A detailed description

of each stop is narrated in the handout so if interested, please call Joe for the tour \$3,696 (Honolulu), \$3,879 (Los Angeles), and \$4,146 from Denver.

Shinnen En Kai

As Tea Houses get scarcer, their parking lots get to be an impossibility. I found parking between the electric pole and the guy wire outside of Natsunoya. Once inside the Tea House everything was nice and cozy. The turnout was good, the meeting by PRESIDENT MICH TAKATA was short, the booze plentiful and the sociability of the members seemed more festive as we realized that getting together and improving our relationships with each other is more important than just drinking and golf. Boy, is there something, better than golf and sex? Oh, forget sex, too late.

The food was appetizing as our platters of food disappeared pretty fast. Those attending were: DR. ROY IRITANI, BARNEY & PHYLLIS MIYAJI, RICHARD MURASHIGE, GEORGE & MYRTLE NAKASATO, RON & MICH OBA, JEAN OKAMOTO, JO OKAZAKI, YOSHIO & CLARA SHIBUYA, CHIKAKO SHIMADA, GOICHI SUEHIRO, MICH & SHINAKO TAKATA, KIYOSHI & YUKIE TAKEUCHI, TOMMY & MAY TAMAGAWA, JOE & SHARON TANAKA, PAUL & CLARA YAMASHITA, FRANCES YORITA, and KEN & JOY INUKAI.

Fox Golf at Olomana

What is your quality of life? Do you golf to live, or live to golf 3-4 times per week? All wives think golfers are crazy. Most golfers prefer hacking the grass on the golf course and rather dig divots than plant a seedling. At the first signs of rain there goes the hoe and shovel; back in the bag and out comes the golf clubs. The sky's going to clear so off to the course.

With wistful forecasting and raincoats in hand the following hackers participated in our semi-annual golf tournament at Olomana Golf Course: Chairman TOMMY TAMAGAWA, MICH TAKATA, JOE TANAKA, BILL TANAKA, SHIGE HIGA, YOSHIO SHIBUYA, ROY IRITANI,

BARNEY MIYAJI, ROY KUBO and RON OBA. Guests included: HICHI MATSUMOTO and MICH OBA

A heavy downpour the day before and in the morning did not look conducive to summer play so it was peremptorily changed to winter rules - where anything goes! Lucky for this rule change as it started to rain hard on the back nine. This led to some sub-par rounds for five of the players and the winner was, oh, ah, winners were: SHIGE HIGA, YOSHIO SHIBUYA and RON OBA with net 68s. Close behind were BILL TANAKA and HICHI MATSUMOTO with net 69s. Doc IRITANI donated two dozen balls so that none had to go home empty handed.

Closest to the pins were on #8 TOMMY TAMAGAWA, #17 ROY IRITANI; Front nine by ROY I. again with a 33 1/2, and the back by BILL with a 33. YES, it rained and we got soaked on the back nine.

An aside: MAS TAMAYEI and BILL TANAKA won on Kauai and came back to Hickam for the anniversary golf to win again. MAS TAMAYEI shot a net 64, BILL, a 65 and RON, a 67. I believe F Co. took the first three places. A mainlander shot a 60 net but I guess he didn't qualify.

GEORGE KAWAKAMI was drooling. He asked, "Next time F Co has a tournament, call me, I'll come for the game." TOMMY, take note.

In Memorium

HISASHI FUJIYAMA, 84, passed away on March 3, 1995. He is survived by his wife, AYAME and son, PAUL H., daughter Mrs. CALVIN HEE, brother TOM and sister, Mrs. YOSHIKO AH CHIN.

We all remember HISASHI as a rugged individual who didn't hesitate to encounter the enemy face to face. He confiscated a motorcycle from a German Officer and rode around till Col. HANLEY stopped him. He had thousands of Italian Lira in his pockets that suddenly disappeared during a shake down.

In recent years he joined several Senior Citizens groups and kept the ladies dancing until his legs gave way. Our condolences to his family.

JACK MISAKA died of an apparent heart attack on January 13, 1995. HIROTAKUSAGAWA reports that SAM GOTO, of San Diego, died recently. HIRO also writes that SHIGERU MURANAKA had a stroke. MUNRO SHINTANI reports that he received a new stainless steel tube implant in his artery and is doing fine.

Honorary member, DANIEL H. HORIKAWA, succumbed after a lengthy illness on February 7, 1995. MICH TAKATA eulogized DAN befitting a close associate. Our condolences to all the family and friends of those who serenely left us during this period.

BARNEY SAICHI MIYAJI, the guy who has lived with only half a lung for close to thirty years was hale and hearty until the flu bug got to him. It comes and goes two, three times until you have a relapse. BARNEY went to Kaiser Hospital on Wednesday with congestive heart failure caused by pneumonia and by the time MICH and I visited him, he was on oxygen, I.V. and had an oxymeter on his finger tips that buzzed when the oxygen in his body went down or when he talked too much. After four days when he complained that he was hungry he seemed on his way to recovery. They gave him miso soup and okai. Latest is that he had a relapse and had lapsed into a coma. MICH TAKATA, RON and MICH OBA visited him for the last time on May 11th. RON did a *Ho'o Pono Pono* meditation for BARNEY before leaving his room. BARNEY was 72 years old and died on May 12, 1995. Our condolences to PHYLLIS and his family.

Fox 6 to Fox 1, over.

Maui  *FOX Fables*

by ROBERT MATSUSHITA

TOM HIGA, Fox Chapter Maui, expired on May 21, 1995 at the Maui Memorial Hospital. He was last seen on May 19th attending the Mother Chapter meeting.

He collapsed before dinner and paramedics were called to assist and transport him to the

hospital.

Our deepest sympathies to AILEEN and his children. Funeral service was held on Friday, May 26 at the Nakamura Mortuary in Wailuku.

"Passport to History"

Special to the Bulletin by LEONARD OKA

(Editor's Note: This story was originally published in "Okage Same de.." (Volume 4, Issue 1, January, 1995), a publication of the Nisei Veteran's Memorial Center. It is reprinted here by permission of the author.)

As the founder and current president of the Maui Sons and Daughters of the 442, I had always hoped to travel to Europe to trace the footsteps of my father and all of those brave men from the 100th/442nd.

It was my dream to see the battlegrounds where these great men, many who gave their lives, fought to earn the respect of a country who doubted their loyalty. This burning desire was about to be quenched with the organization of the 50th Anniversary celebrations planned for the liberation of Bruyeres and the battles for the "Lost Battalion."

The cost to travel half the way around the world and the 3 weeks away from my job in an industry full of turmoil, the insurance industry, added a bit of stress into what I had hoped and dreamed of for all these years. But this was something I had to do. It was a need that had to be addressed. I was determined to fill this void in my life.

In the year of preparation for this trip, I went through the routine of getting my passport, buying my cold weather clothes, and attending group meetings and occasionally picking up some reading material on Europe. But even up to the day that we were to leave, the commitment of my daily life would not let me enjoy the excitement of this long-awaited trip.

But finally, on the morning of September 26th, the day we were to leave, everything fell into its place. Why was I taking the trip? What was this need I had to answer?

On my list of things to do that morning was to buy flowers and to visit my father's grave at Maui Memorial Park. My dad, CLARENCE "HEKKA"

OKA, had passed away over three and a half years ago. I remember how over ten years ago he had planned to go back to Europe to revisit the site where memories of a part of his life were still in his heart.

He was one of a few Nisei veterans who was willing to share their war experiences with his children and others who would listen. I knew that going back was something he wanted to do but his opportunity was lost due to a family emergency.

That morning I knew that this trip was just as much for my dad as it was for myself. As I talked to him at his graveside, I promised to take him with me. I knew that I saw an old picture of him in uniform at either my home or my mother's. I was determined to find it and take him to Europe with me. I found the picture at home in one of my photo albums and stuck it in my shirt pocket. Now we were ready for our trip.

As we got to the airport, I finally started to get excited about being a tourist. After all, this was a trip of a lifetime. I'd be seeing places that I had only read about and never thought I would actually see.

I was the only Sansei on this group so far. MAE MATSUMOTO, who lives in Florida, was to meet her parents and our group in Paris. I had hoped that more of our sons and daughters group would be able to make this trip. But three weeks in October was a bad time for those who showed interest earlier.

This tour was well planned, with a great mixture of tourist and battle sites. Seeing the Eiffel Tower, Leaning Tower of Pisa, and cities like Paris, Florence, Venice, Munich, Innsbruck, etc. was fun and exciting.

The packing and unpacking as we moved from city to city started to take a toll on my dad's photo. So I decided to keep it tucked away in my passport which I kept in my fanny pack. This was the photo was safer and yet still with me at all times. I didn't realize the irony of this act until later in the trip.

Even with the fun and excitement of visiting well known tourist attractions, I knew why I was on this trip. As we visited familiar towns that the

100th/442nd visited over 50 years ago, I started to get a better sense of what my dad and other GIs had experienced. Of course, there were no bombs scattering shrapnel from tree bursts above me, nor bullets whizzing by. But there were still many towns, some with buildings which stood there 50 years. The hills and valleys remain the same as very little development has happened to change the area.

The forests surrounding the towns have remained pretty much as it has for the past 50 years. I was told that the trees remain due to the amount of shrapnel remaining the trunk. It was no good for use as lumber.

The steep and thickly forested hills remain today, to give us a haunting reminder of the obstacles these GIs had to overcome. Today its beauty can be appreciated, but 50 years ago, I can only imagine the cold and darkness that this foreign land offered to these young men, many who came from warm and sunny Hawaii.

Now as I reflect back on this trip, I begin to realize what made it worth all the time and money expended. No, it's not seeing the Eiffel Tower nor the many beautiful cathedrals and places. Nor was it the museums and artwork of ancient Europe.

What made this trip so memorable and meaningful was the people.

The people of Sospel, L'Escarene, Biffontaine, and Bruyeres, who still remember and welcome the veterans as the heroes they really are.

And also the people in our group. The veterans, their families and friends of the veterans. Each one from our group added something very special to the tour. Living together for 23 continuous days made for very special memories and friendships that will be remembered forever by each and everyone of us.

But the most significant relationship forged was that of mine and my dad's! Although gone from this physical world, we were able to share many things through our hearts. I know that his experiences in WWII, as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was a very important part of his life. After all, he showed it by his 50 years of involvement in the Maui 442nd Veter-

ans organization. Serving as its first president and doing so for the first five years of its existence. It also showed in the 50-year bond of friendship between him and his fellow 442nd veterans.

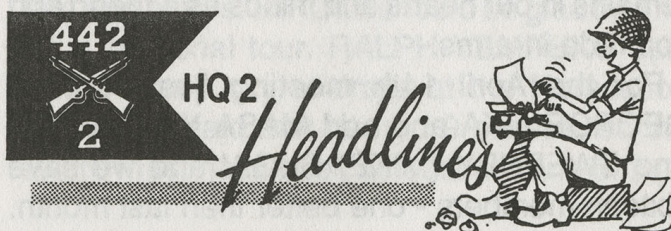
Through this tour, I had a chance to share with him, the countries he traveled, the battlefields he endured, the people he fought to liberate and the men he fought side to side with.

The stories shared and the site seen will now be a part of my life also. I will never know what it felt like to hear the sounds of gunfire and the bombs falling everywhere. Nor the sight of buddies dying around me. Not that I would ever want to experience this firsthand. But at least I was able to share a little bit more from the life of this very special man, my Dad!

I mentioned earlier that there was a piece of irony which I saw in the act of keeping my dad's photo in my passport. It hit me one of those nights while sitting up in my hotel room in Menton.

A passport provides an individual with the privilege to enter a foreign country. In this instance, maybe my real passport was my dad's life and experiences as a 442nd veteran. What he and his fellow American of Japanese ancestry accomplished on the foreign battlefields of Europe gave me the right and privilege of coming back to enjoy the beauty of these free people and places.

Dad - I thank you for being my "Passport to History."



by K. TANIGAWA

The March 10, 1995 meeting broke some sort of record for attendance in the recent history of tiny HQ2. A total of fifteen persons attended, including a long-lost sheep in the person of GEORGE OKA, who now calls Chicago home. Also present