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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.*