



Go For Broke BULLETIN

442nd VETERANS CLUB



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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



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Go For Broke

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Top left (l-r): Robert Arakaki (100th), Bert Hamakado (100th S&D) and Ed Yamasaki (I Co.) at Mayor's Memorial Day Service, Punchbowl

Top right: Noboru Kawamoto (RHQ) with escorts at Governor's Memorial Day Service, Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (Photos: Wayne Iha)

Bottom: Chilly Sasaki (AT): George Nakasato (F); Lt. Gen. Duane Thiessen, USMCP: Ron Oba (F) at Natatorium (Photo: Eileen Sakai)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTRIBUTORS	Page
President's Report	2
Taps	3
Donations	4
Editor's Report	5
Feature Story	7
Regimental HQ	Henry Kuniyuki 11
AT	Committee of Three No News
Cannon	John Mikasa 12
Medics	Oscar Tsukayama 15
Service	No News
HQ2	Okemura, et al 16
Easy	No News
Fox	Ron Oba 17
George	No News
Howe	Yutaka Yoshida No News
HQ3	Satoru & Jane Shikasho 19
Item	Ed Yamasaki 21
King	Eichi Oki No News
Love	Genro & Muriel Kashiwa No News
Mike	No News
522 Able	No News
522 Baker	Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama 26
522 Charlie	No News
232 Eng/Band	M.Honda 28
Kauai News	No News
Maui News	Harold Nishida, Jr. 29
Sons & Daughters	Gail Nishimura 29
Announcements	32

Go For Broke is the official bulletin of the 442nd Veterans Club. Contributors may submit reports to: Editor, Go For Broke Bulletin, 933 Wiliwili Street, Honolulu, HI 96826; e-mail: 442veterans@hawaiiintel.net. Please submit reports on CD (saved in MS Word in Windows format) or email to 442 office. For more information, contact (808) 949-7997. Deadlines for 2011 submissions: April 8, July 8, October. 7, January 6, 2012.

We are still awaiting the decision on where and when the formal Congressional Gold Medal ceremony will be held. Until this is made, all plans for the DC ceremony are pending. For those who have signed up for the DC ceremony, please keep your plans on tap. The DC ceremony will most likely be sometime in November.

There is encouraging news that the Secretary of the Treasury has approved the final design for the Congressional Gold Medal. Hopefully, this will permit the final plans for the CGM ceremony to be completed: location and date of ceremony, Honor Flights confirmation, and activities which will add to the itinerary of the participants.

There will be an NVN meeting in Washington, DC to further work out details for the DC event and the subsequent regional ceremonies. Representatives of the organizations that are involved in the Congressional Gold Medal project are urged to attend this July 14-15 meeting. Proxy voting will be allowed in reaching a consensus agreement.

Of special interest is the December 17 CGM ceremony to be held here in Honolulu. Details for the morning parade through Waikiki and the luncheon banquet where the veterans will be presented replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal are being firmed up. Heading this effort are MG (ret) Robert Lee and Barbara Tanabe with lots of help from Alan Hayashi and BAE. Plans included Honor Flights for neighbor island veterans to attend the December 17 ceremony.

We were unsuccessful in our effort to obtain a State parcel for our proposed 442nd Legacy Center at this year's legislature. The legislators were helpful; however, it seems as though we did not do enough groundwork to achieve our goal. This endeavor to establish a new site for the 442nd Veterans Club and its vast archives is headed by the president of our Sons and Daughters chapter – Wesley Deguchi.

The aging of the veterans – where an 87-year old is considered a “youngster,” is working a hardship on our members. Requests for speakers, request for representatives of the 442nd at various events and even making our Board meeting quorum is becoming difficult. Invitations to evening events are generally regretfully turned down. Several chapters are missing on our Board of Directors meeting. With the passing of Fred Ida, the few G Company veterans have decided to skip having a representative on the Board – a bad omen of what lies ahead.

We were elated at the news that Shinyei “Rocky” Matayoshi finally received his Distinguished Service Cross. His original records were lost in a fire at the records center or mislaid. It seems as though our friend MG (ret) Tony Taguba played a key role in putting together the case for Rocky with the help of a few others. Sen. Dan Akaka then sponsored Rocky's award through Congress. We send our congratulations to Rocky whose award further adds to glory of Company G and the 442nd.

Our hats off to the 100th Infantry Battalion veterans on their 69th anniversary! It was June 1942 when the newly designated 100th Infantry Battalion Separate was sent to Wisconsin to train for combat duty. Their record set the standard for the Nisei warriors of WWII. And now, the 442nd can look to their 69th comes March 2012.

There was a change of command for the 100th 442 Reserve unit. Major Keith Horikawa took over from Kimo Dunn who is now a Colonel. Our congratulations and best wishes to both of them. Not to be outdone, our staunch supporter, Beau Tatsumura has been elevated to Command Sergeant Major. These are great news from our 100th Reserve unit.

IN MEMORIAM



Deepest sympathies to the families & friends of the following:

Ajimura, Masaichi (442 HQ/100 th A)	Mar. 23, 2011	Merrill, "Bud" Francis Butler Jr. (HqCo)	May 2011
Araki, Leslie Goichi (L Co.)	Apr. 9, 2011	Miyasaki, Minoru (G Co.)	Mar. 31, 2011
Hasegawa, Harold T. (F Co.)	Apr. 13, 2011	Mori, Lawrence Y. (522A)	May 3, 2011
Hirano, Herbert H. (M Co.)	Apr. 16, 2011	Mukai, Sadamu (M Co.)	Mar. 23, 2011
Inada, Dr. Kenneth K. (K Co.)	Mar. 26, 2011	Nagao, Wallace T. (Regt. HQ Co.)	Apr. 19, 2011
Ino, Kay (F Co.)	Jan. 23, 2011	Nagatsuka, Kanado "James" (F Co.)	May 14, 2011
Inouye, Mike Kiyoshi (Service)	Mar. 5, 2011	Nakano, Rokuro "George" (I Co.)	Mar. 4, 2011
Ishimatsu, Robert J. (L Co.)	May 3, 2011	Nishimoto, Norman (Cannon)	June 20, 2011
Iso, Robert Masami (I Co.)	Feb. 6, 2011	Nitahara, Itsuo (L Co.)	Mar. 29, 2011
Isosaki, Susumu "Iso" (H Co.)	Apr. 26, 2011	Noda, Kaoru (G Co.)	May 5, 2011
Kajioka, Fred Aihiro (3HQ)	Mar. 18, 2011	Ogami, Noboru (Medics)	Apr. 22, 2011
Kaneshige, Juno "Wally" (E Co.)	Apr. 17, 2011	Oki, Peter Mitsuo (K Co.)	Mar. 1, 2011
Kato, Hiroshi (522-Serv.)	Apr. 14, 2011	Omatsu, James Yasumi (RHQ)	Mar. 20, 2011
Kato, Tadakazu "Mike" (I Co.)	May 16, 2011	Omi, George Juji (Medics)	May 28, 2011
Kawamoto, Seikichi James (Medics)	May 20, 2011	Oshiro, Richard M. (I Co.)	June 7, 2011
Kawamura, Wallace T. (L Co.)	Mar. 4, 2011	Sugimoto, Isamu "Sam" (3HQ)	May 15, 2011
Kimura, Kaz (RHQ Co.)	Mar. 31, 2011	Tagawa, Jack Kusuo (2HQ)	Feb. 23, 2011
Kitagawa, Manuel (Cannon)	June 20, 2011	Takashima, Tom Tarami (Medic)	Mar. 17, 2011
Kobashigawa, Masaru (232 nd Eng.)	Jan. 29, 2011	Tanaka, Tokushi "Toku" (522-Svc)	May 15, 2011
Kohashi, Hiroshi "Coffee" (L Co.)	Apr. 25, 2011	Yamane, Henry S. (Anti-Tank)	Feb. 23, 2011
Matsuura, Masaichi "Tom" (Service)	Mar. 2, 2011	Yamashiro, Rodney T. (232 nd Eng.)	May 7, 2011



Memorial Day photos taken at Punchbowl and Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

Photos by Wayne Iha

Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

442nd Veterans Club			
Dange Atagi - <i>IMO Medics:</i>	\$300	Stanley Izumigawa	\$100
<i>Ramon Wasano, Tadasu Onaka, Ken Fujiyoshi</i>		Mr. & Mrs. Genro Kashiwa	\$100
Cannon Chapter	\$100	Benjamin Kodama	\$250
<i>IMO Masami Sam Yoshinari (Cannon)</i>		Benjamin Kodama, Jr.	\$100
Suzanne Isonaga	\$100	Iris Lou	\$50
Mr. Alan Kitagawa	\$25	Lyndell Mark	\$50
<i>IMO Toku Tanaka</i>		Scot Mitamura	\$15
John Mikasa	\$100	Claire Mitani	\$50
<i>IMO Masami Sam Yoshinari (Cannon)</i>		Tsuneo Muramaru	\$25
Richard Miyakawa	\$5,000	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Murashige	\$100
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Louise Kashino Takisaki	\$100	Mr. & Mrs. Takayuki Sasaki	\$25
<i>IMO 442nd Veterans</i>		Service Chapter	\$100
Tsuneo Yoshikawa	\$300	Colleen Sur	\$50
		Gerritt Takasaki	\$100
<i>All of the following donations were made</i>		Sheldon Takasaki	\$100
<i>in memory of Mrs. Florence Kodama:</i>		Mr. & Mrs. Toshiaki Tanaka	\$100
100 th Infantry Battalion Vets	\$50	William Y. Thompson	\$100
Fox Chapter	\$200	Mr. & Mrs. Tadashi Tojo	\$300
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		Mr. & Mrs. Tajiro Uranaka	\$100
		Steve Uyehara	\$15

GFB Bulletin Donations	
Dange Atagi	\$100
Linda Fujioka	\$50
<i>IMO Sam Yoshinari (Cannon Co.)</i>	
Suzanne Isonaga	\$100
JA Living Legacy	\$500
Arthur S. Kitagawa	\$50
<i>IMO Barney Hajiro (M Co.)</i>	
Richard Koto	\$100
<i>IMO "Dyna" T. Matsuda (L Co.)</i>	
Sumiko Kubota	\$100
Masanaga Okumura	\$100
<i>IMO "Dyna" T. Matsuda (L Co.)</i>	
Tsuneo Yoshikawa	\$300

Scholarship Donations	
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<i>IMO Herbert H. Hirano (M Co.)</i>	
William Thompson	\$100
<i>IMO Kaoru Noda (G Co.)</i>	



by Oscar Tsukayama

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony Update

1. The Commission of Fine Arts and the Citizen Coinage Advisory Commission have completed a review of the medal designs submitted by the NVN and from them have decided on a proposed design which has been submitted to the Secretary of Treasury for approval. Production by the United States Mint is expected to take about 6 to 8 weeks after approval.

2. The ceremony date will not be determined until the medal design is approved. It is scheduled for late fall. To date more than 3,500 people have registered to attend.

3. In addition to the Presentation Ceremony which will be held at the Emancipation Hall, a Congressional Gold Medal Gala Dinner to recognize the honorees is planned. An event is also planned at the National World War II Memorial.

4. 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans are eligible for free airfare and accommodations through Honor Flight. Be sure to register with NVN and submit an Honor Flight application to be considered for sponsorship.

5. New developments are expected in the coming weeks. Please continue to check the NVN website www.nationalveteransnetwork.com for the latest information.

Ron Oba is Featured Speaker at Natatorium

Ronald Oba, Fox Chapter, was one of the speakers at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Natatorium on May 29, 2011. He noted that, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, because our enemy was Japan, those of Japanese descent in Hawaii including Niseis who were U.S. citizens, were regarded with suspicion and classified as enemy aliens. But, he says, "I grew up saluting the American flag every morning

and when the opportunity arose to serve our country, we volunteered, as Americans, to preserve our liberty and freedom."

Oba, who served as cook in Company F, 442nd RCT, was wounded while delivering food when a shell landed three feet from his foxhole. He saw action in all of the campaigns the 442nd was engaged in, both Italy and France, and was involved in a number of fierce battles. He recalled how many of his friends and comrades were killed or wounded in these battles.

He said, "Memorial Day is not only a holiday but a day we pay our respects to all of our good friends who gave their all and died to preserve the liberty and freedom Americans enjoy today."



Photo: Eileen Sakai

Ed Yamasaki Participates in the Golden Age Games

In May 2011, the Department of Veterans Affairs organized and sponsored the Golden Age Games which is a multi-sports event for older veterans under their Senior Rehabilitation Program. The event which took place in various locations on Oahu over several days drew nearly 800 competitors, age 55 to 100, who competed in swimming, cycling, bowling, dominoes, checkers, golf, horseshoes, croquet, shot put, discus, table tennis, shuffleboard, outrigger canoe paddling, and air rifle.

This year, Ed Yamasaki of I Co. 442nd RCT participated in the games. Yamasaki who is 87 and has undergone lung-cancer operation says "I may be past the golden age but I get around. I work out with

a trainer; walk, do push-ups, lift weights and am in pretty good shape.” He competed in the air rifle and checkers events.

Yamasaki received training in the machine gun, M-1 rifle, and the 45 caliber hand gun at Camp Shelby and said “I used to be a pretty good shot.” He says “I’m going to have fun and meet some of the guys. I am also looking forward to the Luau on Saturday night.”

The results were not announced but that’s not important. What’s important is Ed’s young in heart outlook and his spirit of challenge and confidence and willingness to meet and make new friends. Way to Go, Ed.



Goro Sumida (100th, foreground) and Ed Yamasaki in air rifle competition
Photo: Stacey Hayashi

Rocky Matayoshi (G Co. 442nd RCT) Receives Distinguished Service Cross

On June 7, 2011, former Army Technical Sergeant Shinyei “Rocky” Matayoshi was presented with the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) in the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes. The presentation was made by Undersecretary of the Army Joseph Westphal before a packed audience of Asian American veterans and active duty personnel of all ranks. Matayoshi was accompanied by his sons, Dr. Edmund Matayoshi and Dr. Brian Matayoshi and Brian’s wife Nita Maria and son Brian Shinyei.

The award was for extraordinary heroism by Matayoshi on April 7, 1945 when his platoon was ordered to seize a heavily fortified forest area on the steep slopes of Mt. Belvedere in Italy. As

they approached the elevated ridge, his platoon came under intense fire from several machine gun nests. Matayoshi suppressed the first machine gun nest with his Thompson machine gun and hand grenades then led the assault which destroyed three other machine gun nests killing or wounding 15 enemy soldiers. His valorous action paved the way for the battalion’s pursuit of the retreating enemy soldiers. In addition to the DSC, Matayoshi has been previously awarded two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge for separate heroic actions.

Matayoshi was born and raised in Koloa, Kauai. Soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, his father Shinjiro Matayoshi was sent to a prisoner of war camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He volunteered to serve in the Army in February 1943 to prove his loyalty to the United States and in hopes that his service would lead to his father’s release. In his acceptance remarks, Matayoshi said, “Following my training, I visited my father in Santa Fe.” He said to me, “Son, the United States considers me the enemy but you are an American. Promise me that you will make America proud of you and promise me that you will never bring shame on the Matayoshi name.” I said “Dad, I promise.” Commenting on the day he received the award, he said, “I was not thinking of myself. I merely had a job to do and I was just trying to do the best I could do. I didn’t think of myself as a hero then and even less so today.”

After the war, he married Elsie Goya of Honolulu and settled in Chicago. He attended Wilson Community College and the Illinois Institute of Technology. He has four children.

Shig Momoda (Medic, 442nd RCT) Receives the Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre

On Friday, May 6, 2011, Shigeru “Shig” Momoda, 93, of Bellevue, WA, was awarded the highest and most prestigious award from the government of France, the Legion of Honour (Chevalier) and the coveted Croix de Guerre. Presentation was made by Corinne Pereira, Deputy

Consul General of France in San Francisco as Momoda and wife June stood proudly in front of family, friends and veterans at the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) Hall. The Legion of Honour is divided into five degrees with Chevalier (Knight) classified as number one. The order is conferred upon men and women, either French citizens or foreigners, for outstanding achievements in military or civil life.

Momoda was born in Seattle; graduated from Broadway High School and received a Bachelor's Degree in marketing from the University of Washington. He was inducted into the Army in January 1942; later assigned to the 442nd RCT and sent to Europe with the 442nd in 1944. He was assigned to Co. I, 442nd RCT as a medic. He was hit by a grenade during battle near Bruyeres, France; was hospitalized and awarded the Purple Heart.

Momoda returned to Seattle after his discharge

in December 1945 and worked for the Port of Seattle as an accountant. A year later, he teamed up with his brother Takashi, who also served as a medic with the 442nd RCT, and successfully managed Crown Furniture for 36 years until their retirement in 1982.

Joint Memorial Service

The annual Joint Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2011. The 442nd Veterans Club is the host organization and the committee this year is chaired by Wade Wasano, Sons and Daughters, 442nd Veterans Club. Lt. Gen. Francis J. Weircinski, Commander, U.S. Army Pacific will be keynote speaker and Lynn Heirakuji, daughter of Walter Herakuji, K Co. will serve as M.C. Other details will be announced as firmed up. All veterans and family members are urged to "Mark Your Calendar" and plan to attend to assure a successful event.



Feature Story

An Inside View of the Cannon Company by Major Jerry Gustafson (US Army, ret.)

On April 15th of this year, Cannon Company lost one of its most stalwart members, Masami "Sam" Yoshinari, 1st Lt. Infantry. Sam played an important part during the early formation of Cannon Company as an advisor to our company commander, Captain Edwin Shorey. Cannon Company was a unique unit. When the 442nd was authorized by the War Department, and began to receive the volunteers, the Company was specifically designated to be armed with the M1-105mm infantry cannon. The officers and men alike did not have any idea about such a unit. The cannon companies in the other infantry regiments were armed with the 75mm howitzer in the early days of WWII. My late wife and I had the pleasure to spend several "happy hours" with Major General and Mrs. Pence, who was retired, and living

outside Fort Benning, GA in 1953, who told me that "he didn't know a damn thing about a 105mm Cannon Company"! That was why he appointed one of his best officers, Capt. Shorey to attend Cannon Company School at Ft. Benning.

Meanwhile, Capt. Harold Riebesell, personnel officer, and a close friend of Capt. Shorey, had the job of screening the records of all enlisted men and officers assigned to the Combat Team. Depending on the Military Occupational Speciality {MOS}, they were assigned to a unit where they would best fit in.

Bear with me while we go back a few years to 1940. Keeping in mind that the war had started in Europe in early 1939, the government authorized the draft. The country was beginning to come out of the Great Depression, jobs were scarce, wages were

low, and many young men opted to enlist in the Army, even before the draft. There were also those who became of draft age, took advantage of volunteering so that they would only have to do one year of service, Sam Yoshinari was one such person. Sam, who was from The Dalles, Oregon (east of Portland), completed his basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington and was assigned to an artillery regiment at Ft. Lewis. He did very well there and was selected to go to artillery school at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. While at Ft. Sill, the officer in charge called Sam in and offered him the opportunity to go to Officer Candidate School. During the discussion, Sam learned that if he were commissioned, he would have to commit to three years active duty. Sam replied that he only had a short time until his year would be up, and he would return to civilian life. He said “No”! Sam returned to the artillery battalion with the regiment at Ft. Lewis. Shortly thereafter, one battalion was sent to Northern California, another to the shores of Puget Sound of Washington state, and Sam’s battalion stayed at Ft. Lewis. Then came Pearl Harbor!

At the time of Pearl Harbor, there were approximately 3,000 Nisei on active duty in the Army. The War Department was not sure what to do with them? We all know the story of the Government’s concerns with the Japanese Americans in Hawaii and on the west coast of the mainland, and in southwestern Arizona. The War Department evacuated some Nisei service men into Midwestern and Southeastern military posts. Sam was sent to Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana (outside of Indianapolis), where he was placed in administrative offices under some type of surveillance by the FBI. Sam, by this time was in the grade of Corporal. His son, Roger, told me recently, that they were allowed to wear civilian clothes, I assumed probably when off duty, as the Army did not want the Nisei seen in Army uniforms?

Now back to Camp Shelby (Mississippi). When the 442nd was being formed, many of the Nisei, already on active duty, volunteered to join, and

became cadre to aid in the training of the new volunteers. Capt. Riebesell, when it came to selecting men for the Cannon Company, looked for those who had a background in some type of mechanical jobs, and who had a potential for map reading, use of longitude and latitude, and communications. When Sam Yoshinari arrived, now a Sergeant with an infantry MOS – but, with a background of artillery training, he was immediately assigned to Regimental Headquarters Company to be held until Capt. Shorey returned from Ft. Benning. Shorey returned in early April and requested that Company officers be sent to Cannon School at Benning, but none were sent. Meanwhile, Sgt. Sam Yoshinari had been assigned to the 3rd Platoon as leader, since no officer had yet been designated. He then also became advisor and lead man in the training of the Cannoneers. In addition to basic infantry training, the Cannoneers were shown how to set up gun positions, learning the use of sights, proper powder charges, map reading, estimating ranges with the use of binoculars, cleaning and maintaining the breech block and the tube itself. There were dry runs and dry firing exercises during the summer months. Sam told me that the first live rounds were not fired until October of 1943. Sam’s expertise was very evident in all of this training.

After being commissioned a 2nd Lt. at Ft. Benning on 7 Dec. 1943, I (Jerry Gustafson) was assigned to Infantry Replacement Training Center [IRTC] at Ft. McClelland, Alabama. It was the pits!!! I volunteered to be placed on a manifest to be assigned to some outfit in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, which was to be brought up to full strength for shipment overseas. Was I ever surprised! At any rate, I was assigned to the Cannon Company of the 442nd on February 22nd, 1944. By this time the Company was very well trained, and even though ammunition was closely allotted, I was put through some fast learning on observation of targets and adjustment of live fire. A month or so after I had been there, the Combat Team was alerted to greet the Army Chief of Staff, General George Marshall. After an all out dress parade, passing in review, and

a hearty “Well Done” – and, as Lt. Buirkle said, “that was the kiss of death!” A month later we were on our way to the port of embarkation – Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In all our years of Reunions and get togethers, it finally dawned on me since our 65th in Honolulu that many of our sons and daughters, wives and widows, families and friends did not really know just how unique our Company was. For example, many thought we were part of or related to the 522nd Field Artillery. They were confused as to what our actual mission was. Let me begin by telling you that to the best of our knowledge, our Cannon Company was the only one in the Fifth Army in Italy that was armed with the 105mm guns. Our weapons used the same basic shell as the Field Artillery did. However, our barrels were shorter and our range was only 8,000 yards, and highly accurate up to 6,500 yards. Each gun was towed by a 1&1/2 ton 6X6 truck. The gun weighed 2,000 pounds, the shell weighed 25 pounds, and was propelled by five powder charges. In combat, the operation was that of three platoons, with 2 guns each. One platoon would be attached to each of the 442nd's three Infantry Battalions in direct support. The Cannon Company was considered to be the Regimental Commander's own artillery.

On the other hand, the 522nd Field Artillery with its longer barrel 105mm howitzer had a range of around 13,000 yards. The weapon was towed by a 2&1/2 ton 6X6 truck. The howitzer weighed 4,000 pounds. The shell weighed 25 pounds and was propelled by seven powder charges – with more powder than ours. Also, the 522nd would have to coordinate with the Division headquarters that we were attached to. The 522nd Field Artillery was composed of three firing batteries with 6 howitzers each. They were one of the best artillery battalions in the European Theater. That's why they were taken away from the 442nd when we left for southern France to recoup from our losses in the Vosges Mountains, and then later sent back to Italy.

As we entered combat, our communication system consisted of sound powered telephones. This meant that a wire line had to be laid between the observation team and the gun position. If you can imagine that the Battalion Observation Post (OP) was somewhere on the front lines with the rifle companies, and the cannons were located in a place anywhere from 500 to 1,000 or more yards behind. On our first day of combat, our wire teams could not keep a line open between the guns and the OPs. We were in fact unable to do our job. Capt. Shorey got us back {the observers}, and we had a conference about what we had to do to become effective. First of all, throw out the book! Get radios! Sam Yoshinari suggested that we do away with the platoon concept – and, set up a fire direction center [artillery concept]. To say the least, within 3 days, we had the SR30 radio, which would be powerful enough to get the job done. With Lt. Jack Earp being transferred, our line up became as follows – Capt. Edwin Shorey (Company Commander), Lt. Sidney Bruce (Executive Officer), Sgt. 1st Class Sam Yoshinari (later earning a battlefield commission to Lt.), Lt. Hitoshi Yonemura, Lt. Jerry Gustafson, Lt. George Buirkle (as Recon Officer-and also Forward Observer when needed). Our observation crews normally were the officer and two men for the radio, which weighed about 25 pounds and the jeep driver, who had our packs usually back at the Battalion Command Post, with our jeep.

I mentioned earlier that our Cannon Company was the only one in Italy armed with the 105mm infantry cannon. I have been unable to find that there were any other in the European Theater, but I may stand corrected. I know that there were none like us in the 7th Army while in France. Our Company fired over 60,000 rounds in support of our infantry units. Our casualties were not comparable to those of the Rifle Companies, but almost all of our observer teams were wounded and two were killed. We also had four others killed in line of duty, one by sniper and one by counter battery fire and two by accident

when moving. Cannoneers are proud of the support we gave to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

One last comment. Sam was without a doubt our best forward observer. To me he was a role model. He asked no quarter and he gave no quarter. He was with the 3rd Battalion during their drive to rescue the “Lost Battalion” of the 36th Division. I believe it was the 2nd or 3rd day before the link up that the Division Commander, General John Dahlquist, with his aide, Lt. Wells Lewis (son of Nobel Prize winning author, Sinclair Lewis) showed up a few yards from the forward elements. Sam was only a few yards away. The General asked Lt. Lewis to see the map – when the aide pulled it out, he was shot through the head and killed instantly. The General was shocked! Sam in no uncertain terms told the General to leave the area, it was too dangerous, and they would take care of the aide’s body! In my 21 years in the service, I’ve never heard of a lieutenant telling a major general what to do! But, Sam did!

Editor’s Note: At Maj. Gustafson’s request, included is the following article by Andy Ono:

Cannon Company’s Snub-nosed 105s: Sam Yoshinari and Akira Okamoto

If it was confidence about skills, it was next about that and the legendary forward observer for Cannon Company, Lt. Masami “Sam” Yoshinari. Cannon Company was formed just when the short-nosed 105s became available. Sam was already serving in the Army when the Executive Order was issued making all Japanese, civilian and alien, “enemy aliens” and not eligible to serve his country. But Sam had already been to artillery school, so when Capt. Harold Riebesell, the 442nd’s Personnel Officer, heard about Cannon Company being formed under Capt. Edwin Shorey to give Col. Pence a personal battery of artillery, he held things up until he could get both men together. Sam Yoshinari, then a non-com, was the main clog in putting Cannon Company together.

Tooru Kanazawa, the self-imposed historian of Cannon Company said briefly about one of Sam Yoshinari’s exploits:

Kanazawa, “Close Support: A History of the Cannon Company of the 442nd RCT,” p.55 :

“The next day [Oct 28] the men ran into the first of well-defended roadblocks. ‘In order to get a better view,’ Yoshinari said, ‘I circled around through the ravine to their rear and effectively directed fire into the roadblock and on the retreating troops allowing K Company to mop up and advance.’ Okamoto [Akira Okamoto, his radioman] relayed his fire missions to the guns.”

This was the first of the many road-blocks Col. Pursall’s men had to fight through on 3rd Bn /442’s northern slope. Yoshinari and Okamoto descended down into the ravine south of *Roche Pinaud* through which ran the crazily meandering *Chemin de la Folie* [translates “trail of folly”]. They crossed that aptly named forest trail and climbed the opposite slope, all this behind enemy lines.

From that far slope, Yoshinari, the forward observer, got his “better view” of the high ground of the road-block, and also the crest of Hill 633 to the rear at the northern extension of *La Croisette* junction. He fixed the necessary coordinates. It was Okamoto who had to radio the coordinates back to the fire-control center. In doing so, he had to take his heavy radio up to an elevation where his radio would have the necessary range. And signaling those coordinates, Okamoto had little time before he had to change position to avoid German radio-direction finders.

That was another skill and on this occasion, Yoshinari and Okamoto proved their worth, but only by crawling through enemy ground to an advantageous observation post behind enemy line. That was not the first time. And the short-nosed 105s were oversized mortars, and as such, had short range but the advantage of high trajectory which could be very accurately adjusted. The Yoshinari-Okamoto team did just that. So that, too, amounted to skillful coordination.



by Henry Kuniyuki

“Living is about having HOPE when life seems cluttered with unfortunate events.” This quotation by an unknown Author personifies Ruby Kawada and her family during World War II. Her historic story she wrote about in the previous Go For Broke Bulletin’s Regt. HQ Edict, is concluded with “War Ends and Life After Internment Camp.”

“After three years and three months in the internment camps we were told to relocate.

“Many were reluctant to leave being that whatever we had previous to camp was lost and gone. Then there were the anti-Japanese organizations being formed and we had to struggle through their ranting and ravings. We did have some white veterans on our side. They had fought along side of the 442nd in Europe. They volunteered to go to various cities and towns to speak to some Lions Clubs, Veterans Organizations and the Chamber of Commerce asking for tolerance and understanding. Things went well until one Veteran was beaten after a meeting.

“It was a very hard time for our issei parents who were still aliens because they did not have citizenship. But our citizenship did not work for us either.”

I would like to enclose the story of Mary Masuda which you might find very interesting. (*Editor’s Note: source of following article unknown.*)

Mary Masuda and her family had returned to Santa Ana from a concentration camp and were threatened by local bullies to get out of town. Her brother, Sgt. Kazuo Masuda, had been killed in Italy when he deliberately sacrificed his own life so that the men of his patrol could return safely. Sergeant

Masuda was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The presentation of the nation’s second highest military award was made to Mary a few weeks after she was threatened. The ceremony was held in front of the Masuda home with Gen. “Vinegar Joe” Stillwell, one of the outstanding generals of the Pacific War, doing the honors.

Stillwell, knowing of the circumstances, said, “The Nisei bought an awful big chunk of America with their blood. You’re damn right those Nisei boys have a place in the American heart, now and forever. We cannot allow a single injury to be done to them without defeating the purpose for which we fought.”

After that strong statement from a very outspoken and tough general, the Masuda family was never bothered again. The event and the general’s remarks were reported in the Southern California newspapers, and it helped not only to defuse a dangerous racial situation, but his words encouraged a lot of other people to come forth and openly support and help the Japanese returnees.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Ruby Kawada for her fascinating life story of “Tolerance and Understanding.”

Arrivederci!



Governor’s Memorial Day Service (l-r): Warren Yamamoto (100th S&D), Sonsei Nakamura (100th) and Noboru Kawamoto (RHQ)
Photo: Wayne Iha



by John Mikasa

We were surprised when we learned that Akira Okamoto did not attend our 2011 Reunion in Las Vegas because he had signed up for it. We learned that he had suffered a stroke just before the reunion. Luckily, the stroke occurred while he was visiting the VA office and he received treatment without delay. After a stay in a rehab hospital, he is recuperating at home. He hopes to attend the Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies later this year. We wish this indomitable Cannoneer the best for a good recovery.

The 2011 Reunion in Las Vegas was a successful event. Our principal coordinator, Roger Yoshinari, reports as follows: The Annual Cannon Company Reunion was held from April 28 to May 1, 2011 at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas. Six Cannon Company Veterans were able to attend this year. They were: Art Doi of Sacramento, CA; Jerry Gustafson of Chandler, AZ; Manny Kitagawa of

Whittier, CA; Tsuka Murakami of Hanapepe (Kauai), HI; Tsutomu Okabayashi of Houston, TX; and Frank Sugihara of Tustin, CA. Including family members (children and grandchildren), plus relatives and friends, over sixty people came out to honor the Veterans.

The Reunion is possible due to the efforts of many volunteers who work behind the scenes to make it a success. Special thanks go to Alan Ugai (Norman Ugai's son) for making the arrangements with the Fremont Hotel and taking care of so many administrative tasks in his hometown of Las Vegas. Our appreciation goes to Judi Murakami (Tsuka Murakami's daughter) for setting up the Hospitality Suite and decorating the room. We are indebted to Jesse Kitagawa (Manny Kitagawa's son) for scheduling the volunteers to serve as hosts & hostesses in the Hospitality Suite. Thanks to Gail Shenfield (Takeshi Hanami's daughter) for following up on the RSVPs. Jackie Yoshinari (Sam Yoshinari's daughter-in-law and Roger's wife) coordinated the refreshments. Eric Gustafson (Jerry Gustafson's son) researched the photo finishers in order to print the photos above. Susan Doi (Art Doi's daughter) coordinated the photo sessions. Mahalo to Donica Ida (Tsuka Murakami's granddaughter) for creating a wonderful, professional quality slideshow on DVD, which we enjoyed in the Hospitality Suite.

The Reunion has evolved during recent years from a gathering of Veterans to a family event, which provides an opportunity to thank the Nisei Veterans for their service to our country, being good citizens in their communities and for being the wonderful parents that they are. Each year, more and more children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends look forward to spending this time with the Veterans of Cannon Company.



Seated (l-r): Pearl Yanagimachi, Manny Kitagawa, Yukie Murakami
 Standing (l-r): Osame Doi, Tsutomu Okabayashi, Art Doi, Jerry Gustafson, Frank Sugihara, Sumi Sugihara, Tsuka Murakami (Missing from photo: Yoshiko Yamagata)

This year, Jerry Gustafson, who is one of the original cadre officers, gave a personal account about the formation and history of the Cannon Company – from the training period at Camp Shelby, Mississippi to the arrival in Italy. Jerry explained that the Cannon Company was a new unit added to infantry regiments after the war was underway. The concept of a light, mobile artillery unit was new to the Army. Many of the procedures used by the Cannon Company were developed by the soldiers themselves out of necessity. Some of the innovations led to the improvement of communications between units and greater efficiency in the way the Cannon Company operated to support the 442nd.

Keith Yamaguchi, Art Doi's nephew, from Seattle, WA, presented special commemorative lapel pins to the Veterans. Keith is a Veteran of the Vietnam War and served as an artillery officer. He is the past commander of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee. Jack Nealon, Sam Yoshinari's friend, recited a poem about enduring friendships – which the Cannon Company Veterans exemplify.

We have already begun planning for next year's Reunion in 2012. It will be held at the Fremont Hotel again from Thursday, May 3 to Monday, May 7, 2012. More details will be available later this year.

Rest In Peace

We have sad news of the passing of two of our most venerable Cannoneers: Sam Yoshinari and Manny Kitagawa. Sam passed away less than three weeks before, and Manny just seven weeks after, the reunion.

Sam was a bold and aggressive soldier. He also was modest, friendly and very well-liked. Sam was a very active participant in his community and enjoyed the wide variety of activities that kept him young at heart, even playing roles in stage productions. We salute you, Sam, for being such an exemplary veteran, in war and peace.

We extend our sincere condolences to Roger and Jackie. It has been a double sorrow for them, as Jackie's father, Albert Leighton, a decorated B-24 pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps serving in the

European Theater in World War II, passed away less than four months before Roger's father, in Denver, Colorado. Roger provided the following:

Masami "Sam" Yoshinari passed away on April 15, 2011 at age 94 after a brief illness. He was born in the town of Dalles, Oregon on February 1, 1917, where he went to school and worked on the family farm. He played second base on the local baseball team and "flanker" back in football.

Before WWII began, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940, completed basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington and then attended artillery school at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. When hostilities began at the end of 1941, he was assigned to assist the FBI at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. As the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was formed in 1943, he was transferred to the Cannon Company. He served with distinction in Italy and France, earned a battlefield commission to become a lieutenant, and was awarded a Silver Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster and a Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Upon his return to America, he arrived in New York and intended to go home to Oregon. He visited his brother Kumeo in Chicago, who introduced him to his future wife, Alice Asaka. After that, he never left the Chicago area. Establishing roots in Norridge, he and Alice raised a family with two sons, Roger and David. He studied chemistry and later founded and served as president of the Rex Chemical Corporation, which manufactured detergent for grocery stores. He was active in the community serving on the local Board of Education, as treasurer of the Norridge Youth Activities Committee, a baseball coach, a football referee, a member of a local bowling team and a fund raiser for the school music programs. He served as a trustee and elder for the Acacia Presbyterian Church. He is a past commander of the Chicago Nisei American Legion Post 1183. After retirement, he enjoyed golf and his daily fitness walks.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice; his son, David Alan Yoshinari; his brothers George Yoshinari, and Kumeo Art Yoshinari; and his sister, Hisako Dorothy Yoshinari. He is survived by his son,



Sam Yoshinari with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen (2009)

Roger Yoshinari and wife Jacqueline; his daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Yoshinari; his grandchildren, David Yoshinari, Daniel Yoshinari, Holly Pal and husband Rajib; Katie Mohammadi and husband Michael, Julie Boyko and husband Terry; and his great grandchildren, Nathan Mohammadi, Landon Boyko, Cole Boyko, and Asia Pal.

The members of the Chicago Nisei American Legion Post 1183 performed a traditional military funeral ceremony at the wake held on April 22, 2011. During the Memorial Service on April 23, Major General (retired) Cliff Capp, who is one of his neighbors at Covenant Village, introduced Peter Stockslager, the commander of the Northbrook American Legion Post 791, who delivered the eulogy. Major General (retired) James Mukoyama, who contacted Senator Daniel Inouye, read the text of the personal letter from the Senator. Later, at the burial (Ridgewood Cemetery, Des Plaines, Illinois), a US Army Honor Guard provided Military Honors.

Here are some comments from his friends:

“Sam served his country with great dignity and courage as a member of the 442nd. I am a better person today because I was privileged to walk with him along the pathway of my life. You can be proud of his many accomplishments. He touched many lives in a most positive way.”

- Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii)

“Sam Yoshinari’s service to the United States Army was in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed services; this truly heroic American will be sorely missed...It is without question that Lieutenant Yoshinari will always be remembered for his heartfelt service to this country.”

- Sen. Mark S. Kirk (Illinois)

“Sam and all the other men of the 442nd are my personal heroes. Because of their bravery and their distinguished record, those like me, and other Asian Americans who followed in their footsteps, were given the opportunity to pursue our dreams.”

- Maj General James H. Mukoyama, Jr. (retired)

“My father was honored to serve with the 442nd. After he retired, he was often asked to be the guest speaker at Memorial Day celebrations in his community. He always related the success of the 442nd as an example of patriotism and loyalty to our country. Frequently, he was invited by local schools to give eyewitness accounts of his experience in WWII as students studied the 1940s. He was always willing to speak at veterans meetings and community organizations. His service to the 442nd continued until his last years.”

- Roger Yoshinari

Manuel Kitagawa, probably our longest-lived Cannoneer so far, passed away on June 20, less than two months after attending our reunion in Las Vegas. The skilled casino player was 97 years old, and probably attended more of our reunions than anyone else. We will certainly miss him. Our sincere condolences to his large family.

Late news: Norman Nishimoto, former Cannoneer, passed away on June 20. He was preceded by wife Elaine in January. Survivors include a son, a daughter, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Services were private. Our condolences to his family.



MEDICS *Reports*



by Oscar Tsukayama

Medics Chapter Loses a Stalwart Member

On April 22, 2011, Dr. Noboru (Nobi) Ogami, peacefully passed on to eternal life in the presence of family members. He fought long and hard for the past fifteen months trying to recover from a head injury resulting from a fall, but in spite of advances in medicine and the love and care by wife Betty and family members, recovery was not to be.

Nobi was an outstanding and dedicated soldier in training and in combat; he also enjoyed a brilliant career as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist in the post World War II period. A little known fact is that he invented the Ogami Clamp and Ogami Retractor which are used for delivering babies and are widely used today by obstetricians. Just prior to his retirement, he was voted the Outstanding Obstetrician/Gynecologist by his peers.

Noboru was smart, serious, determined and dedicated; on the quiet side but fun-loving, and enjoyed singing and hanging out with friends. He was an enthusiastic supporter and participant in Medics Chapter activities and served as our “go to guy” when we needed advice or solutions. He will be missed.

Memorial Service was held on May 26, 2011 with the following Medics members attending: Mitzie Inouye, Howard and Dorothy Kozuma, John and Gloria Masunaga, Michele Matsuo, Mutsue Nakamura, Tak Nakamura, Mildred Nakasone, Tsutoe Taira, Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka, Kazuo Tomasa, Oscar and Suzy Tsukayana and Jack and Marian Yamashiro.

We send our deepest sympathy to Betty and members of the Ogami family.

News From Medics Members

Dange Atagi, Nyssa OR: Reports that he joined the Army Air Corps before Pearl Harbor and took

his basic training at Keesler Field where he completed Tech School. His outfit was deployed overseas but he was rejected at Port of Embarkation, Newport News because of his race. He, subsequently, was assigned to the 442nd RCT. He had a brother in L Company, 442nd who was awarded two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Star Medals.

He returned to Nyssa after the war, got married and engaged in farming. They have 3 children, Tanya who graduated from Stanford and Washington University in St. Louis and is now a plastic surgeon practicing in Denver, Jolene who graduated from Santa Clara University and is married to an emergency doctor and son Pat who graduated from Notre Dame and is currently with the Peace Corps in Central Africa. They have eight grandchildren.

He recalls that in 1962, on their way back from a trip to Japan, the Medics in Honolulu hosted a dinner for him, his wife Fumi and his mother. He says it was great to get together with the gang and appreciates the hospitality and camaraderie displayed by the Medics. He enclosed a generous donation of \$400 to the 442nd Veterans Club, \$100 each in memory of Ramon Wasano, Tadasu Onaka and Ken Fujiyoshi and \$100 to the Go For Broke Bulletin. He sends his Best Wishes to the Medics.

Herbert Okano, Kona, HI: Called to inquire about the Congressional Gold Medal. He says he and wife Jane are doing well except for the normal health problems related to old age and are keeping busy tending to their coffee and macadamia nut farms. He sends Best Regards to all Medics members.

Mrs. Iris Fukui (Rodney’s wife), Honolulu, HI: Iris is registered to attend the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C. in the fall and receives regular updates from the NVN on the latest happenings related to the ceremony. She has been very good about sharing the information with me for publication in the GFB Bulletin which I appreciate very much. Iris keeps active and is doing very well. (See Editor’s Report for an update on the CGM ceremonies.)

Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya, Gig Harbor, WA: Jimmie and Lynn sent an e-mail to give me a heads

up on Shig Momoda's award of the French Legion of Honor. (See story in Editor's Report.) They are doing well; keeping active and send their Love and Aloha.

Donation

Jerry and Florence Ogawa sent in a sizeable (\$300) donation to the Medics Chapter. They returned recently from Las Vegas and although it is not known whether it had anything to do with their trip, in fact, we don't even know how they fared, we just want them to know we appreciate their generosity. Thank you very much Jerry and Florence. Following his return from Vegas, Jerry had to undergo surgery for varicose veins and was immobile for a while but seems to be recovering well.

Taps

Seikichi James Kawamoto of Los Angeles, CA passed away on May 20, 2011. He was 86 years old. No other information is available.

Dr. Noboru Ogami, passed away on April 22, 2011 at age 87. He retired from a brilliant career as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist and enjoyed his retirement with his family, his church, his many friends and his buddies from the Medics. He is survived by his wife Betty, daughter Susan (Jerry Van Camp), daughter Carolyn (Dennis Fuller), son David (Melanie) and 5 grandchildren.

George Juji Omi of San Francisco, CA died on May 28, 2011. He was 93 years old. He was a microbiologist who enjoyed mushroom hunting and gardening in his retirement years. He is survived by wife Rene, children - Kevin, Megan, Joanna and Kathy, 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Tom Tarami Takashima of Trevoise, PA died on March 17, 2011. He was 96 years old. No other information is available.

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Kawamoto, Ogami, Omi and Takashima families.



by Okemura, et al

Only recently we learned that Jack Tagawa passed away. He died on February 22 of this year. He was 93, a ripe age for veterans. Jack attended a few anniversaries of the 442nd, the last time he was here in Honolulu was during our 60th anniversary. Jack was born in Castroville, California. His parents were natives of Fukuoka-ken. He was married to Nancy Nomura of Los Angeles but she died 22 years ago. He is survived by his sister, Violet and son Rick and daughter Michiko.

Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery to coincide with the time the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring the Nisei of WWII is held in Washington, DC.

Jack Kusuo Tagawa was the platoon sergeant for the communications platoon of the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. His platoon leader was Walter Mackey who resides near Dallas, Texas. Jack was one of those mainland NCO's who became the cadre for the newly formed 442nd in 1943. He struggled at first to cope with the pidgin English of the island budaheads. His jovial demeanor and quick smile facilitated his acceptance by the boys. Today, only two of his former buddies of the communication platoon are here in Honolulu – James Sakamoto and Toshio Hayama.

Several weeks ago we came across a news article concerning Charlie Oda. His family is seeking the location of the trophy Charlie won in a swimming meet in Rome. Veterans will recall the splendid sports arena created by Mussolini, trying to emulate the Berlin Olympics of 1938. However, it was used for the armed forces and I believe the USO or the Red Cross managed the facility. Charlie was with 442nd Headquarters Company. The swimming meet was

held during the summer of 1945 shortly after the war in Italy ended. It was a Tri-Theater Swimming Championship meet that Charlie won his trophy. The 442nd had many Island swimmers of championship caliber. Ace Higuchi of the Hq2ndBn was asked about this since he was a part of the 442nd swimming team. According to Ace, he and some others did not qualify for the finals and were sent back to their units; they missed Charlie's feat. So, Ace is unaware of the trophy won by Charlie which apparently is still missing.

Yasu Shoho's younger sister died recently. She was 89 years old and lived in Kailua. But this sad news is tempered by the news that Yasu became the grandfather of twin granddaughters.

Our Chapter meetings are normally attended by 7 or 8 persons. We had 9 show up for our Mother's Day luncheon at the Willows. The turnout included Robert and Hisako Uyeda, Moriso Teraoka, Takashi Okemura, Yasu Shoho, Violet Ishida, Sue Isonaga, Bill Thompson, and Richard Nakamura. Illness prevents the others from joining us.



by Ron Oba

*Honor flight to all
Congressional Gold Medal
Veteran Heroes*

Mother's Day Luncheon

A fabulous, humongous teriyaki steak with heaping full of salad bowl, sourdough bread and cream covered bread pudding, their signature dessert. Thank you, Natalie Oda-Lee for arranging another wonderful Mother's Day luncheon at the Mid Pacific Country Club. Before the luncheon, George and I again imbibed in drinking beer at the bar until Richard came looking for us to start the luncheon. Attending were: Mineo/Sachiko Inuzuka, George/Myrtle Nakasato, Ron/Michi Oba, Natalie Oda-Lee, Shinako Takata, Tommy/May Tamagawa, Tajiro/Ruth Uranaka, Helen Horikawa, and Chilly/Irene Sasaki. Driving through Kailua town rekindled fond memories of living 20 years in Kailua. The beach is covered with fine sand that sitting on the beach was like sitting on a goza. Tommy had to catch a ride with Junior since he rear-ended the car in front that

suddenly stopped. Who's fault? No fault? Nah, only his pride since anytime you rear end a car, it's your fault. Luckily Tommy and May were not hurt. Tommy is about 92 years and maybe he should stop driving? Nay, if he stops we'll have to pick him up – it's better that he keeps on driving. Ben Kodama donated the orchid plants that the ladies love so much. No, he's not moving to San Jose with his daughter like he said. Lucky for Fox Chapter since the 2nd Battalion will be in charge of next year's anniversary banquet. We'll also be participating in a parade through Waikiki on December 17 with a luncheon to follow at the Hawaii Convention Center to commemorate the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100/442/MIS veterans with a replica of a bronze medal (\$55) to all living veterans and gold mothers. The CGM was first presented to President George Washington, The Wright Brothers, Tuskegee Airman, and the Dalai Lama.

Speeches & Interviews

The Mililani Middle School 6th grade teachers again requested 442nd veterans to speak to the students. They quickly asked what we thought of the Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki when we spoke about the horrors of war. Mits Honda gave a good account of the war from his perspective that the students listened with awe. We

started at 8:45, took a soda break and after 12 pm, we had Bento for lunch. Wade Wasano again served as our chauffeur for President Bill Thompson and Ron Oba.

Christian Yogi came to interview me for this school project. He was very knowledgeable about the 442nd with prepared questions. Hope he gets an “A” for his project.

Friends of the Natatorium

The Friends of the Natatorium were looking for a speaker. Eileen Sakai through Donna Ching got involved and asked me to speak, so I consented. Someone asked, “What’s a Natatorium?” The dictionary states that a Natatorium is a swimming pool. Inscribed on the facade is written, “Where there is no vision, memories perish.” This was to commemorate the 10,000 Hawaii soldiers who fought in WWI. I remember as a child we used to swim around Waikiki and Swanzy Beach, next to the Natatorium. It is now deteriorating with the diving platform no more and promenade around the pool cracking so it is too dangerous to walk around and the pool has a small drainage system to keep the salt water flowing in and out. The Friends are trying to install 8-inch pipes to keep the tides going in and out of the pool to keep it fresh. Every Mayor at one time or another conceived of demolishing the Natatorium dedicated to WWI veterans of Hawaii. It is now declared a Historical edifice so by law cannot be demolished.



Ron interviewed by KHON2 News

Photo: Eileen Sakai

Eileen, Chilly and George came for the Natatorium Memorial Ceremony which was to honor the 10,000 Hawaii(an) soldiers who served in the military during WWI. Lt. Gen. Duane Thiessen, USMCP Pacific Commander, based at Camp Smith and I spoke in behalf of our units. Cute, beautiful young hula dancers entertained the group; the military presented the colors and gave a 21-gun salute with the TAPS following. Channels 3 and 5 showed the event that night. Later, when we were having Cheese Burgers in Waikiki, a benefactor, Wayne Yoshioka, noticed our 442nd Caps and paid for our meals and drinks. Our Legacy lives on!!

CGM Celebration, Visit to Bruyeres, the French Are Coming

To enlist on the free Honor Flight, go to www.honorflight.com. After sending in your request, go to Guardian app and fill in blanks. See you at the DC Rotunda. The Ninth Army Reserve soldiers from Fort Shafter will be going to Bruyeres/Biffontaine with the 442 Colors. Veterans wishing to go will be escorted by the soldiers. Forty French residents of Bruyeres/Biffontaine will be coming to Hawaii for a reunion. The Willard Holck (Sandy) family will be arranging the visit by the French people. A fund raising campaign is ongoing to help defray the visit by the French people.

East-West Center Informational Meeting with 51 Schoolteachers

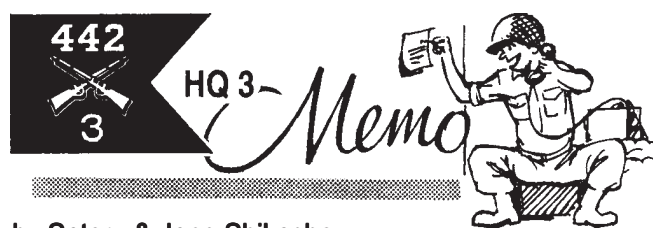
Fifty One (51) teachers from around the mainland were at the East-West Center, U of H, Manoa, for a historical recap of the events during and after the Pearl Harbor attack. 100/442/MIS veterans were split into groups with the teachers to contribute and answer questions by the teachers. Barbara Watanabe was one of the coordinators for this event and amassed 100/442/MIS veterans as well as others like Jane Komeiji, Joy Teraoka and Ms. Beatrice Yamasaki to speak with the teachers. The teachers were very knowledgeable but were surprised to learn of the prejudice, loyalty and “ganbare” spirit of the local Japanese Americans. Hopefully they can

go back to their classrooms to impart what they have learned to their students. Participants from the 442nd were Ed Yamasaki, Mits Honda and Ron Oba. MISers were G. Masunaga and Ted Tsukiyama.

100th Inf. Bn. Anniversary Banquet

The 100th Inf. Bn. Veterans club held their anniversary banquet at the Honolulu International Country Club with parking and the view from the banquet room was an easy access. The “Lion Dance” and the “Go For Broke” singing was the

entertainment with lots of acquaintances around. My former Sunday School student, Gary Okuda, Esq. provided the video with three screens in the long rectangular banquet hall. Adjutant Gen. Robert G.F. Lee and the new AG Darryll Wong, CSM Beau Tatsumura and SGM Shackles and recently promoted Col. Kimo Dunn of the 100th Bn. 442nd Infantry Regiment and Gen. Bramlett (ret.) were there and provided Pomp and Dignity.



by Satoru & Jane Shikasho

No wonder we only had five members at our May meeting! Frances Aoyama and her daughter Karen Kikukawa were on a trip to Japan for the 750th Anniversary and convention of the Hongwanji Church in Kyoto for a week followed by visits to relatives in Fukuoka and Hokkaido.

Irene Nakamura was in Palo Alto to attend two graduations; Grandson graduated from University of California in Irvine as an Electrical Engineer and Granddaughter graduated from high school and will attend the University of Michigan majoring in Business.

Elaine and Tommy Tamashiro were in Las Vegas where Tommy enjoyed a golf tournament with friends while Elaine paid respects to her old friends in the California Hotel.

3rd HQ Co. Honor Roll

I initially learned about the passing of Isamu “Sam” Sugimoto at the June meeting of our Club when his name appeared on the Honor Roll list. He passed away on 5/15/11 and served with the 3rd Hq. Co. At this time I had no recollection of knowing

him. None of our chapter members (two veterans and four widows/wives) recalled Sam except for Isamu Furuya who remembered having a conversation with him during a visit Sam made to Honolulu many years ago.

A week later I received the following obituary and service photo of Sam from his daughter, Mrs. Edith Terwey. Reading the obituary it suddenly occurred to me that I had seen Sam’s name somewhere in my service album and found a few group photos in which we both appeared. These small black and white snapshots were taken at L’Escarene, France near Nice in the Maritime Alps sometime in December of 1944 soon after the battle of the Lost Battalion. Unfortunately the photos were not identified with names before I was detached from the 442 and sent back to Hawaii about two months later.

After the war ended I lived in the Chicago area for 55 years and returned to Honolulu in 2000 and soon joined the 3rd HQ Chapter. I showed the snapshots to our members to see if they could enlarge the pictures and identify the individuals. Even after reviewing the enlarged photos I was not able to associate Sam during the training stage at Camp Shelby or as a combat buddy overseas.

I called Edith, Sam’s daughter, who lives on Oahu about my findings to help me verify the identity. She was elated and arrived at our home with her niece Kimiko who was visiting. They immediately



HQ 3rd Bn Wire Squad

Front Row: Katsumi Koga; 2nd Row (l-r): Tomotaru Ogai, Sam Sugimoto, Isamu Handa, George Morishita; Back Row: Mickey Ogata, Satoru Shikasho, Masaru Kono, Setsuo Rai (Dec. 1944, Escarene, France, Maritime Alps near Monte Carlo)

recognized Sam but admitted that he did look different in combat clothing. She also solved my association concerns – she said he was a replacement and initially assigned to our wire squad as a wireman and later as radio operator. The snapshot must have been taken a few weeks before we became fully acquainted and my departure. Thanks, Edith, for that vital information.

Obituary - Isamu “Sam” Sugimoto



Isamu “Sam” Sugimoto died of natural causes on Sunday, May 15, 2011 at St. Andrew’s Village Retirement Community, Mahtomedi, Minnesota. Sam was born December 10, 1924 in Yuma, Arizona. He was the son of Toshisaburo and Takako (Muraoka) Sugimoto.

Sam attended Yuma High School in Yuma, Arizona. Before the end of his Senior year of High School, Sam and his family were forced to move to

the Poston Arizona Relocation Center. Sam met his wife, Shizuko “Shiz” Watanabe at Poston.

Sam volunteered to join the 442nd Regimental Combat Team when recruiters visited Poston. However, he was rejected for medical reasons. Although Sam did not speak Japanese, he volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service. He was accepted and sent to Fort Savage, Minnesota and later transferred to the 442nd (because of his lack of Japanese language skills). Sam saw combat in France, Italy, and Germany.



Sam was a Staff Sergeant in Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion and served as a radio operator. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and a Bronze Star.

After the war, Sam married and settled in Oceanside, New York where he and wife, Shiz, built a house and raised three children. He and his family moved to Minnesota in 1965. Sam was employed for many years as a dental technician.

Sam is remembered by his children as a devoted father, loving husband, and a wisecracking extrovert who seemed to be on a first name basis with everyone.

Sam was preceded in death by his mother, father, wife, and his three sisters, Setsuko Sugimoto, Yuriko Taono, and Toshiko Griner. He is survived by his three children Judy (Bill) Carroll, Ted (Colleen) Sugimoto, Edith (Roger) Terwey and eight grandchildren – Jonathan (Ruchi), Philip (Amy), Kimiko, George (Amy), Arminda (Andrew), Michelle, Mark (Sarah), and Karen (Todd).



by Ed Yamasaki

Norwest by Louise Kashino-Takisaki

Oh, happy days of summer! After a long, wet winter/spring, we are finally being promised the coming of summer. Now that we are into July, the weatherman is talking about some days being in the 80's!! I hope everyone is enjoying the good weather elsewhere as well.

The few remaining veterans of I Co. are still hanging on as well as can be expected. I see Kim and Massie Muromoto occasionally and they both look well. Michi (Gus) Murakami is not that well, but she is getting good care so it was good to visit her. I don't hear anything about George Murakami but presume he is doing just fine. I don't know about the rest of our boys.

Bev, Shina and I just returned from a four-day journey to visit and participate in the Minidoka Pilgrimage in Idaho, where those of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast were imprisoned after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the start of WWII. My daughters have each gone with me to these Pilgrimages to see for themselves and listen to the other internees speak of their experiences during that period of time.

This year was Bev's turn, so granddaughter Shina also made the journey with us. Since they had erected a replica of the Honor Roll displaying the names of those who served in the military from Minidoka, I felt that I should attend in memory of Shiro (Kash). Shina had the honor of participating as a flag bearer during the memorial service and dedication of the newly erected Honor Roll. Each year as money is available for purposes of additions to recreate the memorial site, there is more to see in their effort to make the site of Minidoka a tribute to

the internees during WWII. There were approximately 200 participants registered, and the one-day Civil Liberties Symposium presented by the College of Southern Idaho included the viewing of "Honor Bound" by Wendy Hanamura, daughter of "Howie" Hanamura, a L Co. 442nd veteran. Later we had a Legacy Session where internees gave personal stories and in turn received feedback from third- and fourth-generation participants.

Originally I had suggested that we fly out and then return by rental car, but Bev thought the whole purpose was for us to "experience the hardship we had traveling to Minidoka," so we participated in the 12-hour long bus ride to and 12 hours back. Upon returning to Seattle, the discussion in the car was that next time we will fly! However, both Bev and Shina felt it was a well worthwhile, educational trip, though they were disappointed that more buildings had not been constructed to show actual living arrangements. But it all takes time and money, so I hope they finish in my lifetime.

Not much other news this quarter, but for me I am constantly keeping busy in an effort to keep my mind and body healthy. Am looking forward to our family vacation to Lake Chelan at the end of this month, plus a short trip to Chicago with Bev for a fun weekend in August.

Norcal by Frank Shimada

In our area there is an E Co., 442-er who has been making signs for many of the survivors of the various 442 companies. He asked how many local I Co. people would like to have one and, given the count, made them using polished numbers and letters cut from used California auto license plates. He does an outstanding job but insists on complete anonymity.

For the purpose of distributing the finished signs, on April 7th the Norcal group gathered for lunch at Antioch, a small town located approximately halfway between Richmond, Shig Doi's domicile, and Lodi, Masato Yamashita's and Lloyd Fujitani's *furusato*. Present to pick up their signs were Hiro Hirano, Masato Yamashita, Lloyd Fujitani plus their guest

Anti-Tanker Tets Fujimoto, Shig Doi, and Frank Shimada.

As usual the mood was very much typical of our past gatherings: where snipers' bullets go whizzing by, shrapnel is buzzing around, and no escape from the miserable wet, cold and muddy terrain of the Vosges Mountains; but all now recalled with the semi-nostalgic smile of a survivor. It doesn't seem to matter that even though so much water has passed under the bridge, those memories remain clear, and these very enjoyable gatherings enrich our memory.

Social by Marian Yamashita

I trust that everyone enjoyed a happy 4th of July. Here in Southern California we are all getting along as well as we can – at our ripe old age of eighty-plus and more. Because of our age, hearing and other problems, we do not gather as often as we would like but enjoy it when we do.

JA Living Legacy and AJA WWII Memorial Alliance

On June 18th, Southern Cal I Co., jointly with JA Living Legacy and AJA WWII Memorial Alliance, celebrated Mother's and Father's Days. Over forty people gathered for lunch at the Ruby Gerontology Center at California State University, Fullerton. The Hawaiian style food was catered by Our Daily Bread operating out of Torrance. Also from Torrance was Kevin Shimabukuro of King's Hawaiian Bakery who again favored us with his delicious cake that we enjoyed as dessert. MAHALO also to Kevin for furnishing us with his Hawaiian sweet rolls to take home.

Present as our honored guest was Trenton Tanioka, recipient of this year's "Teri and Art Iwasaki Scholarship." The outstanding graduate of Kennedy High School in La Palma plans to attend University of California at Irvine. With him at this luncheon were his parents, Kevin and Joanne, and brother, Ty.

This year, we encouraged all members to bring families, and it was a lot of fun. Itemite regulars were Rose Ikuta and son Eddie; Michi Miyada; Jim and Marian Yamashita, daughter Nancy Hawkins with Howard and their Kate; Toni Sakamoto and his son

Seth; and Dorothy Davenport escorted by her two sons, Billy and Danny. Special guests were Harry and Miki Honda, Sharon Tani, Joe Kawata, Roger and Jacqueline Yoshinari (Cannon Co.), Nori and Rose Uyematsu, Russell and Barbara Shoho, Roy Shiraga, Kats Nakatani, Lois Saito, Gina and Ken Kamoto and family, Ron and Kay (Mayemura) Wilinski and Masako Tomota, Susan and Ray Uyemura, Kevin Shimabukuro and Roger Eaton.

It was great to see Rose Ikuta, who is now residing in an assisted living home. She looked great and seemed to have adjusted to the change. Our good friends, Frank Kinoshita and Shuji Taketomo both are on the mend following some physical ailment and we hope they will be able to join us at our next event. Also, Tom Watanuki who lives in Apple Valley is having some health problems, kidney and heart, but hopefully will get well enough to join us on occasion. Enro and Yoneko are now with their son Alan in Yuma, AZ, having settled down, with plans to be in Vegas this October.

Family & Friends of Nisei Veterans (FFNV)

For years I Co. vets have been invited to join other 100/442 and MIS vets to the FFNV reunion held in Las Vegas. This year the dates are October 2-6. As of this writing, Frank Shimada, Shig Doi and family. Jane and Cathy Okada, George and Margaret Oshita, and Marian and Jim Yamashita are registered.

Other News

Recently I had an occasion to take a quick overnight trip to Seattle to see our granddaughter, Alison Coombs graduate from high school. Although I was there less than a day, my daughter Wendi took me to visit the NVC Japanese American Memorial Wall dedicated to honoring veterans and those incarcerated in camps during the war. I was very impressed.

Our thanks to Susan Uyemura, who is already planning a holiday party in the South Bay, scheduled for the first week in December. We encourage all Itemites to bring their families. For more

information contact Susan Uyemura at <suyemura@jalivinglegacy.org>.

Maui by Harold H. Nishida, Jr.

Maui Item Co. members continue to truck on and send their best regards to all, especially wishing everyone a Happy 4th of July holiday. As we celebrate this holiday, please pause to remember all those who gave everything for our freedoms. We must never forget and never give up the fight to protect those freedoms, “Go for Broke!”

Reporting good news, I want to welcome back one of our Maui Item Co. associates who had been convalescing and struggling to recover from his illness and surgery over the past few months. For those who don’t know him, Irvin Yamada is a world class Master Photographer and one of just a handful recognized in his field throughout the world with that title. We are so fortunate to have him in our group of Maui 100/442 supporters. I affectionately refer to him as “Kung-fu Panda” because of his gentle, giant compassion and humor, generosity and respect for our veterans and people in general.

He has long been supporting the Maui 442nd Veterans Club, as a Maui Item associate, Maui AJA, and the Maui Japanese Cultural Society of which he currently serves as Vice-President.

Also, as a Maui small business owner, he has donated so much of his time and gifted talent to our veterans, often at his own expense, over the past twenty-plus years.

He is an asset to the legacy of the Maui 100/442 veterans, as he continues to practice many of their values and principles and continues to diligently capture in his photography, the essence of our surviving veterans, wives and widows. We thank him for his generosity and wish him well on a speedy and full recovery.

Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki 442nd 68th Anniversary Banquet

There were so many of the Item Ohana present that we first, rewarded each guest with a fresh two-dollar bill and a fresh one-dollar Thomas Jefferson

coin, and second, asked each person to write whatever thoughts he/she had or wished to share. The following are the remarks submitted for inclusion in the last GFB Bulletin, but unfortunately were not published due to space constraints. Perhaps you will enjoy this flashback.

Oshitas: The luncheon was very good, all the Oshitas agree. Being here from Kauai means that we wanted to be where we are—very good. Ellen Yamada: Still enjoying the camaraderie of the 442nd Hula/Ukulele Club and the Uta No Kai. Peggy McMague (Bruno/ Ellen’s daughter): Another wonderful 442nd banquet. A warm mahalo to the Sons and Daughters, and especially to the veterans, my heroes forever! Sakumotos—Mutt: Thank you. See you again; Ayako: Eddie, thank you for remembering us all these years. Mutt and I are still in good health (at our age). Nothing new, but enjoying our trip to L.V. once a year.

Thelma Chang: I was asked, “What is the 442nd’s legacy?” To me, yours is a legacy of valor. The 442nd showed the meaning of valor, a comprehensive word which includes courage, compassion and doing the right thing. What am I doing? Writing, as usual: *National Geographic*, a Federal grant project, my novel.

Gay Sakamoto: “Wow.” Thank you for the monetary gift; now I can pay my utility bill or buy a tablespoon of gasoline for my car. It is a beautiful Hawaiian sunny day and lunch was great with friends from Kauai, Kaimuki, and Manoa. Thank you for all you do 24/7.

Keith Yoshida: Glad I came with my mom [Gay] to the 68th Anniversary Reunion luncheon—the food was good, but the company of the old timers hit the spot. They deserve all the credit to come their way. The program was great, especially the *Hanafuda* story. Thank you.

Hajiros—Esther: I miss Barney. He’s in a better place now; Glenn: Filling out forms for my mother since my father passed away. Thank you, M Co. and I Co. “Go For Broke.” Freida: Today is a happy day to see all you veterans of the 442nd RCT. I know my father-in-law is smiling up there.

Liz Nishioka: Thank you for the fresh three dollars. It was good to see the gang! Good Party! Got word that Helen Weber’s needle-point 442nd emblem is still

hanging on the Clubhouse wall, 28 years. Will it find its way to the Smithsonian as promised? [EY: Have begun looking into this.]

Nishidas: Hal and I moved to Waikoloa 1-1/2 years ago. With each passing day, we love the place more. We still continue the work with the Maui 442nd Club. It is always enjoyable to come to this reunion just to see you.

Coffmans—Tom: Aloha, 442. I am back to researching Shigeo Yoshida and Hung Wai Ching. More later. Lois: I'm honored to be your guest. I see men and their families, and am reminded of their courage and sacrifice that led to my belief that I could do anything—the world was open.

Stacey Hayashi: I am working on getting the I Company book on Amazon.com, available for download to e-readers all over the world. Still working on the 442 movie, and thinking up new ways to get the comic book done and get young kids interested in you guys.

Anonymous: It's nice to have this annual reunion. I know it's getting smaller, but it's still nice to see everyone.

Stuart Taba: The Hanafuda Hawaii-style cards and book purchased bring our family together: Grandma Nancy, Uncle Stuart, Gaye, Madison and Morgan.

John Condello, LLM, DOD Veterans Services Counselor: I've been working for our veterans! We keep moving! We do the best with what we get! Aloha, my Brothers.

Mary Lou Toyama: In 1962, my brother joined the Air Force. He was stationed in Lackland, TX. My brother said when he told anyone he's from Hawaii, he was treated so well; others from Hawaii also were treated well. Today, I got to thank the 442nd for saving the Texas unit.

Raphael Muffy Morreina: Nothing doing or new. My thought now is to see that the 442nd RCT goes on for as long as it can. With our help it will.

25th Annual National Golden Age Games

Your Honolulu chapter reporter was a participant, along with 100th Infantry Battalion Club members, Robert Arakaki and Goro Sumida, in this

event held in Waikiki. Some 900 male and female veterans ages 55 to 100 competed in a range of events, such as, swimming, cycling, dominoes, horseshoe, table tennis and the like.

The three 442nd/100th vets were signed up and were required to participating events by good friend Stacey Hayashi. Goro earned a gold medal in horseshoe against all competitors. Eddie competed in air riflery and in checkers. His results: rifle, 5 out of 50 possible points. *Auwe!* Checkers, bronze (real) medal in 84-plus age group. Yes! The disastrous rifle score is "blamed" on sighting through bi-focal glasses; success in checkers is due to wearing no glasses!



*Eddie takes on Robert Arakaki, 100th (left), at checkers
Photo: Stacey Hayashi*

Special Happenings

Congratulations and best wishes to Neil Takekawa upon his recent appointment as Chief Operating Officer of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

Nancy Taba welcomed a June bride into her family on the bright afternoon of the 22nd of the month: son Dean married Sharlene Lum of Honolulu at St. Andrew's Cathedral, followed by a sumptuous buffet reception at the downtown Plaza Club.

With Dean, the bassist, and Sharlene, the harpist, being so personable and talented, a wide array of musicians were among the guests, many from the mainland. Mom Nancy knew most of them, so she had a grand time playing catch-up with old friends.

Sincere congratulations to Dean and Sharlene.

Note: Bionic lady Nancy is getting better, despite a recent fall (again!) in her garage from stubbing the front of a soft shoe, suffering only

“strawberries” on her right elbow and her right knee. Lucky not worse!

Eddie had the privilege of being among 442 men invited to the Military Recognition Luncheon held by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. He also attended the Punchbowl Memorial Day Service and on July 2, joined 442 men again as guests at the 69th Anniversary Banquet of the 100th Infantry Battalion. At the latter celebration, a high spirit of camaraderie prevailed, bringing warm cheer to some 500 persons in attendance.

Sad News

Tadakazu “Mike” Kato of Winters, CA

April 6, 1918 - May 16, 2011

Mike, 93, died in Dixon, CA, his home for the past six years. He was born in Walnut Grove as one of six children to Sakajiro and Utae Kato.

Except for the war years, for over sixty years, Mike was an orchard grower in Winters, CA, growing peaches, apricots, almonds, walnuts, and prunes.

In 1942, the Kato family was relocated from Winters to Gila River Internment Camp, AZ. Mike was among the scores of replacements sent to the 442nd RCT, entering combat and earning a Purple Heart. After discharge, he returned to farming in Winters.

Mike is survived by Misao, his wife of 63 years; children, Beverly Kato, Howard (Ruby) Kato and Gina Kato; granddaughters Tanya Kato and Leanne (Wilson) Yu; great-granddaughter Marissa Yu; sister Yoneko Okuno; brother Henry (Marge) Kato; and other relatives. [Source: Winters Express, Winters, CA]

Richard Masaichi Oshiro

March 4, 1920 - June 7, 2011

The count of “regulars” attending “Mother Club” and Item Chapter functions dropped by one again: Richard, with wife Nickie, rarely, if ever, missed activities or functions since the 442nd Veterans Club was formed in 1946, 65 years ago. From the early days of bowling, softball, carnivals, to anniversary banquets, to our Ladies Day and Christmas parties

of recent years, this couple was always together, and present, and often contributing their kokua.

Richard had been ill since December last year, with multiple illnesses: cardio-respiratory arrest, congestive heart failure, hypertension, diabetes. Richard was 91 when he died on June 7.

Item members in attendance at his funeral and Punchbowl committal service on June 22 were Terry and Elsie Aratani, Hiram Doi, Masa and Helen Nakamura, Joe Okumoto, Harold Watase, and Eddie Yamasaki.

Besides Nickie, Richard is survived by daughter Elyse C. Farley of Honolulu and granddaughter Richelle Farley, a sophomore at an art school in San Francisco. Also, a sister, Doris Higa of Honolulu and a brother, Chiyoshi Oshiro of Lanai. Four brothers, Choroku, Chogoro, Benny, and Choyei predeceased Richard. Choyei and Richard were original volunteers assigned together to I Co. Choyei was killed during the second day of the “Lost Battalion” battle, October 29, 1944. Richard’s parents were the late Nagaushi and Uto Oshiro, issei from Okinawa.

Richard contributed an informative narration of his G.I. experiences to *And Then There Were Eight*. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart with olc, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantrymen Badge.

Allen Hisayoshi Okamoto, Lower Gwynedd, PA

April 20, 1920 - July 9, 2011

On July 10, the following was received from Allen’s son Wayne:

“As many of you know, recently Dad had been battling various health issues with his kidneys, liver, and heart, including a preliminary diagnosis of either pancreatic or bile duct cancer. For the past couple months he was in and out of both the hospital as well the medical wing in their retirement community.”

We would like to write more about “Penna Kotonk,” a dear friend and loyal buddy in war- and peace-time, in the next issue of the Bulletin.

We extend our warmest aloha to the family and friends of these comrades.



by Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama

Deadlines always seem safely far away, and yet it's upon us, and still not much news from anybody! Auwe. But the good 522 guys once again invited wives and significant others to the usual hearty buffet at Treetops in June, and a good time was had by all.

The highlight: Kay Nakamine, the late Hideo's lovely wife, came back from a California trip laden with bags of delicious (and expensive) pistachio nuts for every family in our group from Mrs. Kuniko Ishii. The late Sgt. Charles Ishii, a mainland Nisei, was in charge of many of the 522 young men, according to our president Boyan Higa. Please write "thank you" notes to Mrs. Ishii, who according to Kay is in her early 90s and still drives, lives at 2446 N. Bonnie Brae, Santa Ana, CA 92706. I hesitate to drive on those wild California freeways since my East Coast brothers warn me not to drive if I can't go any faster than 45-50 mph as I do on H-1 and 2, I go the speed limit, but everybody is passing me fast, including the cops.

Also attending the last luncheon were Lynn Nakahara, the second daughter of our Biggy Nakakura. She had hoped Leatrice Tanna had come, for they used to work together as med techs at Tripler. It was good to see the Urada's son joining us also. Let's see more sons and daughters in our midst, okay?

Somebody asked for more recipes. I don't have a simple one today, but here's a quick fast food which is GOOD FOR YOU: NATTO. The enzyme nattokinase has been shown to reduce blood clots, break up plaque associated with Alzheimer's, and generally gives you more energy. Try it, you'll like it. If you don't, send it to me. Jah neh, Fuku

Kats Miho Update

It is now over a year ago that Kats was stricken with a heart condition and complications which

rendered him in weakened, non-ambulatory condition which could not be properly cared for at home. So with VA benefits and assistance he went into the Hale Ho Aloha nursing home where according to the Miho family he is receiving excellent medical and nursing care. He has been cheered by visits from Senator Inouye, Governor Abercrombie and veteran friends and would be happy to see more of you. Also, his fellow residents at Hale Ho Aloha are Fred and Kay Hirayama who are reported to be in good shape, and with whom Kats sees often to "talk story" about the war and 522nd FAB experiences and colleagues. For those who would like to visit, Kats and the Hirayama's the address of Hale Ho Aloha is: 2670 Pacific Heights Road, Honolulu. Please visit them!

Taps

Tokushi "Toku" Tanaka (1922-2011) Service Battery

"Toku" Tanaka, passed away on May 15, 2011 at age 89 after a brief illness. Toku was born January 1, 1922 in Waialua, Oahu where he grew up and was educated in the public schools at Waialua, where he was in the first senior class to graduate Waialua High School and the first graduate from Waialua High to attend UH. During World War II, Toku volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and served for the duration of the war in Service Battery of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion. While training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Toku played on the 522nd baseball team which defeated the 442nd team two out of three series, the score of one of them was 1-0 on a homerun hit by Toku.

Postwar, Toku returned to Hawaii to earn his BA Degree at UH in 1953, the same year he married Mabel his wife of 48 years. He later earned a Master's Degree in animal sciences, then worked at the UH as a poultry specialist for 34 years, retiring in 1983. Toku was a gifted athlete, excelling in every sport he undertook, but was especially acclaimed for his baseball career playing for the UH Rainbows and for the Rural Red Sox of the Hawaii Baseball League, winning recognition of being voted to the all time AJA baseball team. He was good enough to be invited by the Hiroshima Carps in Japan, but which he

declined. In the early 1950's he managed the McCully baseball team in the AJA League and coached the UH Rainbows baseball team from 1950-51 and 1955-1960 posting a 115-23 won/loss record. In 2006 Toku was voted into the UH Sports Circle of Honor. In his retirement years Toku became an accomplished golfer with a singles handicap and was consistently able to shoot gross golf scores below his age even up to the time he passed away. His wife Mabel was disabled with dementia the last 10 years of her life, but Toku refused to place her in any care facility but faithfully cared for her at home until she passed away in 2001. The Tanaka's had no children and left no surviving family except for his sister-in-law and 8 nieces and nephews. Funeral services were conducted on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at Hosoi Garden Mortuary followed by private inurnment.

With the 522-B Golf Club being the only surviving golfing group in the 442, it is not limited to 522 veterans only but will warmly welcome any more willing 442 golfers into its fellowship. So just call Rocky Tanna at 737-5837 and let him know you would like join the monthly fun and relaxation at the

Olomana links. Meanwhile, the accumulated last three month's tournament net scores (parentheses note finishing place) are:

<u>Players:</u>	<u>4/01/11</u>	<u>5/16/11</u>	<u>6/20/11</u>
Masami Doi	-----	79(8)	69(2)
Roy Fujii	73(6)	65(1)	70(3)
Richard Furuta	65(1)	74(6)	78(6)
Boyan Higa	68(3)	65(1)	85(8)
Mits Honda	----	---	---
Mits Kunihiro	72(5)	82(9)	88(9)
George Muramaru	----	---	---
Rocky Tanna	67(2)	73(4)	72(4)
Ted Tsukiyama	----	73(4)	74(5)
Harold Ueoka	73(6)	67(3)	78(7)
Flint Yonashiro	71(4)	74(7)	63(1)

Par Three Pins:

Masami Doi			#8
Richard Furuta	#2		
Roy Fujii	#17	#2	
Boyan Higa		#11 & #17	
Flint Yonashiro	#8	#8	#11 & #17



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JOIN HAWAII'S HEROES IN A MEMORABLE NIGHT!



by M. Honda

Hello, everyone. There is not much to report this 2nd Q of the year. After almost a year of planning, the annual banquet went off without any trouble and the Chairman was left with an empty feeling of not having anything to do for the rest of the year. Well, almost nothing to do. The Chairman was Mits Honda who was asked to go to a seminar held for some schoolteachers from the East Coast of the country at an UH meeting hall.

Many of the teachers seemed like teenagers to a guy who had just celebrated his 90th birthday. One of them was actually nineteen years old. I did not ask him what college he had graduated from to be able to teach at such a tender age but some of these mainland students do finish school in their teens and unlike in Hawaii, they are also allowed to teach without proper credentials.

Speaking of ninetieth birthdays, my birthday was on June the 13th and milady went all out to make things happy for this undeserving guy. My son and daughter-in-law came from Kamuela on the big island to start things. All I did was to keep out of the way of everyone, especially, milady. The thing that surprised me was that I only drank two beers the whole day the better to enjoy the great day. The guests started coming at around 4:30 PM when they were asked to come at 5:30. Relatives will come early without regard for the starting time. The guests were all relations, mostly my nephews who were children of Millie's sister who was married to my older brother. I don't know when they left because I was already in bed by that time. My son Jay played host and he did a very good job as I did nothing but just hang around and talk to people. Of course, Daughter-in-Law, Julie and my daughter June did a lot of work assisting Jay in planning and holding the event. Funny thing is, doing

nothing exhausted me and I took a good nap after everyone left.

One birthday leads to another and I am now waiting for my ninety-first. I never thought that I would be around for my entry into the last decade of my life, but here I am. I am awed thinking that I have lasted this long after going through three triple by-pass surgeries in '86, '87' and '89. The last decade ends in the age 100 and my doctor has said that he will make me see that day. I told him that I would look forward to that day if he keeps my so-called mind healthy.

I haven't heard much from Roger lately and I hope everything is well in LA. Most of the original 232nd/Band are dwindling in numbers and pretty soon there will only be the strongest of mind and body around. Have fun, you guys. I haven't heard much from Kiyoo in Chi, but they say no news is good news and I shall go on that premise. You Ladies should send in some news from time to time so that I don't have to try my hardest to wrack my few brains for items.

We said goodbye to Rodney last month and it was another sad day for the Eng/Band Chapter. Rodney was a live one and was always good for some interesting stories. Aloha, Rodney and May God Be With You!!

See you next time. Aloha, Mits



(l-r) Bill Paty chats with "Bolo" Shirakata (Band) and Ed Yamasaki (I Co.) at Military Appreciation Luncheon
Photo: Wayne Iha



Maui Matters

by Harold Nishida, Jr.

Aloha and best regards from our Maui 442 Ohana! In April, about fifty-four of our members and 100th Battalion friends attended our second of four annual social events at the Wailuku Hongwanji. By all the smiles we encountered and the positive feedbacks we received, it appears that everyone had a great time and was looking forward to the next event.

In June, our members also enjoyed a luncheon organized by the Maui Japanese Cultural Society.

This month, our members will attend our third Club social event for the year where they will enjoy a special treat. Traditional Japanese dishes from Japan will be prepared and cooked fresh for them by my friend and neighbor on the Big Island who lives in Japan but also lives part-time here in Hawaii.

Why would they do this for our veterans? Recently, while they were here on a two-month stay, they asked me why my wife and I were always flying back to Maui. I explained that as the secretary for the Maui 442 Veterans Club, I return to Maui often to attend the Executive Club (EC) meetings to help preserve the Club for the surviving members and to organize their social functions. My neighbor explained that he knew about the 442 and had much respect for them. He said that he had great respect for their bravery and achievements but especially respected them for their loyalty to America. He said as their ancestry is connected to Japan, the people of Japan are very proud of them.

He then offered to help me (his friend) honor our members at the July social by cooking for them. I was pleasantly surprised and asked him three times if he was serious and he replied, "Yes!" I conveyed my neighbor's offer to the Executive Council and they voted overwhelmingly to accept. So, in less than two weeks, we hope to follow through with this special treat, and we hope all our members will enjoy my neighbor's

generosity. It is sure gratifying to know that there are still folks out there who know and respect the history of our veterans and are willing to pay homage to the living as well as the deceased for their great sacrifices and contributions to our Great Nation.



by Gail Nishimura

Happy Summer! Hope you all are enjoying the summer. To a majority of us it's just a different time of the year, a bit hotter or wetter, just another work day. To those who are able to enjoy some time off, good for you, sometimes a break is just what is needed to rejuvenate the body and soul to get ready for the next day.

I got a brochure in the mail about the Bruyeres to Honolulu 2011 trip. October 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the sister-city relationship between Bruyeres, France and Honolulu, Hawai'i. This year is our turn to host the visitors from Bruyeres.

What you can do to help:

- Make a monetary contribution. All contributions are tax deductible and proceeds will go toward paying for: gifts and souvenirs; entry fees for certain tour sites; transportation costs; and costs for meals and lodging.

- If you have contacts or connections that will enable them to reduce costs for the same items listed above, let them know.

You can contact the committee at the following:

Bruyeres to Honolulu 2011
Planning Committee
47-506 Nenehiwa Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Phone: 808-239-5156
holckohana@hawaiiantel.net

Make checks payable to:
100th Legacy Organization
(Reference: Bruyeres 2011 Visit)

Here's Wes' report from the last meeting held on June 5, 2011:

Hi Everyone,

Our June meeting was held last Thursday at the Clubhouse with 18 members in attendance. We want to thank Willard for inviting Bruce and Coleen Kugiya to our meeting. Coleen is a "Sons & Daughter." We hope to see the Kugiya's in the future. We also want to welcome new member Brian Yoshino who lives in San Mateo, CA. Brian is the nephew of Irvin Yoshino.

Here are a few of the highlights from the meeting:

Wade gave an update on the planning for this year's Joint Memorial Service. Wade has graciously accepted the chairmanship for the event. The date is September 25, 2011.

Lynn Heirakuji will be our MC. Lt. General Francis Wiercinski will be the keynote speaker. The next planning committee meeting is scheduled for mid-June.

Our 442SD website continues to expand its readership and function as a means of communication. We receive email inquiries on a regular basis. Presently, the emails are forwarded to the members of the executive committee, who are tasked with following up with a response. Ideally, we would like to have a committee to handle the correspondence. It is important to follow up on the inquiries in a timely manner. Also as interest in our website grows, it is important to post new information on a regular basis. Let us know if you have any news or articles to share and we can post them on the website.

Cindy gave an update on the Veterans Archive Program. The Oshiro collection is in its final stages of completion. The Deguchi collection is currently being scanned, with an interview of the veteran possibly this month. The third and final collection for the prototype program is Mr. Goto. His photo collection is being prepared for scanning.

Willard gave an update of the Bruyeres group visit. The date of the visit is set. The group's visit will begin on Kauai, arriving there on September 29th. They will be on Maui October 1-3, Big Island October 3-5 and here on Oahu October 5-12. The Holck's planning committee has been working hard on the group's literary. The SD will be hosting a lunch reception. The purpose is to invite and bring together the veterans and the visitors from Bruyeres. The function will be a joint activity between the 100th and 442nd Sons & Daughters. A potential venue for the event is the 100's Clubhouse. Willard will let us know once the date for the reception has been set. Planning for the event can then begin.

In conjunction with the Bruyeres event, Willard's planning committee is proposing a golf fundraising tournament. The date is August 25, 2011. Place: The Klipper Golf Course in Kaneohe. According to Willard, this will also be a joint activity between the 100th and 442nd. The hope is to make this an annual fundraising event, which will benefit all organizations involved.

I gave an update on the new Legacy Center. Upon receiving the 442's Board approval, the preliminary concept plans for the Legacy Center, to be located on the KCC campus along 18th Avenue, was presented to representatives of UH and KCC on May 25th. The presentation went well. We are now waiting for approval from them to proceed with the next step.

The next step involves further study of the site conditions. One of the key factors in our design is the soil condition. We need to conduct a geotechnical study to verify the site can accommodate a subsurface drainage retention system. We also need to prepare a site survey document. Our design team will consist of both 442nd and 100th Sons & Daughters. Avin Oshiro who's with the 100th, currently their VP, has volunteered to be the mechanical engineer for the project. We have also selected our structural and electrical engineers for the project. We are still looking for a civil engineer.

In addition to the design work, our next step involves the creation of a legal document, a

memorandum of agreement, which establishes the start of a binding relationship between KCC and the veterans. For this, we're seeking the services of an attorney, preferably someone who believes in our mission.

Eric Thompson gave a brief report on the Memorial Day activities he attended. He presented the colors at both the Natatorium and Punchbowl services. Thank you Eric!

As we reported last month, the remaining veterans George Company are considering disbanding the chapter. We are trying to get the word out to all G Company veterans and Sons & Daughters

about this. While there are some who acknowledge this decision, if you know of anyone who feels otherwise let us know. We believe that G Company could continue on if it had a spoke person, someone who would be willing to attend the monthly board meetings.

All for now, Wes

That's it for now, hope you can join in with upcoming events. It will be good to see everyone again. Enjoy the rest of the summer; school will be back in session before you know it!



Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Military Recognition Luncheon held at Hilton Hawaiian Village, May 19, 2011

*Seated (l-r): Joe Oshiro (L), Robert Arakaki (100th), Robert Uyeda (2HQ), Goro Sumida (100th), Takashi Shirakata (Band)
Standing (l-r): Walter Kaneakua, Bill Thompson (Pres., 442nd), Edward Ikuma (100th), Denis Teraoka (100th), General (ret) David
Bramlett, Kazutoshi Shimizu (100th), Ed Yamasaki (I Co.), Jim Tollefson (Pres. & CEO, Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii)
Photo by Wayne Iha*

“Bruyères To Honolulu 2011” An Update From The Planning Committee

“Bruyères To Honolulu 2011,” our project to properly host approximately 40 visitors from Bruyères and Biffontaine, France – who will be visiting Hawaii to participate in the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Bruyères-Honolulu sister-city relationship – is progressing very well. For those of you who may not know, the planning committee is largely comprised of the family of the late Wilbert S. “Sandy” Holck, who was a former Honolulu City Councilman and proud member of the Cannon Company, and who, along with Bruyèran, Monsieur Gerard Deschaseaux, helped to establish the sister-city relationship in 1961. We share this because everyone in the Cannon Company can take pride in Sandy’s legacy, for it has served to bond the people of both cities for 50 years! Quite an amazing accomplishment when you think about it. And it will be our aim that it continues for 50 more. At any rate, since we began, we’ve made the rounds to let everyone know what our purposes are, sent a mail out to members of the 100th/442nd RCT requesting for support, and have set August 25th for the “Go For Broke” golf tournament at the Klipper Course in Kaneohe, the proceeds of which will go to help fund the project. Given these actions, as well as other plans that we have in the works, we are very optimistic that we will be able to entreat our French friends with a historical, cultural, and educational trip that they will remember for the rest of their lives. It will also be a time of great camaraderie, as they will be reunited with many veterans and their families, many of whom have visited Bruyères and Biffontaine and experienced the legendary hospitality of our French brothers and sisters. We have been in consistent contact with their trip leaders and plans have been finalized. Our friends from France will be in the islands from September 29, 2011 through October 12, 2011, according to the following itinerary.

September 29, 2011: Arrive in Kauai at 11:33 a.m. Stay: Two days.

October 1, 2011: Depart Kauai at 9:10 a.m. and arrive in Maui at 10:53 a.m. Stay: Two days.

October 3, 2011: Depart Maui at 10:18 a.m. and arrive in Kona, at 11:01 a.m. Stay: Two days.

October 5, 2011: Depart Kona at 8:43 a.m. and arrive in Honolulu at 9:25 a.m. Stay: Seven days.

Their schedule calls for them to spend their first week touring the neighbor islands before coming to Oahu where they will spend their second and final week while staying at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. They will participate in the sister-city celebrations on October 6th. The schedule for that special day is as follows:

50th Anniversary Commemoration, Bruyères-Honolulu Sister-City Relationship, October 6, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Tour of ‘Iolani Palace

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Sister-City Ceremony, includes a Reception with Mayor Peter Carlisle

1:30 pm – 3:00 p.m. – Visit to the State Capitol

3:15 p.m. – Picture Taking at Kamehameha Statue

3:30 p.m. – Return to Hotel

Want to help make a big impression with our French friends? Show up at one of the airports with a lei and help us greet them every time they arrive. Nothing will communicate the Aloha of the islands better than a fresh lei and a warm smile. Also make plans to join us on the BIG DAY – October 6, 2011 – at Honolulu Hale when we celebrate 50 YEARS of fellowship between two cities about as far apart on this planet as any two places can be. And yet, these two cities represent two cultures that are joined forever through the legacy that was forged by the 100th/442nd RCT! Now, if there are any veterans that would like to attend the ceremony but need help with transportation please let the planning committee know! We will be arranging for pick up and drop off at the 100th Club House on Kamoku Street. So veterans please contact us if you need a ride so we can get a firm head count. Also, a luncheon will be held on October 8th for the veterans to meet with the French contingent. This luncheon will be free for the veterans, with a minimal charge for all others. We also need a head count for this luncheon as well. The total number attending will determine our luncheon site. So contact us soon if you are coming to either function or both. Mahalo, and we look forward to seeing you at our events!

Bruyères To Honolulu Planning Committee

The 442nd Veterans Club
933 Wiliwili Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

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