



M.I.S. personnel
WORLD WAR II
PACIFIC THEATER
pre pearl harbor to sept. 8, 1951

50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION • JULY 8 - 10, 1993
Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club Of Hawaii

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MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE VETERANS
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Cover Design: Carl K. Kaizawa

Cover Photo: Capture of Japanese flag, U.S. Marine invasion of
Paleliu, Caroline Islands.

Niseis attached to 1st Marine Division

L-R: Kneeling, Ed Fujimori, Hisashi Kubota, Don Okubo.
Photography courtesy of Donald S. Okubo, M/Sgt.

EXPLANATION OF THIS REVISED EDITION (Revised 2001, '02, '04, '05, '07, '09)

Dear Member, Friend and Supporter of the M.I.S.,

I. ADDED: Page 102 (a1) and following (25 pages):

A. M.I.S. TRAINED AT HAWAII'S SCHOFIELD LANGUAGE SCHOOL and DEPLOYED BY MARINES AS LINGUISTS TO SOUTH SEAS AND OKINAWA

This *fifth* revision of the *Secret Valor* has been edited periodically with new additional pages and corrections *that portrays Hawaii's members of MIS who did not undergo language training at the Army language schools at the more known sites at the Presidio of San Francisco, Camp Savage, Fort Snelling or Presidio of Monterey where Nisei enlisted and Caucasian officers were trained. Japanese Language Schools at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, University of California at Berkeley, University of Colorado at Boulder (Navy) and University of Minnesota at Minneapolis were used for the language training of Caucasian officers only. Many M.I.S.'ers trained at Brisbane Australia's or later Tokyo's ATIS (Allied Translators & Interpreters Section) and scattered makeshift or "branch" schools in the Pacific islands and Japan.*

Two units collectively numbering some 200 Nisei Linguists were schooled at the Navy's hurriedly created school with their University of Colorado crash-course trained Caucasian officers as instructors at Hawaii's Schofield Infantry Training Center. *It was named the Allied Military Government Language School (AMGLS). The graduates, all Hawaii's draftees between August 1944 and May 1945, were detached to the Navy and Marines and served in Tinian, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal and Okinawa, with the majority in the Okinawa invasion and its post-invasion military government.* Other linguists who served on those islands did not go to any military language school for two reasons—need and time urgency or they were sufficiently proficient in Japanese for their duty. Please turn to the page numbered 102 (a1), following page 102, and read on.

B. LINGUISTS OTHER THAN ABOVE SCHOFIELD-TRAINED HAWAII LINGUISTS:

They include linguists who were assigned into MIS without attending MISLS because of their language proficiency. Read the stories of George Kiyoshi Yamashiro (Sankey), Yoshikazu Yamada, and Thomas Shoshin "Taro" Higa.

II. ADDED: Page 114 (a) and following (13 pages)

NISEI WOMEN M.I.S.'ERS, CIVILIAN AND WAC (WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS) LINGUISTS

Please see the section "Occupation of Japan," page 114 (a) and following.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your loyal patronage, support and advancement of the M.I.S. legacy.

Yoshinobu Oshiro, Ph.D., Addenda Writer, Co-editor
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(Written and added to this book with the permission and support of
Ted T. Tsukiyama, J.D., chief editor of the original *Secret Valor*)

January 24, 2009

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Foreword

In July 1943, the first group of Nisei volunteers for the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISL) left Hawaii for training at Camp Savage, Minnesota. Others from Hawaii who preceded this group had been recruited from the 100th Infantry Battalion in November 1942, then in training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. But the Hawaii volunteers were the first contingent to go directly to MISLS. These MISLS volunteers became the vanguard for the nearly 6,000 Niseis that followed -- all willing to contribute their linguistic expertise in America's war against Japan and to establish conclusive evidence of their allegiance.

The Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Veterans Club of Hawaii celebrates the 50th anniversary of that initial volunteer effort and publishes this book, SECRET VALOR, to commemorate that event.

This book relates the history of military intelligence prior to the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, and the training schools. It cites some of the roles of the linguists from Hawaii in the far-flung Pacific military operations until the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty on September 8, 1951.

Even though all World War II military intelligence documents were declassified in 1972 by Executive Order 11652, much of the MIS linguists' accomplishments in the war effort against Japan have never before been told. This may be due to the natural reticence of the veterans, conforming to a common Oriental trait of withholding their secrets.

However, at the urging of the MIS Veterans Club some of the veterans have responded with their stories and recounted their achievements. This is good, for we have recorded for posterity -- before memory dims and history fades -- the secret valor* of these men. This is also gratifying, for this may be the final opportunity to leave a journal as a legacy to our progeny and to the community.

The names appearing in this book represent a small sampling of the more than 6,000 Niseis from Hawaii and the mainland who served with distinction in the vast expanse of the Pacific battles -- from Alaska to Australia, from tiny atolls and large islands to the huge land mass of Asia in India-Burma-China, concluding with the successful military occupation of Japan.

The linguists' performance in the Pacific and Asian arenas of conflict proved no less spectacular and no less important than the actions of their brother comrades in other theaters during World War II. The effort exerted by each linguist, no matter how small or routine the task -- whether in the interrogation of a prisoner, translation of a captured document, interception of an enemy radio message -- contributed toward the tremendous total endeavor in military intelligence that helped achieve the ultimate victory of America over Japan.

With secret valor*, they overcame the racial prejudice and bigotry heaped upon them at the onset of hostilities with Japan. These Japanese-Americans served their country honorably as American soldiers and fought willingly against the nation of their ancestors.

**Valor (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary): strength of mind and spirit that enables a man to encounter danger with firmness; personal bravery.*